

Summer 2020 Half Moon Bay Newsletter



ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE – On Monday, July 27th, Half Moon Bay Council had its annual Organizational Meeting. Unlike large municipalities that elect a Mayor and Councillors, a Summer Village elects three (3) Councillors. Then at an Organizational Meeting held each year, the Councillors elect a Mayor. I nominated Councillor Mike Pashak to take over the Mayor position from me and he accepted.

I have been on Council representing Half Moon Bay since 2004 and it is so great to see new energetic residents want to take on the responsibility of keeping the Summer Village viable and sustainable under the Municipal Government Act. In 2009 the Government of Alberta was intent on dissolving all Summer Villages. In order to survive the rigorous checks and balances we had to be sustainable on our own. For being such a small Summer Village, we are a leader.

I have the confidence that Mayor Mike Pashak will continue our tradition of being a viable and sustainable Summer Village. As well as being Mayor, he is also the President of the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta (ASVA) and in that role represents the interests of all 51 Summer Villages in dealings with the provincial government and other organizations. Mike is also on the Board of Directors for the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) and represents all Summer Villages in that organization. Please extend your congratulations to Mike.

It has been a pleasure working on your behalf and Half Moon Bay for the last 17 years. We will need a replacement for my position in 2021, otherwise we would cease to maintain our status under the Municipal Government Act. Please consider putting your name in for a Councillor position.

~ Ted Hiscock

ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING (AIM)

Ironically this year when we have so much going on we are not able to have a sit down meeting and tell everyone. We have a number of Capital Projects underway and all being funded through Government of Alberta grants with no impact to operating expenses or property taxes.

Forest Management Plan (FMP) – this was created to address all aspects of forest management and ensure that Half Moon Bay has a healthy, resilient and diversified forest. This Plan also identified the need to complete selective small patch harvesting in the Environmental Open Space reserves where dead, decadent or dangerous trees would be removed. The goal is to complete this work in the October/November timeframe.

Emergency Access along the shoreline - a Fire Protection Plan (FPP) was created in 2017. This plan was the result of an HMB Wildfire Mitigation Strategy document that was made possible with a FireSmart grant from the Alberta Government and Association of Summer Villages of Alberta; a result of the Slave Lake fire. One of the FPP recommendations was to establish a Fire Lane along the lakeshore to ensure that emergency response

apparatus and personnel have complete access. This work is planned to be completed this fall and we are going to ask you to keep certain areas clear this year when the hoists come in. We will have further information very soon.

Warbler Close Trail System Extension – this project will construct a new walking pathway to allow access to the Environmental Open Space recreational area from Warbler Close. In the past there was an informal pathway in this location and a big thank you goes out to the Norris family for working with the Summer Village to make this project successful. The work involves tree and brush removal, grading of the land to ensure safe travel for residents, fence construction for the demarcation of public and private property, and the installation of a suitable pathway covering. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

Waste Water Collection System – earlier this year we let the Government of Alberta know that HMB had a project that fit the criteria of their economic stimulus funding program. Our project involves the collection and disposal of wastewater and would also complete the South Shore Line. The South Shore waste water line is still in the books to be completed in 2022 and is very dependant on Provincial and Federal grants. We have not heard back yet if we would be part of that stimulus funding but decided that to be truly shovel ready HMB had to complete the detailed design for the internal collection system.

The detailed design work is underway and Stantec Engineering is currently working in HMB to collect data to facilitate the design. That is why you are seeing various paint markings on roadways, in the ditches and various points within the Village. It is also why next week you will see a small drilling rig in the village completing a geotechnical survey of the soil conditions. Stantec also requires information that is pertinent in determining the landowners' private lot servicing requirements (i.e. where the optimum location for the service to enter your lot is). HMB Council (Mike, Pam, Ted) will be assisting Stantec in the collection of information such as location of your septic tanks/holding tanks, septic fields, and any other features on your land that might affect the design of the utility service going into your property (i.e. water well). HMB Council will go door-to-door over the next few weeks to collect this information. Once we have that information, we will be better positioned to provide general dollar values as to what it will cost each of you to connect.

