



One of the Best Community
Summer Villages on the Lake

SUMMER VILLAGE OF NORRIS BEACH ***Spring 2010 NEWSLETTER***

COUNCIL

Brian Keeler, Mayor
Bruce Fowlie, Deputy Mayor
Cindy Hanson, Councillor
Sylvia Roy, CAO

SUMMER VILLAGE OFFICE

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

COUNCIL MEETINGS - Council Meetings are held on a regular basis, generally every six weeks. Members of the general public wishing to make a presentation shall advise the CAO in writing or electronically not less than 7 business days before the scheduled meeting.

AMALGAMATION - As you are aware the Councils for the Summer Villages of Crystal Springs, Grandview and Norris Beach have recommended the amalgamation of the three Summer Villages for the purpose of gaining administrative and operating efficiencies. A total of four Public Consultation Meetings were held to explain the implications and the amalgamation process to residents. Your Councillors are unanimously supporting this amalgamation.

Plebiscite - A formal plebiscite to seek the approval of residents for this amalgamation will be held on July 3, 2010, at the Lakedell Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. An advance poll will be held on June 26, 2010, at the Ma-Me-O Beach Town Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Following the plebiscite the results will be reported to the Minister of Municipal Affairs enabling him to make a decision with regard to restructuring options.

Assistance is required at the polling stations. Please contact Bev Schneider at the Village Office if you can assist.

THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR, NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCILLORS - Regardless of the above noted plebiscite this is an election year for Municipalities including the Summer Village of Norris Beach. Candidates may get their nomination forms from the Summer Villages Office or from the website @ www.svofficepl.com. Nominations for Council will be received Saturday, July 10th, 2010, at the Ma-Me-O Town Hall between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. If the Minister of Municipal Affairs approves the amalgamation there will be a Transitional Council appointed by the Minister. The recommendation to the Minister will be that the Transitional Council be composed of one member each from the three Councils that will be elected on August 7, 2010. Beyond that there will be a new election for a Council of three members elected at large from property owners of the new Summer Village.

You are encouraged to ensure that a minimum of three Summer Village property owners have been nominated by 12:00 noon on July 10th in order to ensure the future of the Summer Village.

Election Day - Election Day will be August 7th, 2010, at the Ma-Me-O Town Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please mark that date on your calendar. You are encouraged to cast your vote again with the purpose of ensuring the future of the Summer Village.

ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING - This year the Annual Information Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 24th, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. at the Ma-Me-O Beach Legion Hall. Council looks forward to seeing you there.

PLAYGROUND - Immediately after the Annual Information Meeting a meeting will be held with interested residents with regard to the future of the playground and planning for potential future alternatives.

ANNUAL SUMMER VILLAGE PICNIC - Funding for the picnic is available, however the picnic will NOT be held unless some volunteer planning assistance comes forward. Contact one of your Councillors in this regard.

WASTEWATER

New Bylaw - A New Wastewater Bylaw has been approved by Council after receiving experienced legal advice. This bylaw was created because the timing is not known for the installation of a regional wastewater transmission system, and then an internal collection system, thus the Summer Village is being proactive in protecting the lake and the environment. The Bylaw requires that treatment fields, privies and holding tanks must be inspected, at the property owner's expense, in order to ensure they are in compliance with the Alberta Private Sewage Systems Standard of Practice.

Council has selected Sentry Water and Wastewater Solutions Inc. (Dale McLure - 780-975-2835) to conduct the inspections. Dale McLure and his associates will be making preliminary high level inspections of the Village's wastewater infrastructure including private treatment fields, privies and holding tanks in the near future. We request that you allow them access to your property and you describe your onsite wastewater system to them.

A copy of the new Wastewater Bylaw (#123) is attached for your information.

Greywater (Sink and Showers) - Administration and Council continue to find evidence that sink and shower water (usually referred to as greywater) is being disposed of on lawns and flowerbeds. The Alberta Private Sewage System Standard of Practice (SAP) is very clear that wastewater (which includes greywater) shall not bypass any treatment phase of the on-site wastewater treatment system and that greywater must be effectively managed and treated in accordance with the SAP and shall not be discharged to a location not consistent with the SAP. To do otherwise is an offense under the Safety Codes Act.

General Guidelines for Selection and Installation of a Wastewater Holding Tank - Since many property owners may choose to replace their existing onsite wastewater system with a new holding tank Council has created a set of guidelines that ease the selection and installation process. New holding tanks should be installed so that they can easily be connected to a future wastewater collection system. A copy of the guidelines document is also attached to this Newsletter.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2009 Audit - The audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2009 are approved and available at the Summer Village Office. Financial Summaries for 2009 will again be available at the Annual Information Meeting on July 24.

