

Residents of northern village flee wildfire

BUFFALO NARROWS A wildfire near the northern Saskatchewan community of Buffalo Narrows has forced the village to issue a state of emergency.

Mayor Sandy Ericson said Monday that many residents evacuated the community because the smoke is affecting their health.

She said the loss of electricity has also made it difficult for people trying to stay cool.

“It’s hot, so it’s not a good combination,” Ericson said. “We’re just trying to keep everybody who is here in the community safe and hopefully we can get more vehicles out.”

The fire in the Buffalo Narrows region reached 25,000 hectares, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency said. It jumped the only highway that leads into the village, causing it to close down.

Power lines have also caught fire, causing the power outage.

Ericson said dozens of people left by bus or took their vehicles before the highway closed.

She said the village is working with the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to escort more people out safely through the highway so they can head south for services.

Those who left have been given accommodations in Lloydminster, while others are staying with family in Prince Albert, Meadow Lake or Saskatoon, she said.

The fire so far isn’t threatening homes in the village, she added.

“We do have some housing that we may have to take some precautions for, but right now (the fire) is going the other way,” she said.

“When the wind changes, we don’t know what’s going to happen.”

The Canadian Press

Tire recycling plans put on pause for provincial review

BRYN LEVY

The provincial government is tapping the brakes on changes to Saskatchewan’s tire-recycling market.

The province announced Monday that Premier Scott Moe has engaged Cam Swan, a former deputy minister of environment, to work with the Ministry of Environment and Tire Stewardship Saskatchewan (TSS), the industry non-profit that oversees used tire collection.

Swan is to “review procurement practices and assess future needs of tire recycling and processing, and to provide recommendations to the minister,” the announcement states.

The review is to be completed sometime this summer. In the meantime, a request for proposals for a new tire processor for the northern portion of the province is to be put on hold.

TSS recently awarded a contract to U.S.-based Crumb Rubber Manufacturers (CRM) for a tire processing facility to be set up in Moose Jaw. The move came with a guarantee that CRM would receive all used tires collected in the southern portion of the province, as opposed to the previous system, which allowed dealers to choose where used tires went.

TSS CEO Stevyn Arnt previously

said the move was meant to reduce freight costs and lower the environmental impact of shipping tires from southern Saskatchewan to the outskirts of Saskatoon.

The arrangement drew strong reaction from Shercom Industries, which has for years operated Saskatchewan’s only tire processing facility in the Corman Park Industrial Area a few kilometres north of Saskatoon. Shercom’s contract with TSS expired in 2020; the last in a series of short-term extensions ran out at the end of April.

With the supply of used tires nearly cut in half, Shercom president Shane Olson last week said his company had cut dozens of jobs, as its multimillion-dollar tire processing operation was no longer viable.

He said the tire processing plant would be shut down completely once Shercom’s existing inventory was used up. From there, he said the company would then have to rely on rubber purchased from outside the province for its ongoing manufacturing business, which produces items including driveways, patio tiles and landscaping mulch.

Olson also stated that Shercom would not bid on the now-shelved plan for a processor for the northern half of the province, and cast



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Director of operations Nick Panske gives a tour of Shercom Industries' Saskatoon tire-processing facility, which the company says is threatened by a similar plant in Moose Jaw. MICHELLE BERG

doubt on the long-term future of the manufacturing business staying in Saskatchewan.

Citing 30 years of experience in the industry and multiple bankruptcies among competitors, Olson questioned the ability of the Saskatchewan market to sustain multiple processing operations.

The Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce also spoke against the TSS decision, and wrote to Environment Minister Dana Skorpád calling for a review.



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OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN NOTICE Proposed Official Community Plan Amendment – Bylaw 9839

Saskatoon City Council will consider an amendment to the Official Community Plan Bylaw, 2020 (Bylaw No. 9700) proposed by AODBT Architecture + Interior Design on behalf of S.S. Pacific Imports Inc. By way of Bylaw No. 9839, The Official Community Plan Amendment Bylaw, 2023 (No .2), a new “High Density Mixed Use” land use designation and supporting objectives and policies would be added to the Official Community Plan. Additional information on the proposed amendment may be viewed on the Engage Page on the City of Saskatoon website.

REASON FOR THE AMENDMENT – The purpose of the proposed amendment is for City Council to consider the addition of a new land use designation titled “High Density Mixed Use” to Section F – Urban Form and Structure, and the addition of subsection G1.7 High Density Mixed Use which provides objectives and policies to support the proposed High Density Mixed Use land use designation.

The new land use designation would provide for the potential for high density mixed use development that may include a broad range of residential, commercial, office, cultural, and community uses. These lands would be served by collector or arterial streets, incorporate human scaled, pedestrian-oriented and transit oriented design and development principles, and are within walking distance to Bus Rapid Transit station(s) and the Downtown. High Density Mixed Use may be located within the Downtown, City Centre, and/or Strategic Infill Areas.

INFORMATION – Questions regarding the proposed amendment, arrangements to review the proposed amending bylaw, or requests to view the Official Community Plan, may be directed to the following without charge during regular business hours:

Community Services Department, Planning and Development
Phone: 306-975-7640 (Lars Ketilson, Senior Planner, Long Range Planning)
Email: lars.ketilson@saskatoon.ca

PUBLIC HEARING – City Council will consider all submissions and those that wish to speak on the proposed amendment at the City Council meeting on **Wednesday, May 31st, 2023, at 6:00pm, City Council Chamber, City Hall, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.**

Should you wish to provide comments to City Council, please visit saskatoon.ca/write-letter-councilcommittees. If you are requesting to speak in person or remotely, please indicate this in your submission and you will be contacted by a representative of the City Clerk’s Office with further information.

Written submissions for City Council’s consideration may also be forwarded to:
His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
c/o City Clerk’s Office, City Hall
222 Third Avenue North, Saskatoon, SK S7K0J5

All submissions received by the City Clerk by **5:00 pm on May 29th, 2023**, will be forwarded to City Council.

The Public Hearing is broadcast live on Shaw TV – Channel 10, Shaw BlueSky – Channel 105 and video-streamed on the City’s website – saskatoon.ca/meetings starting at 6:00 pm on the scheduled day.

