

News From Grandview Council

Spring 2010

There are four major news items for Grandview this spring:

AMALGAMATION

As you are aware from previous correspondence and web postings we have been in discussion with the Summer Villages of Crystal Springs and Norris Beach on the possibility of amalgamation. Your Council, together with the other two summer village councils, all unanimously recommend that we amalgamate. The rationale for this recommendation and frequently asked questions and answers has been provided to you under separate cover.

Please make sure that you get out and vote on this important issue. An Advance Plebiscite Poll will be held at the Ma-Me-O Town Hall on Saturday June 26th, 2010 from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

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

WASTEWATER

The Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater Planning Committee is comprised of the municipalities of the County of Wetaskiwin, Leduc County, and the Summer Villages of Ma-Me-O Beach, Sundance Beach, Grandview, Norris Beach, Poplar Bay and Crystal Springs, as well as the North East Pigeon Lake Regional Services Commission. An additional stakeholder is the Pigeon Lake Indian Reserve #138A, which is being consulted with by the Committee.

The Committee commissioned an engineering study, completed in 2007 which recommended the installation of a regional transmission system separated into two parts, north and south, both of which would utilize the existing Mulhurst Lagoon. That lagoon has been recently upgraded to be capable of treating the additional effluent, but will require a storage upgrade to handle increased flows. All member municipalities received approval from their respective Councils to accept the recommendations found in the 2007 study and move forward the next phases.

The Planning Committee then successfully applied for funding under the Regional Partnership Initiatives Exploration Grant in order to fund a governance study to determine the best structure to build and maintain a regional wastewater system around Pigeon Lake. The study, presented to the Committee in early 2009 recommended that a Regional Service Commission be established consisting of the municipal Committee members, which would then become a customer of the existing NEPLRSC at the Mulhurst Lagoon.

Within the governance study the First Nations presence in the area was taken into consideration, with the intent of the Committee to continue consultations with the Four Bands and for the Four Bands to have representation in the Commission.

The Planning Committee commissioned an engineering pre-design study for the Regional Wastewater System which was completed in November of 2009. The study analyzed, among other things, such factors as line location, geotechnical issues, lift station location/design, pipe size, flows, lagoon requirements, and costs. The study has been adopted by the Committee as the basis of moving forward with design and construction of the project.

The engineers are now preparing a preliminary estimate of the capital cost of constructing the transmission system. Their report is due by the end of the summer of 2010.

The Committee has now applied for funding through Alberta Transportation for design and construction of the Regional Wastewater system and is currently awaiting word on funding availability.

It is unfortunate that it is taking as long as it is to bring this essential project to its conclusion, but it must be appreciated that it is a long term project. The Regional Collection System requires the involvement of at least a dozen public entities and significant construction. This takes time.

Meanwhile the new Grandview Wastewater Bylaw #270 has received first reading and will be finalized within the next month. This Bylaw, together with the Guidelines for Holding Tanks, will accomplish what is within our direct power to prevent any continuing drainage of effluent into the lake. A draft version of this bylaw can be viewed on our website at www.svofficepl.com.

ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

It is well understood that the Beach Road is in very poor shape. The fundamental problem is that the road bed was not properly constructed when the road was built.

We have delayed major reconstruction for a number of years due to the anticipated wastewater collection system – quite simply it would not have been prudent to build a new road only to have it torn up a few years later for the sewer system. As a result the Summer Village has followed a policy of repairs to pot holes rather than reconstruction while awaiting decisions on the sewer system

While the delay in the sewer system has been unfortunate in most respects it has resulted in the development of directional drilling techniques to advance. The sewer system will now be utilizing directional drilling. The result is that we will be able to rebuild our road without having to contemplate replacing it in a few years.

Much of the money required has already been put aside for this project. We anticipate completing phase one of the major rebuilding of the road this fall.

RECREATION PLAN

Your Council completed a Strategic Plan last year. Based on that plan we are now in the process of completing a Recreation Master Plan which is scheduled for completion later this summer. Hamblin Park will be the centre of our plan providing facilities and programs for residents of all ages to enjoy our beautiful lake.

ELECTIONS

2010 is an election year for Municipalities. It is vitally important that we have a strong field of candidates prepared to contest the election and serve. **Please consider letting your name stand for election.**

Candidates can get their Nomination forms from the Summer Villages Office or on the website at 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.

Election Day will be August 7th, 2010 at the Ma-Me-O Town Hall from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. **Please make it a priority to get out and vote.**