

SUMMER VILLAGE OF POPLAR BAY SPRING NEWSLETTER 2010



COUNCIL:

Kevin Davies, Mayor

Pat Sloan, Deputy Mayor

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)

Road Ban

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

Councillor Resignation

Gail Coleman has resigned from the Poplar Bay Council. The Council wishes Gail all the best in her new endeavours. Gail has now joined the Summer Villages Office as staff on a part-time basis. Gail will bring her expertise in the accounting profession and provide additional administrative assistance.

Nominations

It is with great regret that our Chief Administrative Officer announces that the 2 remaining Poplar Bay Council members may not be running in the 2010 election year due to various circumstances. Nominations will be accepted for the 3 positions. Nomination forms are available at 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.

Election Day

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

Annual Information

This year the Annual Information Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 19th, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Poplar Bay Recreation Center. 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 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. Financial Summaries for 2009 will again be available at the Annual Information Meeting.
- **Property Assessments** – The property assessment in Poplar Bay based on the **Valuation date** of **July 1, 2009** indicates a 5% increase from the same date in 2008. The average increase 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** - Revenue generated for the 2010 Budget year remains the same as in 2009. The Mill Rate will decrease from 1.8289 to 1.7427, a decrease of 5% to offset the rise in assessment values. Budget information will be available at the Annual Information meeting or if you have questions, please call the S.V. Office.
- **Alberta School Tax Requisition** – The requisition for 2010 is 4% higher than 2009, requiring an additional \$12,515 to 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 30, 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.

Please note the change in the date your property taxes are due – June 30, 2010

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 neighbouring 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 stored 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. The lake is public property and you must have permission to place items within 30m of the shore. 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 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 BBQing 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 under 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.

May Large Waste Bin Collection

The wind, rain and chilly temperatures didn't stop Poplar Bay ratepayers from taking advantage of the Big Bin Weekend. "49 Dumps" arrived over the two day period—and thanks to all the volunteers—everything went INTO the bins! This service to our Summer Village would not be possible without the cooperation and participation of many, and special bouquets go out to the all the families who selflessly gave at least one hour of their time on the weekend. We will be looking

for a new crew of volunteers for the September 3rd long weekend. Have a safe and fun filled summer!

September Large Waste Bin Collection

The Big Bin Weekend is scheduled this year for the following date:

- 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!

Kevin & Pat

Encl:

Associated Engineering Letter

Toxic Round-up

Noxious Weeds

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association

Pigeon Lake Wastewater Planning Committee Update