Property Assessments – The property assessment in Norris Beach, based on the *Valuation Date of July 1, 2009*, shows a decrease of 20.14% from the same date in 2008. On January 1, 2010, the appeal deadline date for your property assessment increased to 60 days from 30 days. Additional information was included with your 2010 combined assessment and tax notice.

Filing a Property Assessment Complaint and Preparing for Your Hearing - As of January 1, 2010, new legislation related to assessment complaints took effect. Alberta Municipal Affairs has upgraded the booklet "*Guide to Property Assessment and Taxation in Alberta*". The booklet can be picked up at the Summer Villages Office and is 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 the information booklet, please contact the Education Tax and Assessment Advisory Unit at 780-422-7125. To call toll-free, dial 310-0000 then 780-422-7125.

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 - Revenue generated for the 2010 Budget year remains the same as in 2009. The 2010 Mill Rate increased from 2.5205 to 3.1561 to offset the decrease in assessment values. In order to spread the cost of providing essential services on a more equitable basis, the minimum tax payable has been increased to \$800 from \$750 in 2009. Depending on the change in your property assessment, you may have seen a small change in the municipal portion of your tax bill. Budget information will be available at the Annual Information Meeting or if you have questions please call the Summer Village Office.

NEPL Sewer Levy – The annual sewer levy for 2010 has been reduced to \$84.46 from \$95.43 in 2009. This levy was identified as a separate levy on your Tax Notice.

Alberta School Tax Requisition – The requisition for 2010 is 12% higher than 2009, requiring an additional \$11,465 in taxes to be raised and remitted to the Provincial Government.

Taxes are due and payable June 30th, 2010 - Please contact the office if you do not receive your mailed notice prior to the end of June.

Seniors Education Property Tax Rebate - Beginning in the 2005 Tax Year, Alberta Seniors and Community Supports may provide an annual rebate to assist seniors 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 call 780 427-7876 or visit their website at www.seniors.gov.ab.ca.

Internet Banking - Internet banking service has been added this year for the purpose of tax payments 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.

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 Village's Land Use Bylaw. You may apply for a development permit at the Summer Village 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 information please contact our Development Officer, Marian Barcham at 780-586-2494. For further information, and to view the Land Use Bylaw, please go to our web site at www.svofficepl.com.

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 - Permission from Alberta Environment must be obtained before any work can be completed on a shore line. (THIS INCLUDES THE PLACEMENT OF ROCKS ON THE SHORELINE.) Please call the Village Office if you are planning to do any work that might disturb the lakefront.

BOAT LAUNCHING - Please note the Government of Alberta has advised that the boat launch at the Pigeon Lake Provincial Park is to be used with care due to the low water levels. Boat launches at six provincial parks and recreation areas are currently inoperable due to low water levels.

NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION ACT, Boats and Piers - We encourage Norris Beach residents to make the proper application to the Summer Village Office (the upstream property owner) and then Transport Canada in order to place their boat lifts and piers in front of the public reserves. This will ensure that available spots are first assigned to Norris Beach residents. Information and relevant forms are available from: Transport Canada, Navigable Waters Protection, at 1100 - 9700-Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 4E6. Phone: 1-780-495-6325 or FAX 780-495-8607 or go to their web site at www.tc.gc.ca.

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 demonstrate financial needs living permanently in the Summer Villages. The FCSS Coordinator (Sharon) 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.

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 make sure your ATV's and off-highway vehicles and operators are properly registered and insured.

FIRE FIGHTING, Check Your Insurance Policy - We remind new residents 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 on-site services. We suggest you confirm this charge is recoverable from your insurer.

HOUSE NUMBERS - With the use of the 911 Emergency call program, it is important that you display your municipal address in a prominent 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 Number

Please notify the office if you are changing your address or telephone numbers. Keeping us up-to-date is very important in the event of an emergency.

HOUSEHOLD 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

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.

PROJECTS

Road Paving - Another lift of pavement was added to Norris Beach roads late last year to assist road longevity. There were a number of deficiencies noted in the work. The Contractor will return to the Village in June to correct the deficiencies, including the need to taper into existing driveways to ease the drop from road to driveway.

Trees - The Village continued with the normal winter program of removing dead and dangerous trees and a significant amount of deadfall was removed in order to reduce the fire hazard. We however do not support the unnecessary removal of trees because they protect the Lake through their consumption of phosphorous and nitrogen.

SILVER WOODS DEVELOPMENT - Council responded to an opportunity to provide Alberta Environment with concerns about the new development, specifically with regard to storm water drainage into the lake and the use of groundwater. Plans are being made to have another discussion with the Developer to review their detailed plans.

PIGEON LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION - The Association continues with the development of stewardship programs, initiatives and priority work. They deserve your support. Visit www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com

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

Summer Village Council and Administration

Encl:
SVNB Private Sewage System Bylaw
Selection and Installation of a Wastewater Holding Tank - General Guidelines
Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater Planning Committee - Update