

**SUMMER VILLAGE OF  
POPLAR BAY**  
*Winter Newsletter 2009*



**COUNCIL:**

Kevin Davies, Mayor  
Pat Sloan, Deputy Mayor  
Gail Coleman, Councillor  
Sylvia Roy, CAO

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**NEW: Winter Office hours: 9:00-12:00 Monday-Friday (November 2, 2009- March 30, 2010)**

**Contact Information**

Local phone numbers for emergency and routine concerns are not always at hand. We have enclosed a fridge magnet that has some of these helpful numbers on it.

**RCMP Presentation**

All residents of the 7 summer villages are invited to attend a presentation and information session on Crime Prevention. The session will be held at the Ma-Me-O Beach Community Hall from 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Constable Nathaniel Jungwirth of the Wetaskiwin RCMP Detachment will be presenting at this very informative event.

**Minister's Award of Excellence for Smaller Municipalities**

At the AUMA Conference held in Calgary the Summer Village office received the Minister's Award of Excellence for Smaller Municipalities. By entering into a joint agreement, the seven Summer Villages established the Joint Services

Committee. A number of efficiencies and improved practices have been gained. This collaborative venture has resulted in shared or common services, bylaws, and policies and processes. Inter-municipal grant opportunities are more easily identified. Recruitment of skilled staff has brought increased knowledge and awareness of relevant legislation and statuses. This example of regional cooperation and development demonstrates how working together fosters sustainable, safe, strong and vibrant communities.

**News from the Summer Villages Office**

The Summer Villages Offices new website is up and running at [www.svofficepl.com](http://www.svofficepl.com). This new site takes you to our Home Page and allows you to access any of the seven Summer Villages websites.

In the past year the Summer Villages office has gone through a number of changes including employees. Serving the 7 Summer Villages are:

Sylvia Roy

Marian Barcham

Bev Schneider

Carol Banks

Carolyn Huddleston

Lisa McMurray

Tammy Riviere

Brenda Morneau

Sharon James-Lock

Part-time

Part-time

Part-time

Part-time

Part-time

Part-time

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) & Development Officer

Assistant CAO & Development Officer

Chief Financial Officer

Administrative Assistant

Administrative Assistant

Administrative Assistant

Administrative Assistant

Administrative Assistant

FCSS Coordinator

## **Amalgamation Update**

A member of Poplar Bay Council has been appointed to a Committee that will again examine the potential for the amalgamation of the 4 south-side Summer Villages for the purpose of gaining administrative and operating efficiencies. A request to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for the purpose of studying the amalgamation concept was rejected in 2008.

## **Joint Services Committee**

The Joint Services Committee (JSC) is comprised of one councilor from each of the seven member villages. Its purpose is to serve as a governance Committee. In this role, there are two subcommittees, one on finance and one on governance.

JSC in conjunction with administration is looking for ways to standardize member bylaws and policies and to provide better service. Our current initiative is to standardize the payment dates for tax collection and the penalties assigned for late payment. The Tax Installment Payment Plan is a result of a JSC initiative.

## **Tax Instalment Payment Plan**

To participate in the Tax Instalment Payment Plan, please ensure you complete an Authorization Form. Attach a void cheque and return with your completed form to the Summer Villages Office before December 15, 2009. The form is available on the Summer Villages website for your convenience, or call the S.V. Office and a form will be mailed to you. The first payment will be automatically debited from your account on January 1, 2010.

## **Outstanding Taxes**

Just a reminder, if you have an outstanding balance in your Property Tax account, please ensure payment is received prior to December 31st. Penalties as per S.V. Bylaw will be applied January 1, 2010 on any outstanding balance.

## **Property Assessments**

The Summer Village Assessor will be in the S.V.'s over the next few months evaluating properties and taking digital photographs. The Assessor is Grant Clark, A.M.A.A. and may be reached at 1-888-419-2128.

Under provincial legislation, Assessors under contract to municipalities have the legal right to enter a residents property for assessment purposes.

## **Property Taxes for 2010**

Council has changed the due date for property taxes for Poplar Bay effective June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This allows for consistency with the other 6 Summer Villages administered from the Summer Villages Office.

## **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 Alberta Permit Pro @ 1-800-282-6145 or @ 403-343-2777 once your Development Permit has been approved. Beachfront structures require a development and are governed by Alberta Environment.

We have had a very busy and exciting 2009. To date a total of 227 Development Permits have been issued and 73 Notifications for Bylaw violations within the 7 Summer Villages. The increase in volume is due to holding tanks being installed, demolition of cabins, new developments, and renovations, etc. The next few months will also see a rise in applications as deadlines approach for the installation of holding tanks.

Due to the increase in volume, when applying for a Development Permit for the installation of a holding tank, please allow two weeks for approval and processing. The PLPS are patrolling and reporting to the Development Officer any violations regarding Development Permit Placards. Development Permit Placards must be visible at all times. If you are moving a building off your lot please make sure you have all the required permits. Fines are extremely high for any violations.

