



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010

COUNCIL:

Roger MacEachern, Mayor 780-586-2423
Hugh Sanders, Deputy Mayor 780-586-2551
David Hall, Councilor 780-586-6212
Sylvia Roy, CAO 780-586-2494

Summer Village Office
605 – 2nd Ave (Hwy 13A)
Mailing address: Box 100
Ma-Me-O Beach, AB
TOC 1X0
Phone 780-586-2494
Fax 780-586-3567
e-mail: Information@svofficepl.com
web site: www.svofficepl.com

NEW: Summer Office hours: 9:00-12:00 Tuesday-Saturday (April 1, – October 31, 2010)

Nominations

2010 is an election year for Municipalities. Candidates can get their Nomination forms from the Summer Villages Office or on the website @ www.svofficepl.com. Nominations for the election of candidates will be received Saturday, July 10th, 2010 at the Ma-Me-O Town Hall between the hours of 10:00 am and 12:00 p.m.

Candidates Forum

A Candidates Forum is being held on Saturday, July 17th, 2010 at the Day Park at 1:00 p.m. This year the Annual Information Meeting will not be held.

Advance Poll

An Advance Poll will be held Saturday, July 24th, 2010 at the Ma-Me-O Town Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Election Day

Election Day will be August 7th, 2010 at the Ma-Me-O Town Hall from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Amalgamation Advance Plebiscite Poll

An Advance Plebiscite Poll is being held at the Ma-Me-O Town Hall on Saturday June 26th, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Amalgamation Plebiscite Polling Date

The Plebiscite Polling date is be held at the Lakedell Hall on Saturday, July 3rd, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Council Meetings

Council Meetings are held on a regular basis, generally every six weeks. Council meetings are

posted in the window of the Summer Villages Office and on the website. However, it is sometimes necessary to change these dates due to other obligations of our Council. Please call the office to verify dates. Members of the general public wishing to make a presentation (limited to 10 minutes), shall advise the CAO in writing or electronically not less than 7 business days before the scheduled meeting. Your council continues to work hard toward a shared a vision - the preservation and improvement of the quality of Pigeon Lake and the security, safety and well-being of the residents of the village.

Financial Information

- **2009 Audit** - The audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2009 are approved and available at the S.V. Office. The year ended with a small increase in operations of \$4,508 after year end adjustments for capital costs and amortization.
- **Property Assessments** – The property assessment in Crystal Springs based on the **Valuation date of July 1, 2009** shows a decrease of 17.3% from the same date in 2008. The average decrease includes new development as well as the cumulative increase or decrease of all properties within the S.V. On January 1, 2010, the appeal deadline date for your property assessment increased to 60 days from 30 days (see Guide to Property Assessment and Taxation in Alberta below). Additional information will be included with your 2010 combined assessment and tax notice.

Please note: If you plan on appealing your assessment, you must pay your taxes prior to June 30th, 2010 to avoid a late payment penalty of 12%. If your appeal is successful, a refund will be issued for the appeal fee of \$50.00 and any adjustment to your 2010 taxes will either be refunded or invoiced.

- **Municipal Property Tax** - Overall property tax bills in the S.V. will generate an additional 2% or \$3,970 in revenue following Council passage of the 2010 Budget at the March 22nd meeting. The Mill Rate will increase from 1.9035 to 2.3036 to offset the reduction in assessment and generate the additional 2% in revenue. The minimum tax payable is increased from \$650 to \$675, an increase of 3.8% generating an additional \$3,721 from 2009.
- **Alberta School Tax Requisition** – The requisition for 2010 is 2.7% higher than 2009, requiring an additional \$6,296 be raised and remitted to the Provincial Government.

Your Assessment and Tax Notice will be mailed to you before the end of May. **Taxes are due and payable June 30th, 2010**, whether or not you receive your notice. Please contact the office if you do not receive your mailed notice prior to the end of June. Note that you may use internet banking to pay your property tax at **most** financial institutions. Please ensure the Summer Village is listed as a payee at your bank to avoid a late payment.

Please call the Summer Village Office if you have questions regarding the financial affairs of the Summer Village or would like a copy of the Audited Financial Statements.

Seniors Education Property Tax Rebate

Beginning the 2005 Tax Year, Alberta Seniors and Community Supports may provide an annual rebate to assist senior homeowners with any increases in the education portion of their property taxes. Questions about the education property tax rebate for seniors, including eligibility and how to apply can be directed to the Alberta Seniors Information Line at 1-800-642-3853, from Edmonton at (780) 427-7876 or visit their website at www.seniors.gov.ab.ca.

