

Summer Village of Birchcliff

Spring 2020 Newsletter



Our spring newsletter is an opportunity to update you on a few of the projects and some of the upcoming activities in our community. First though, I want to talk to you about Covid-19.

As you know, it is important that each of us follow the advice of our health care professionals and do our part in protecting fellow citizens by preventing the spread of Covid-19. The Alberta.ca website is the single source of the truth regarding what we need to know about Covid-19. I know that most are doing their part in reducing the risk of spreading the virus and that it is not easy for seasonal residents to heed the following advice received from Alberta's chief medical officer;

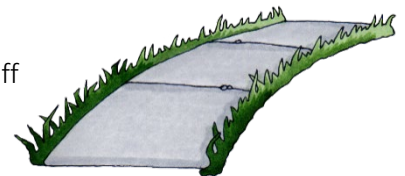
"There are many grieving families in our province today, and I extend my sincere condolences to each and every one of them and all the loved ones of those we have lost. We can honor these people by re-committing to physical distancing and staying home whenever possible. It is particularly important as the spring approaches that we make different decisions about our vacations. Please do not plan to travel to vacation homes, especially those in other provinces or in smaller communities."

It has been and will continue to be a difficult year financially for many Albertans. Government, Federal and Provincial, have taken many extraordinary measures to help Albertans. As a municipality we have taken additional measures to further reduce costs and to not increase Municipal taxes for this year. I would like to thank Ann Zacharias and Frank Tirpak for their dedication and Tanner Evans and his team for holding the line on expenses while delivering exceptional service. This is a difficult time for many, and we recognize that some of you have questions or may need help and if you do I ask that you reach out to council or administration, we are here to help.

Birchcliff Path

Council has given approval to move forward with the next step of the Birchcliff Path. Administration will move forward with a public tender for the portion of the path running between the Slopes (range road 14) and Birch Way.

Construction of the path is expected to begin this year and you will continue to be updated as we move through the project. It is important to note that funding of the path comes from the province and that accessing provincial funding was made possible through the design work completed by a special council committee led by Deputy Mayor Ann Zacharias and Birchcliff residents Mary Jewell, Rita Johnson, Mike Virtue and Cheryl Murdock. I would like to thank the committee for their passion and their commitment to this project, their work embraces our culture; adding a path embraces our community vision. Thank you.



Piers and Hoists

Lake access has always been a topic of conversation for Birchcliff residents, specifically for those who do not have access to a pier. In response to this Birchcliff will launch two pilots this year from two viewpoint parks. The intent of the pilots will be to provide pier access to back lot residents from OS17, OS16 and OS8W in accordance with guidelines established under the open space master plan, Alberta Environment and Parks and Birchcliff Council. Ann Zacharias and Thom Jewell will each lead one of the pilots. We will learn from our experience and potentially roll out to other areas. Birchcliff residents are passionate about protecting the environment and our watershed. We can protect the environment through the proper management of communal piers and by implementing an adopt a park program.

Ice Shack Regulations

Alberta Environment and Parks has updated the 2020-2021 fishing regulations to include mandatory ice fishing shack identification requiring owners to identify ice fishing shacks with the owners WIN number or Name, Address and Phone number and to remove all ice fishing shacks when it is still safe to do so, prior to spring breakup.

Special thanks to the Sylvan Lake Management Committee, Alberta Summer Villages Association and Environment and Parks for acknowledging that regulating ice shacks is good for the environment and reduces the risk of injury for people who use the lake during the open water season.



Garbage Pickup

Reminder that starting on May 5th, 2020 garbage pickup will move from bi-weekly to weekly. The schedule can be viewed on our website public works page at:

<http://www.sylvansummervillages.ca/public-works3.html>

A yard waste bin will be placed at the NAL lease road (between Birch Way & Birchcliff Lane) May 15th – June 15th, 2020. Please note that these bins will only last until filled. Only 3 bins will be provided total. For more information on what can go in these bins please visit our website public works page at:

<http://www.sylvansummervillages.ca/public-works3.html>

Traffic Bylaw – Vote of Electors

With the current uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, Council has sent a request to the Minister of Municipal Affairs asking to have a 90-day extension to hold the vote of electors for the Traffic Bylaw. The current date is May 16th, 2020. We have been unofficially granted an extension until October 1st and this will go before Council at their next meeting to choose a date. Council has provided for residents to vote by special ballot and we encourage people to vote this way. If you are unable to attend the vote of electors due to physical disability, absence from the local jurisdiction or concern over your safety due to Covid-19, please send an email request to Teri Musseau, Returning Officer at tmusseau@sylvansummervillages.ca and a request for a special ballot package will be sent you. If the date of the vote of electors should change, you do not need to do anything as you have already cast your vote and it will be included for counting. If you have any questions please contact Teri Musseau, Returning Officer.

Key Dates

As for key dates this year;

- ❖ Team up to clean up will not take place in the spring but we may be able to do something in the fall.
- ❖ The Speed Limit vote to stay at 40 or move up to 50 is delayed until further notice.
- ❖ Our Annual Information Meeting is delayed until further notice. We are committed to providing you with an interactive update and will keep you informed on just how we will do this.

Together we are better!

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