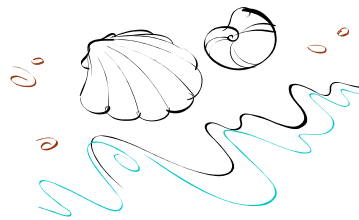


SUMMER VILLAGE OF GRANDVIEW *Spring Newsletter* 2010



COUNCIL:

Peter Watson, Mayor
Blaine Thomson, Deputy Mayor
Leslie Ellis, Councilor
Sylvia Roy, CAO

Summer Villages Office

Location 605 - 2 Ave (Hwy 13A)
Mailing address: Box 100,
Ma-Me-O Beach, AB
T0C 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)

NEWS FROM THE SUMMER VILLAGES ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Road Ban

The Spring Road Ban in the village is in effect from April 1st through to approximately June 30th, 2010, depending on weather.

Annual Information Meeting

This year the Annual Information Meeting will be held at Hamblin Park on Saturday, July 17th, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Council looks forward to seeing you there.

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 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

- **Property Assessments** – The property assessment in Grandview based on the **Valuation date of July 1, 2009** shows a decrease of 10.7% 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 Summer Village. 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**

Property tax increase has been held to 2% for 2010 with the minimum tax payable set at \$600. The increase is required to offset the minimal increase in the cost of essential services for the Summer Village. Grandview continues to enjoy one of the lowest property tax rates around Pigeon Lake.

- **NEPL Sewer Levy**

- The 2010 Budget also includes for the first time the cost of wastewater disposal. The cost per developed lot of \$84.46 will be collected as a separate levy on your tax invoice. The annual tippage fee provides a savings for residents that require more than one sewage haul per year.

- **Alberta School Tax Requisition** – The requisition for 2010 is 2% higher than 2009, requiring an additional \$9,069 be raised and remitted to the Provincial Government.

More detailed information regarding the 2010 Budget will be available at the Annual Information meeting or may be obtained by calling the Summer Village Office. Your combined 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.

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 at 780-586-2494 or Blaine Alexander (part time Contractor Development Officer - Saturday's a.m. only). "Please ensure all your development including fencing and landscaping is within your lot boundary". For further information and to view the Land Use Bylaw please go to our web site at www.svofficepl.com.

Please Note: 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.**)

Herbicide Ban

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

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.

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; 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.

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 make sure 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, & 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 neighbors!

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

Here's a challenge to all you BBQ buffs around Pigeon Lake to claim the title of "Pigeon Lake BBQ King/Queen". Bring your BBQ aprons and your favorite mix of spices and sauces. Ten cooks will attempt to win over a special selection of panel judges by BBQing the PERFECT steak to win the first *Thrill Of The Grill Village Cook Off!*

CONTESTANTS: Steaks provided. Cook Off entry fee is \$10.00 (to be donated to Bosom Buddies). Trophies and prizes galore. The **grand prize** is an outdoor Fire Pit donated by Barbeque Country valued at \$175.00.

Don't want to compete? That's okay too.....come on out and taste real authentic BBQ. We're roasting up a special treat for everyone to try on a BBQ like you've never seen before.

Show & Shine August 28, 2010 - 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.

Large Waste Bin Collection

There are 2 Big Bin Weekends scheduled for this year. The dates are as follows:

- May 21st, 2010 long weekend – 2 bins will be provided
- September 3rd, 2010 long weekend – 2 bins will be provided

The bins will be dropped off late Friday afternoon and will be picked up and returned late Saturday afternoon. The bins will be removed after 6:00 p.m. on Sunday or Monday. Bins will be located on Lakeshore Drive & Rabbit Run Road between Cabin #226 and #230.

Please place all refuse/materials in the bins. If the bins are full, DO NOT LEAVE YOUR GARBAGE AT THE SITE. Please act responsibly.

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!

Encl:
Toxic Round-up
Noxious Weeds
Pigeon Lake Watershed Association