Internet Banking

Internet Banking service has been added this year and most banks are accessible. Please ensure the Summer Village is a Payee of your financial institution prior to the deadline. Your account number is the Roll # on your Tax Notice. Other payment options are identified on the back page of your Tax Notice.

Guide to Property Assessment and Taxation in Alberta Filing a Property Assessment Complaint and Preparing for Your Hearing

As of January 1, 2010, new legislation regarding matters related to assessment complaints took effect. Alberta Municipal Affairs has updated the "Guide To Property Assessment and Taxation in Alberta", and has replaced the "Preparing for Your Assessment Complaint or Appeal Hearing" to reflect the new legislation.

The booklets are being provided to all municipalities and are available to individuals seeking general information about property assessments in Alberta, and on how to file an assessment complaint. The booklets are available and can be picked up at the Summer Villages Office.

These booklets are also available on the Alberta Municipal Affairs website at:

<http://municipalaffairs.alberta.ca>, under Municipalities & Communities, Property Assessment and Taxation, and Publications.

If you have any questions regarding these information booklets, please contact the Education Tax and Assessment Advisory Unit at 780-422-7125. To call toll-free, dial 780-310-0000 then 780-422-7125.

Development Permits

If you are building, renovating, demolishing, or moving buildings, a development permit is required. Development Permits are approving the development only, ensuring that the development complies with the Land Use Bylaws. You may apply for a development permit at the Summer Villages Office or on our web site. Additionally, permits are required for building, demolition, electrical, plumbing and gas. These permits must be obtained from Superior Safety Codes Inc. @ 1-888-358-5545 or @ 403-358-5545 once your Development Permit has been approved. For inquiries information please contact our Development Officers, Marian Barcham or Blaine Alexander (part time Contractor Development Officer - Saturday's a.m. only).at 780-586-2494 "Please ensure all your development including fencing and landscaping are within your lot boundary". For further information and to view the Land Use Bylaw please go to our web site at www.svofficepl.com.

Placards are issued with the Development Permit and must be in full view at the work site at all times while the work is in progress. Failure to follow the process of having the required Permits could result in a Stop Order being issued by the Development Officer.

Development Safety Codes:

Please be aware that a property owner/developer is responsible for ensuring all aspects of the *Safety Codes Act* are followed during construction. It is important that qualified designers/architects/contractors are hired to design and construct your project.

Shore Line

Before any work can be completed on a sea wall or shore, you must get permission from Alberta Environment. Alberta Environment has toughened their regulations regarding waters, and will ask you to remove rocks or other protection if a permit has not been obtained and approved by their office. Please call the Village Office if you are planning to do **any** work that might disturb the lakefront. Fines could be assessed if lakefront is disturbed (**THIS INCLUDES THE PLACEMENT OF ROCKS ON THE SHORELINE.**)

Local Collection System

Council has engaged Associated Engineering to complete an engineering pre-design for the Summer Village local collection system. This work will be completed by the spring of 2010. Council has applied for a Building Canada Grant for the cost of a local collection system. Information from this study will be useful during the next stage of the project.....the Design Phase.

Private Sewer Compliance

Under the terms of the LUB (Land Use Bylaw) all sewage (including grey water) is to be contained. This means that holding tanks are required of all residents. Council thanks those residents who have complied, and the lake will be healthier for it. An approved Development Permit from the Summer Village is required before a holding tank can be installed. Council has waived the normal \$100 fee for the Permit. Applications for development permits, provincial guidelines for the placement of holding tanks, and a list of certified installers can be picked up at the Summer Village Office. Application forms are also available on our web site at www.svofficepl.com

A permit from Superior Safety Codes Inc. is also required before installing a Holding Tank. Superior Safety Codes Inc. will not issue their permits until they receive a copy of the Approved Development Permit.

Residents who have not complied or informed the Summer Village Office of compliance via a Development Permit will be receiving a letter outlining fines for non-compliance.

Trail Update

A Trail

The Trail marked with the "A" trail markers is now all marked from the old store on the west end to the spruce trees on the East end. Some work

needs to be done behind the spruce trees but for the most part this trail is all ready for walking!

Deer Trail (Marked with B trail markers)

Volunteers have been working hard to ready this trail from Crystal Springs Drive to the Village. The Village of Pigeon Lake have provided some signs which will be installed soon. It is hoped to have this trail open before the end of May. The plan is for this trail to be good enough for use by bicycles and strollers.

Connector Trails

A number of connector trails have been established to connect the "A" Trail to Crystal Springs Drive. These are marked with various letters like C, D and H. These connector trails will continue to be improved as time permits.

