

Summer Village of Birchcliff

Spring 2023 Newsletter



Hello from Council and Administration and we hope you had an enjoyable winter.

As most of you make plans to greet the summer, council would like to provide you with a few updates. This newsletter provides an update on the recently adopted Mill Rate Bylaw, funding for projects, approved capital projects for this year, our climate plan and other items.

Mill Rate Bylaw

In April, Council approved the 2023 Municipal Mill Rate of 1.9205 which represents no change over last year. Total property assessments for the village increased from \$182,185,680 in 2022 to \$193,028,240 in 2023. The increase in assessment growth was greater than budgeted and will generate an additional \$11,400 in revenue which will go into our financial reserves.

Funding For Projects

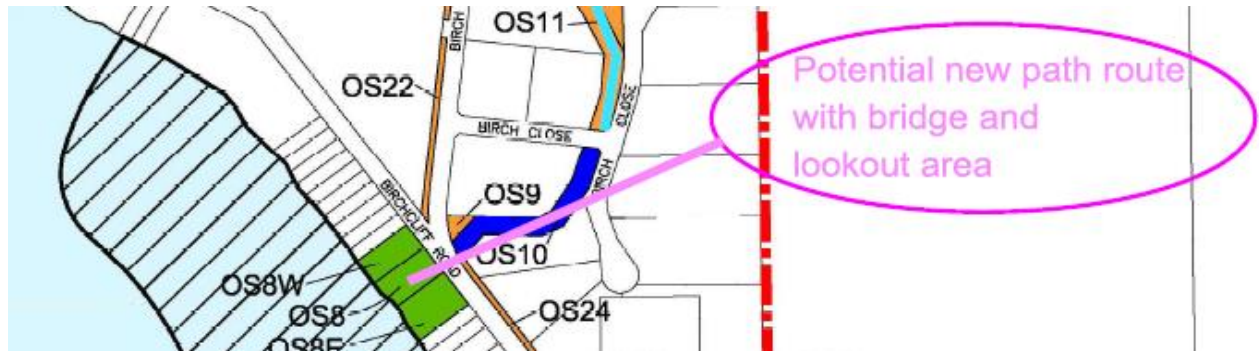
Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding provided by the province for capital funding continues to remain flat at \$67,798 and is well below historic norms. During the 2021 budget we created an infrastructure reserve and committed to increasing municipal funding to help pay for capital projects. In 2022, we raised \$47,812 in accumulated surplus and in 2023 we are forecasting \$56,400. While the prudent management of our capital reserves may be enough to manage capital projects such as road resurfacing, routine maintenance and some improvements over the long term, it will not be enough to fund other larger projects. Other improvements including shoreline restoration and the shoring up of financial reserves will be addressed by the yet to be finalized municipal reserves policy.

Council has instructed administration to do the work required to sell one of our Municipal Reserves and arrange a public engagement meeting this summer to go over the details. Watch for event details through the Friday e-mail blasts.

The 7 projects described herein were approved by council and will be funded from existing reserves.

1. Pathway

There has been a lot of support from residents in providing new trails through the summer village. Later this year we will look forward to a new route through the OS8 (adjacent to church camp entrance) reserve to include a Viewpoint Bridge and Path. Preliminary cost estimates are \$63,347 but may be higher as we complete the final requirements.



2. Road Analysis

The Villages on Sylvan Lake have commissioned a pavement conditions and assessment study. The assessment will include a ten-year rehabilitation plan, indicating which road sections need rehabilitation as well as recommended treatments. Sectional priorities, selected strategies, and sectional costs for each year will also be provided based on the Villages' budget alternatives.

The work will take place over the summer with assessment being completed this winter. Cost estimate \$11,184.

3. Waste Water Valve Repair

Sewer line valve repair maintenance. Cost estimate \$18,000.