The three reasons this project needs to move forward:

1. Safety of potable water supply – drinking water in the area is supplied by private wells on each property, which results in a potential link between septic fields and the drinking water supply.
2. Lake Health - the surface and subsurface drainage of untreated or poorly treated wastewater from private septic fields into the lake is identified as one of the factors impacting lake water quality.
3. Government of Alberta support and mandate for centralized treatment of wastewater.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Coffee with Council – because there was no formal Annual meeting this year, Council has decided to make themselves available on a one-to-one basis or a small crowd gathering to answers any questions you might have about HMB or to hear your suggestions as to what might be necessary for HMB to continue to be the best Summer Village. Over the next few weeks Council members will be available at the beach shelters so look for posters around HMB for dates and times.

Social Distancing – The infectious rate of COVID-19 has changed the way we interact. While many communities have instituted Bylaws requiring the wearing of a face covering in public areas, we are fortunate that unlike Petro Beach in Jarvis Bay and Sylvan Lake Beach we have not been inundated with people we do not know. We would ask that everyone practice the safe protocols/guidelines as set out by the Provincial Health Minister. We do not have washroom facilities in our public area so having non-residents at the beach is discouraged.

I need to thank the Campbell's for taking time to place homemade face coverings in the new bulletin board enclosure. They are awesome. If anyone else is involved in this I am sorry I do not have your name. It is really appreciated as we know these take material and a lot of your time. Again, Thank You so much.

Sign up to receive email Updates

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

We still have less than half of the residences signed up to receive email updates. It is now more important than ever to sign up to receive HMB information. Please copy and paste the link to your web browser address line and fill in your first name, last name, and Email address. It is that simple and there is no limit as to how many family members can sign up per household. You would then get immediate updates when available from the Summer Village Office.

West Beach Upgrade & Shelter

One of my dreams since coming on to council in 2004 was to have a beautiful beach and play area in both the east and west reserve. Thanks to all the hard work of many residents this has now been completed. The walkway was another of my dreams years ago and we are still working on completing the emergency access along the shoreline that will serve as a walkway for residents to do about a 2.5 km walk completely around the village without the fear of having to wade through ankle deep water. Now that we have government approval this will be completed soon.

Garbage/Refuse Pickup

In May, we moved to automated garbage collection by Empringham disposal. Each residence received a large 360 Litre Garbage Container that will hold the equivalent of 4.5 bags of garbage. In addition, one container was delivered to the pathway at the East and West Beach areas for use in those areas during the summer months. We are hoping that residents like the new refuse pickup. We do ask that you take the container back to your property as soon as you can after pickup on Tuesday or have a neighbor help.

The garbage collection calendar can be found on the website at this address under Public Works:

http://www.sylvansummervillages.ca/uploads/8/8/0/5/88056186/half_moon_bay_garbage_2020.pdf

Land Use Bylaw & Permits for Construction

Before beginning any construction work on your property we would ask all residents to call the administration office at (403) 887-2822 to determine if a permit is required.

2020 Property Taxes

The deadline for property taxes to be paid in full was midnight, Friday, July 31st, 2020 unless you are on the Tax Installment program. If you did not pay by that date you will incur a penalty. Your taxes can be paid monthly through the Tax Installment program but only if you register by December 31st of the previous year. You can also pay your taxes via a credit card on the SV of HMB website and there will be a credit card transaction fee payable by the ratepayer.

The 2020 HMB Operating Budget was set with a 0% increase over 2019. The Government of Alberta has indicated that the Provincial School Assessment will remain the same as the previous year. With this, your 2020 taxes should have remained close to last year's only changing due to your assessment value changing. Tax notices were mailed out during the last week of May.

Internet – Fibre Optic installation

Missing Link has been in the Summer Village running cable into the homes of those that have signed up. Missing Link advised they are ready to go and now waiting on Fortis to complete some electrical hookups. They are hoping to have the high speed up and running by the end of August but acknowledge it could be later or sooner depending on their electrical services. Once up and running the old wifi system will be turned off.

In Closing, please accept my sincere thanks for all your support over the past 16 years. I will continue my work as Councilor for the Village over the next year and will be stepping aside for a new member next June. Please consider putting your name in to replace me. There is still so much to do within the village. We have one of, if not the best Summer Village in the Province. This is all due to your Community Involvement.

~ Ted Hiscock, Councilor

On behalf of Mayor Mike Pashak and Deputy Mayor Pam Skakun