

# FEB 24, 2026 EMAIL UPDATE



## Upcoming Meetings

### Council Meeting

Thursday, February 26, 2026

9:00 am

#2 Erickson Drive, Sylvan Lake

[Click here for zoom link](#)

[Link to All Agendas](#)



Photo by: Steven Johnson

[Click here for the 2026 Garbage Schedule](#)

### Summer Village of Birchcliff

#### Winter 2026 Newsletter



##### Greetings from Council and Administration

We are committed to protecting Birchcliff's values, enhancing community life, and safeguarding both the environment and your investment. This newsletter provides updates on the following key areas:

1. **2026 Municipal Budget Highlights**
2. **2026 Utility Bill**
3. **Ice Huts and Fires on the Ice**
4. **Garbage & Recycling Schedule**

##### 2026 Budget & Three-Year Operating Plan

Council approved the 2026 Budget and Three-Year Operating Plan in November. The budget was developed using conservative financial assumptions and reflects stable operating costs, placing Birchcliff in a strong financial position as the community moves into 2026.

##### Key Assumptions

The budget was informed by the following factors:

- Forecasted **\$13,000 in residential assessment growth revenue** from new and redeveloped properties
- **2025 Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 1.8%**
- **Bank of Canada inflation outlook of approximately 2%**
- **Lower anticipated investment income**, reflecting analyst projected lower interest rates through 2026

A key priority for Birchcliff Council was to hold municipal taxes at last year's level. As a result, the **2026 municipal mill rate remains unchanged at 2.0677**. Individual property taxes may vary depending on changes in assessed property values.

This outcome was achieved through disciplined, zero-based budgeting and long-term financial planning.

##### Long-Term Financial Sustainability

- In **2021**, Council introduced a four-year financial strategy to address provincially imposed RCMP cost downloads and a **60% reduction in MSI infrastructure funding**. This strategy successfully closed the funding gap and now contributes **\$85,000 or more annually**, exceeding its original target.
- In **2023**, Council adopted a **Financial Reserve Policy and Plan** to strengthen investment returns and improve capital planning. **Financial reserves now total approximately \$1.62 million**, establishing a long-term run rate exceeding policy targets. These reserves are sufficient to fund forecasted capital projects through **2031 and beyond**, including an **800-metre West End Trail expansion in 2026** and future road resurfacing projects.

##### Planning for the Future

Through responsible budgeting, strong reserve management, and long-term planning, Council and Administration continue to protect taxpayers, invest in infrastructure, and maintain the quality of life that makes Birchcliff a sustainable lake community.



Summer Villages Administration Office  
#2 Erickson Drive  
Sylvan Lake, AB T4S 1P5  
Ph: 887-2822

January 6, 2026

Dear resident of Birchcliff,

This letter is being written to you as you are either part of a community dock group or may be eligible to join one if you would like to. While you may not be thinking about boating in January, we want to ensure that everyone is happy when the ice breaks up and you can get back on the water!

Birchcliff Council has directed me to advise you of some updates to the Community Pier Policy, including some upcoming costs. As you are likely aware, the Community Piers are entirely funded by the members, and by new members who join – including any improvements to the docks or access through the municipal reserves. A couple of years ago, platforms were installed by Summer Village contractors to allow for the storage of dock sections on the municipal reserve without damaging any of the environment. This makes the installation and removal of the docks easier and cheaper, and we do not have to pay for storage fees to store the dock sections off-site. However, the municipality paid for these upgrades upfront. One third of these costs were covered with the 2025 invoices. A further \$267.63 per member will be charged in 2026 and 2027 to spread out the costs over 3 years total. After that, the annual fees will no longer include the extra expense.

To ensure fairness, any new members joining the community piers will be charged a flat \$900 upfront in order to pay for their share of the improvements. When new members join, those fees end up reducing the overall costs to existing members.

Birchcliff will also be implementing a registration sticker system for the 2026 boating season. Each community pier member is eligible to have one "slip" which would accommodate either one boat or 2 personal watercrafts. Stickers will be provided by our administration office and must be placed on the boats in a location that is easily visible when the boat is moored. This is to ensure that the correct boat is moored in the correct location and there are no unauthorized boats using the community pier and will make the enforcement of our policy much easier.

If you have any questions regarding the Community Pier Policy or you are interested in joining the Community Pier Program, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office.

Thank you very much,

Tanner Evans

Chief Administrative Officer, Summer Villages on Sylvan Lake

\*Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the Community Pier Policy, along with a map outlining the Community Pier locations and designated areas for each property.