Eagleview Park Trails

A series of short trails have been established in this park for your enjoyment of the park.

Trail Beside Norris Beach Road

The County of Wetaskiwin and the Summer Village of Crystal Springs have been eager to build a trail beside Norris Beach Road to the Village. Unfortunately the project continues to be vetoed by the Summer Village of Norris Beach.

Volunteers

The good portion of the trail work is done by volunteers. Should you want to help out in the creation of new trails or the maintenance of existing trails contact David Hall

Dangerous Tree Removal

Residents are strongly encouraged to ensure that trees on their property are not posing a potential hazard during high winds. We suggest that residents regularly check their trees for disease and remove them before they damage their buildings, power lines or neighboring property. The village is regularly checking trees in parks and reserve areas and removing trees as required. If you notice trees in parks or reserve land that pose a hazard please advise our office so appropriate action can be arranged. We have already experienced fallen trees due to high winds this spring that have caused damage to property owners cabins.

Please contact Fortis in regards to trees interfering with power lines. Fortis is responsible for power lines (the primary line is the line located topmost on the power poles, it is the high voltage line) all the way to the meter. Fortis considers a tree to be interfering if it is within 1.5 meters of the primary line. Some home owners are not allowing Fortis to trim the trees on their property.

Many fires start because tree branches rub against primary and secondary power lines and eventually rub through the coating. If a home owner does not allow Fortis onto their property to

trim interfering trees the home owner can be liable for the cost of the fire that is caused.

The Fire Chief requests the cooperation of all rate payers and asks that they notify Fortis of any interfering trees that are too near power lines and transformers.

Fortis does have tree trimming programs...their first priority are the primary lines, then later in the summer they will address second lines. If a home owner wants to do their own trimming they may call Fortis who will temporarily move the line free of charge for the home owner. It is extremely important that ratepayers notify Fortis of interfering trees and also allowing Fortis access to their trees and property to trim the trees (this is also a free service). To notify Fortis call 780-310-9473.

Herbicide Ban

Alberta has banned the sale of lawn-care products that combine herbicide and fertilizer. The ban was effective on Jan. 1, 2010.

Wells and Water Use

"Only a tiny fraction of the large groundwater stores in Alberta is extractable by conventional means - like pumping through wells. This "usable" portion, the small amount of recoverable groundwater storage in the upper zones, can be naturally replenished. If carefully managed and pumped at sustainable rates, groundwater can be an important and reliable renewable resource." (<http://environment.gov.ab.ca/info/faqs/faq7-Groundwater.asp>)

The Pigeon Lake region is experiencing severe dry conditions. The lake level is at its lowest point since 1960 (according to Alberta Environment). Pigeon Lake does have in-flow from the same aquifers that our wells draw upon. Please use water sparingly to help minimize the risk of your well going dry and further depletion of lake levels. Water use practices such as: low flow toilets; low flow shower heads; minimal watering of lawns (cut your grass longer to help it survive); water on a timer at night no more than one inch once a week; no washing of vehicles; and if you can, do laundry outside of the watershed.

As a lake community we can make a difference.

Navigable Waters Protection Act

With more people accessing the lakes of Alberta the placement of more piers, docks, boat lifts, etc. in Pigeon Lake is happening. Last year Media sources and correspondence clearly reminded citizens and your council, that we must follow the law. The placement and storage of piers, docks, boat lifts and the movement of watercraft in the water in front of and/or on reserves, parks and any other municipal property are covered here. This policy regulates the placement of and ensures compliance with the requirements of Transport

Canada regarding the Navigable Waters Protection Act.

Owners of lakefront property in any lake must also comply to Transport Canada criteria and the Navigable Waters Protection Act. If you own lakefront property, you must have consent from Transport Canada to place your boat lift, dock, pier or other structure in the water in front of your property. All items must be marked with yellow reflective material (or lights) on all four sides and have proof of consent from Transport Canada. Information and relevant forms are available from : Navigable Waters Protection, 1100 9700-Jasper Avenue Edmonton, AB T5J 4E6. Phone: 1-780-495-6325 or FAX 780-495-8607 or their web site at www.tc.gc.ca.

Roadway Development Update Required

The road has wintered very well. No major road work is planned for the summer of 2010. Minor repairs will be made as necessary.

Family and Community Support Services

The Summer Villages of Crystal Springs, Grandview, Ma-Me-O Beach, Norris Beach, Poplar Bay and Golden Days offer subsidized services to senior village residents who require services that enable them to remain in their own homes. Fees for services are based on a sliding fee scale. The homemaker services include:

- help with housework (light housekeeping duties), and respite care
- seasonal cleaning (windows, walls, moving furniture...)
- meal preparation – for those recovering from a hospital visit

The FCSS Coordinator works out of an office in the Ma-Me-O Community Hall for the privacy and convenience of our seniors. Sharon is available each Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The contact phone number for Sharon is 780-586-2523.