4. Office Improvements

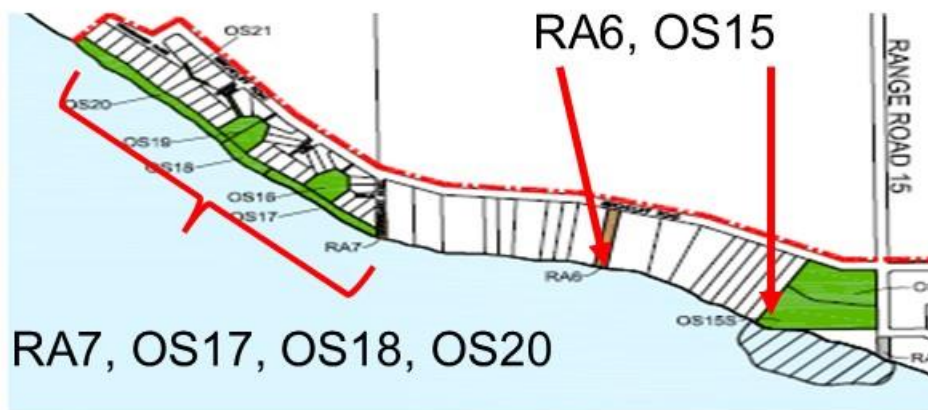
A chain-link fence on the east side of the property has been added to help with security. Rehabilitating the sidewalk in front of the office to improve drainage and repaving and slightly expanding the parking lot will help to improve drainage and have a better layout for parking. Cost estimate \$15,400.

5. Shoreline Restoration

The Summer Village has moved forward with addressing the failing banks on municipal land.

In February, RA6 and OS15 received an armament treatment for a cost of \$42,000.

In February, a 3D site survey was completed for the banks of RA7, OS17, OS18, and OS20. The survey costs were \$18,500 and Administration is getting geo technical quotes for OS16 and OS19. Council will move forward with a broader public engagement regarding these reserves this summer. A visual account from the shoreline is available as part of Council's April agenda package which is available online.



6. Department License of Occupation (DLO)

The bed and shore of all naturally occurring water bodies are under the ownership of the Government of Alberta.

A Department License of Occupation is a disposition required that is essentially an instrument under the Public Lands Act, that conveys a right or privilege in respect of Crown Land.

In the case of community docks, the Department License of Occupation is required to provide the ability and more certainty of a long-term use of the lands and rights provided.

The Village is applying for a DLO servicing our 5 community pier locations.

Cost estimate is \$25,000.

7. Graphical Information System

The Village will transition from a paper-based record keeping of its infrastructure to a digital form. The goal is to have an accurate representation of all infrastructure information including curb stop valves, sewer lines as-builts, roads, property lines, right of ways and culverts and to have that information stored into a Graphical Information System. The objective for this year is to have Stantec load all of the infrastructure asset information that they have, plus the cadastral information. Future work will include traffic signage, owner information for each parcel, and some stormwater assets that they may not have records for and GPS location curb stops. Cost estimate \$2,400.

Climate Plan

Work on a draft Climate Plan for Birchcliff, Norglenwold and Jarvis Bay has been completed and can be viewed as part of Birchcliffs' April Council agenda which is available online. We will host an online information session for residents on June 15th which will be followed up by a survey. Alex Lidstone from the Climate Caucus will make a presentation and run through the draft plan. Watch for event details through the Friday e-mail blasts.

Annual Information Meeting

This year the meeting will be held on July 22nd between 10 am and 12 noon at the Summer Village offices at #2 Erickson Drive, Sylvan Lake. There will be a few formal updates from council and Q&A from the public.

Emergency Contact Information

Regional emergency planning has demonstrated that our ability to communicate with residents is the largest key risk that we have at this point. Administration does not have a way to communicate with many of our residents should an emergency occur. You can reduce your risk and the risk to others by registering to receive email updates from the Summer Village at the bottom of the home page at <http://www.sylvansummervillages.ca/birchcliff.html>.

Council is committed to protecting our village values and improving community and quality of life while protecting the environment and your investment.

On behalf of Council and Administration enjoy the transition from spring to summer, keep safe and stay healthy.

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