## **Signs**

It has been brought to the attention of Council that some of our residents are erecting temporary speed limit signs on the road in the summer months. These signs are not in compliance with the sign bylaw which clearly states that temporary signs shall not:

- Interfere with or cause a distraction to, vehicle traffic or pedestrians.
- Be posted within 2 meters of a curb or edge of the roadway.

The sign bylaw does not allow for temporary signage to be placed directly on a roadway. Officers of the PLPS are actively enforcing the bylaws and therefore this could result in ticketing and fines.

## **Home Renovation Tax Credit - Reminder**

The Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC) is available to taxpayers for work performed or goods acquired after January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and before February 1, 2010. This will provide an immediate incentive for Canadians to undertake new renovations or accelerate planned projects. More information on the HRTC is available on the

Canada Revenue Agency's website at [www.cra.gc.ca](http://www.cra.gc.ca). This Tax Credit can be used for the installation of holding tanks. Please ensure that you get an itemized invoice from your Contractor for any work done.

### **Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater Planning Committee**

The Committee is composed of representatives from the summer villages of Crystal Springs, Grandview, Ma-Me-O Beach, Norris Beach, Poplar Bay and Sundance Beach. Also, a rep from the Provincial Park sits on the Committee. The Committee also includes reps from the Counties of Leduc and Wetaskiwin. Wetaskiwin County continues to be the lead municipality and is working directly with Associated Engineering on behalf of the Committee.

The Committee met in October to receive draft information from Associated Engineering regarding the status of the pre-design of our regional system. Data review and collection is complete and the project design criteria was confirmed. A base plan with legal parcels, ground topography and aerial photos has been compiled for the entire project area. The preliminary design of the pipeline and necessary treatment upgrades are being detailed. A draft report will be available to the Committee in mid November with the Committee reviewing the same and submitting it to Alberta Transportation for funding of the project. We are hopeful of funding and all updates will be provided on our website or by calling the office.

In addition the Committee is moving forward on the formation of a commission representing our Committee. The commission will eventually be a new entity that will contract sewer treatment services from the NEPL (North East Pigeon Lake) Commission. The treatment facility will be the Mulhurst Lagoon.

### **Great Canadian Shore-Line Clean-up**

This fall 98 volunteers dedicated 173.5 hours to the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup at Pigeon Lake. This effort is a national program where the shores of Canadian waters are cleaned of garbage and debris. Results are also forwarded to the International Ocean Conservancy. Human impact is measured by documenting 40 different items. This year 2859 pounds/1750.6 kilograms of debris was removed from approximately 18.6 miles/ 29.98 km of shoreline.

### **Herbicide Ban**

Alberta is banning the sale of lawn-care products that combine herbicide and fertilizer. The ban will go into effect 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 and heavy snowfalls. We suggest that residents check their property

for fallen and uprooted trees that may be posing a danger to their buildings, power lines or neighboring property.

### **Pigeon Lake Protective Service (PLPS)**

Ron Smith, the Senior Constable for the Pigeon Lake area has retired. We would like to congratulate Officer Marty McKinney on his appointment to the Senior Constable position.

Officers of the PLPS are actively enforcing our bylaws and the Traffic Safety Act so please ensure that your ATV's and off highway vehicles and operators are properly registered and insured. Also remember that ATVs are not permitted on municipal reserves and trails throughout the villages except for lake access for maintenance of piers, etc. and ice fishing.

### **Pigeon Lake Regional Library**

The Lakedell 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **MMO Weekly Market**

This year the Ma-Me-O Beach market was a huge success. Thank you to all residents who supported the market. New vendors, especially those who sell fresh vegetables & fruit may contact the Betty @780-789-3992.

### **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 under ratepayers homes.

### **Fire Fighting/Flood Control**

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 services. Also check your insurance for **flood control** because the Summer Village cannot accept any responsibility for storm damage.

**Big Bin Weekend**

Another successful Big Bin Weekend in September! **A huge bouquet to the Big Bin Volunteer Crew.** A special thanks to Russ Ainey for supervising this event.

Get ready to "Dump & De-clutter on the long weekend in May 2010

**Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)**

Effective October 8<sup>th</sup>, Sharon James-Lock joined the Summer Villages office as part-time FCSS Coordinator. Sharon comes to us with 23 years experience as an FCSS Coordinator and will be working out of an office in the Community Hall for the privacy and convenience of our seniors. Sharon is available each Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

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 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

Please contact Sharon at (780) 586-2523 for more information on obtaining these services or if

you are interested in providing Homemaker duties.

**2010 Election**

Residents are advised that next year is election year for Council and Nominations for 2010 will be accepted. The existing Poplar Bay Council has agreed to stand for another term.

**Garbage Removal**

BI-WEEKLY pick-up occurs on MONDAYS during winter months. Please phone Skip Kerr at MCL Waste Systems @780-352-2625 for concerns regarding garbage pickup.

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.

The calendar below is for your reference for the month of December 2009.

Dec-09						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13		15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27		29	30	31		

***We would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Winter!***

***Kevin, Pat, & Gail***

- Encl:
- Garbage Calendar
  - Pigeon Lake Watershed
  - Fridge Magnet
  - RCMP Announcement
  - Diana McQueen Letter