Please contact Sharon for more information on obtaining these services or if you are interested in providing Homemaker duties.

Pigeon Lake Public Library

The Pigeon Lake Public Library, located in Ma-Me-O Beach next door to the Summer Village Office, continues to improve their new site. Do stop by and see the wonderful work that has been accomplished by the hard work of so many volunteers in our community.

Pigeon Lake Protective Service (PLPS):

The phone number of the PLPS is 780-586-3882. Officers of the PLPS are actively enforcing the bylaws and the Traffic Safety Act. Please ensure your ATV's and off highway vehicles and operators are properly registered and insured.

Home Security Seminar

All residents of the 7 summer villages are invited to attend a Home Security and Crime Prevention Seminar. The session will be held at the Ma-Me-O Beach Community Hall on September 4th, at 10:00 a.m.

Three Village Garage Sale

Mark your calendars for the Three Village Garage Sale (Crystal Springs, Grandview and Poplar Bay) being held this year on Saturday, July 3rd, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is a good time to rid yourself of unwanted goods and visit with neighbours!

MMO Weekly Market

This year the Ma-Me-O Beach market will be held every Sunday beginning May 23rd, through to Sept 5th, 2010. New vendors may contact Betty @780-789-3992.

Thrill Of The Grill: Saturday July 17 11:00 AM-3:00 PM – The Village at Pigeon Lake

Learn all about BBQ. This event will bring in specialists from far & wide who know everything from spices to grills! Check out some popular authentic cooking techniques and get a real taste for BBQ! Here's a challenge to all of you BBQ Kings & Queens. This event is also a cook off competition! Bring your BBQ aprons and your favourite mix of spices and sauces. 10 cooks will attempt to win over a special selection of panel judges by BBQ'ing the PERFECT steak to win the first annual *Thrill Of The Grill Village Cook Off!*

Show & Shine August 28 - The Village at Pigeon Lake

Do you have a vintage car, truck, motorcycle or boat? Bring it down to show in the 13th Annual Show & Shine. Prizes galore and they are awarded by the Peoples Choice. If you're a car/truck lover, you can't miss this event and there are some awesome vehicles: Back again this year is Trikezone, the "Three - Weelin Specialists" Fun for the whole family!

Insurance for Fire, Flood and Storm Damage

CHECK YOUR INSURANCE POLICY! Over past winter seasons, several buildings in other Summer Villages at Pigeon Lake have burnt to the ground. Residents are reminded that the annual fee the Village pays for fire protection only supports the

maintenance of the fire department. If the volunteer fire department is called out to fight your fire, you will be billed for their services. Also check your insurance for flood and storm damage because the Summer Village is not responsible for these events.

Notice to Ratepayers (Water Leaks)

Please ensure that when you are not at the lake to turn off the power to your wells (pressure system). We have had some reports of lines leaking resulting in water damage to ratepayers homes.

House Numbers

With the use of the 911 Emergency call program, it is more important than ever that you display your municipal address in a prominent place. Please ensure that you have your municipal address posted in a place visible from the road. If you are unsure of your municipal number, please feel free to call the Summer Village Office at 780-586-2494 for confirmation.

Moving??...Change of Address? Phone #?

Please notify the office if you are changing your address or telephone numbers. Keeping us up-to-date is very important. If your cabin is broken into, police have to notify you.

Garbage Removal

WEEKLY pick-up occurs on **MONDAYS** during summer months beginning May 17th, and runs up to and including October 11th, 2010. Please phone Skip Kerr at MCL Waste Systems @780-352-2625 for concerns regarding garbage pickup. The 12 month Collection Schedule for 2010 was sent out with the previous Newsletter. The Calendar is available at the Summer Village Office or on the web site at www.svofficepl.com

Residents may take large items or excess garbage to the West Dried Meat Lake Regional Landfill located at Ferintosh. The City of Wetaskiwin will also accept solid waste, compost, burnable waste and concrete asphalt for a minimum charge of \$20.00.

Toxic Waste Round-Up

The County of Wetaskiwin will be holding a Toxic Waste Round-Up which is to be held at the Lakedell School on June 26th, 2010 from 8:00 am to 12:00 Noon. See attached for more information.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Summer!

David, Hugh & Roger

Encl:
Toxic Round-up
Noxious Weeds
Pigeon Lake Watershed Association
Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater Planning Committee