

FROM: SUMMER VILLAGE OF JARVIS BAY COUNCIL

DATE: APRIL 2022

This newsletter is coming to you from the Summer Village of Jarvis Bay Council and Administration. The express purpose is to provide some history, an explanation of the Municipal Enforcement within the Summer Village of Jarvis Bay and the new Police Funding Model from the Alberta Government pertaining to RCMP service within the province.

- Recent History of Municipal Enforcement** – Prior to 2017 a part time program for enforcement was fulfilled by the Town of Rimbey. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Town of Rimbey was unable to continue to provide services and the contract was cancelled in the summer of 2016. On January 2, 2017, the Summer Villages of Jarvis Bay, Birchcliff, Norglenwold and Sunbreaker Cove signed a 5-year Municipal Enforcement Contract with the Town of Sylvan Lake. The contract was for a full-time, year-round Peace Officer to be dedicated to those four Summer Villages and costs incurred were about the same as the previous part time contract.
- Alberta Government Police Funding Model** – In January of 2020 the Summer Villages Administration received information from the AUMA (which re-branded in November of 2021 to Alberta Municipalities) regarding the new Police Funding Model being downloaded from the Alberta Provincial Government. Up to this point the Summer Villages were not paying any costs associated with RCMP services; the new funding model was introduced so that all municipalities across the province would share in the cost of police services. The invoicing was to be effective January 1, 2020, however, based on the short notice, Alberta Municipalities strongly advocated for the invoicing to start on January 1, 2021. Although the invoicing date was pushed back, the Summer Village of Jarvis Bay began budgeting in early 2020 based on the forecast that was received. A breakdown on the calculation of costs for neighbouring municipalities is as follows:

MUNICIPALITY	2021	2022	2023	2024
Birchcliff	\$7,970	\$11,963	\$15,939	\$23,926
Half Moon Bay	\$2,111	\$3,169	\$4,222	\$6,338
Jarvis Bay	\$8,969	\$13,464	\$17,939	\$26,928
Norglenwold	\$11,469	\$17,215	\$22,937	\$34,431
Sunbreaker Cove	\$6,055	\$9,089	\$12,111	\$18,179
Lacombe County	\$82,039	\$283,491	\$484,078	\$886,981

- Municipal Enforcement Contract** – During the summer of 2021 the contracted services for a full time Peace Officer experienced an unexpected disruption in service. A number of phone calls were made to the Administration office to ask about the absence of the Peace Officer. The Summer Villages CAO reached out to the Town of Sylvan Lake and found out that the contract was not being fulfilled and there was no plan in place to cover the duties as laid out in the

contract. For most of the summer there was no coverage in the four summer villages who cost share this contract. As this lack of coverage persisted a couple of the summer villages began to question whether this service was value-added for their ratepayers as they didn't notice much of a difference during the absence. Early in the year individual Councils made the decision not to renew the existing contract which left other Councils trying to figure out a way to pay for the services on their own. In speaking with the Town, the Summer Villages CAO learned that there was no guaranteed return date for the Peace Officer and began to look for solutions. Some of those included asking for a different officer to cover the contract with amended terms, a contract extension upon the Peace Officer's return and a refund for services not provided. In the end the Town of Sylvan Lake issued a refund to the four summer villages; Jarvis Bay's refund amount was \$8,474.55.

- **Options Explored** – Early in 2022 the Summer Villages CAO explored the option of a cost sharing contract for a Peace Officer between Jarvis Bay, Norglenwold and the Town of Sylvan Lake. On February 1, 2022, the CAO informed Council that the Town of Sylvan Lake was not interested in this partnership. The cost of having only Norglenwold and Jarvis Bay enter into an agreement would have meant that the Mill Rates for the two municipalities would increase significantly, upwards of 15% and was not a viable option to either Council at that time. The cost to the ratepayers of Jarvis Bay to enter into an agreement for a dedicated Peace Officer was also not a viable option to Council as the start up fee for equipment would be \$24,500 and then the yearly fee would be as follows:

Year 1 = \$131, 820 / Year 2 = \$135,775 / Year 3 = \$139,850 / Year 4 = \$144,045 / Year 5 = \$148,365

- **Next Steps** – While the Summer Village of Jarvis Bay falls within the jurisdiction and responsibility of the Town of Sylvan Lake RCMP detachment, options for additional police coverage will continue to be researched both by the Jarvis Bay Council and the Joint Services Committee (one member sits on this committee from each Summer Village). With our municipality being somewhat rural in nature, it is imperative to protect your property by getting to know your neighbours and reporting suspicious or dangerous events to the RCMP at (403)-878-7200; in the event of an emergency always phone 911. Additionally, the RCMP prepared a news release on April 12 with strategies to protect against property crime:

<https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2022/alberta-rcmp-recommend-strategies-protect-property-crime>

- **Sign Up for Email Notifications** – Signing up for email notifications will keep you up to date on pertinent information within your municipality. Please visit the following link to sign up:

<http://www.sylvansummervillages.ca/jarvis-bay.html>

Best Regards,

Mayor Julie Maplethorpe

Summer Village of Jarvis Bay