



Summer Village of Half Moon Bay Christmas Newsletter

December 2018



As with any fall in the past things are relatively quiet within Half Moon Bay. The lake is now covered with a blanket of ice and snow and our busiest traffic through the village is often deer with the occasional moose and many cats.

WASTEWATER LINE

Council is mid way through its term and continues to work on the Wastewater expansion line. Birchcliff has now been completed and Sunbreaker Cove is next to start construction to hook into the system once the line opens to the Red Deer treatment plant later in 2019. It's a best guess that we are five or more years away from having line from Half Moon Bay that connects along the highway to Sylvan Lake. Should there be grants to offset the costs this could move ahead sooner.

FERAL CATS

The Summer Village administration continues to receive many complaints of feral cats within the village. Food left out are drawing cats in from Camp Kasota where there is a large population and possibly from Camp Woods. Food is also drawing skunks and possibly even porcupines and due to the large number of cats, coyotes have been seen in or around the village night hunting. This creates a risk and we are asking that residents do not feed the feral cats. It presently costs \$240 or more to spay or neuter the animals and there are additional fees of transport and housing and the cost to trap them is expensive. There are in excess of 20 cats roaming the village at any time and it is believed there are more than those numbers at both camps that may come into the village for food. Based on the numbers the village could see a cost of more than \$10,000 to effectively try and curb the issue over the next year. Whiskers rescue in Red Deer presently has a grant that allows for a cat to be spayed or neutered for \$40 minimum charge but catching the animals, housing and transport will easily raise this amount to over \$200 per animal. Council has been asked to look at a Cat Bylaw that limits the number of cats owned by any resident. This does not seem to be the issue as they are feral cats and have several litters per year and thus no one owns them. We are asking residents to stop feeding these cats. Council is presently looking at trapping and taking the cats to a clinic in the early spring to try and offset the number of litters that occur during the summer months. Presently no agency is willing to keep the cats and offer them out for adoption, so they would be returned to the area. We are asking residents to please stop leaving food outside.





BEACH AREAS & ACCESSIBILITY TO THE LAKE

Council and Administration continue to look at the beach area and improve them for the resident's enjoyment and access. Over the next year council will continue to work with residents on pathways and access to the lake as well develop the reserve next to the lake to allow emergency vehicles to access the area in the event of an emergency. Presently access can be had by Primrose Lane on the east side and off Aspen on the west. There is an area in the middle that is part of the five year plan to level out and develop so that it does not retain water and can be traversed by both emergency vehicles and those that enjoy walking along the beach area without getting wet. It is greatly appreciated that residents maintain the area between their property and the lake but we do ask before commencing any work on the reserve area that permission be sought from administration. Also with any landscaping it must be firm enough for an emergency vehicle to access.

VILLAGE INTERNET / WIFI

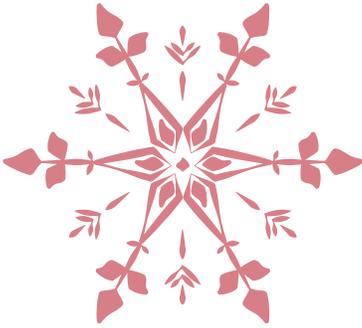
Several years ago the Village through a grant sought out a number of companies to install internet within the Summer Village. The thought at the time was that it would allow access to email with limited access to surfing the internet. Since then the demands of the internet have changed significantly with many devices now requiring a connection for streaming. The present system was never designed for this and originally had a maximum capacity of about 200 users on line at any time to obtain email and do limited surfing of the internet. During the summer it was found there could be as many as 500 devices connected as one time. The cost to improve this would be significant and in the tens of thousands of dollars and the village simply cannot afford it at this time. It would mean the addition of a tower as well as many updates to the equipment in the thousands of dollars.



Since the installation, Telus now offer residents a smart hub option which was not available prior and already many residents have switched to this service. In addition Missing Link Internet has now received the final authorities of placing a fibre optic line around the lake and through the village. Currently work is scheduled to start on the construction of this line in the spring of 2019 in Half Moon Bay. It is anticipated that connections will start to residences sometime within the summer for High Speed fibre internet. With those options available as well as most mobile phone plans having a data plan, the Summer Village has made the difficult decision to opt out of the contract that expired over 2 years ago in paying maintenance fees per house for the current WiFi service. Those that have equipment can return them to the Summer Village office should they choose. At the time of writing this we are not sure if the provider will continue to upgrade or maintain the current WiFi system or pass the monthly costs onto those that take the service. In money prospective, this will allow council to keep the 2019 municipal budget at close to a 0% increase over the next year rather than a 2% increase or more to support the service.



BOAT MOORING, DOCKS & HOISTS



Since 2007 we have been told that the Province is developing plans under the Land Disturbance Act to regulate the boat mooring, docks & hoists that are placed in Alberta lakes. In 2005 Transport Canada took over the regulation of water bodies in Canada from the Canadian Coast Guard. During the transition stage TC (Transport Canada) attempted to make some rules regarding boat mooring, docks & hoists but found it impossible for all the lakes in Canada and by 2007 turned it over to the provinces. Although the water is federal, the land below is provincial authority as well as the land from the water up to the normal high water mark. The province has developed plans but they are not enforceable at this time.

The web site for Alberta Environment & Parks states the following:

<http://aep.alberta.ca/land/programs-and-services/shoreland/lakeshores/default.aspx>

The use of mooring structures on public land for personal recreational use by waterfront landowners is currently under review by Alberta Environment and Parks.

We continue to await any further information on this and the regulations regarding it. Until then we ask residents to be good neighbours and share docks and the water space along the shoreline. It is anticipated that once the regulations come into effect the Village will be given the authority to regulate any structures placed in the water along the entire summer village reserves.



INTERMUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)

Council and Administration continue to work on the IDP with Lacombe County, Red Deer County, the Summer Villages of Birchcliff, Jarvis Bay, Norglenwold, Sunbreaker Cove & the Town of Sylvan Lake. This was one of the many requirements under the revised Municipal Government Act (MGA). While we always maintained an excellent relationship, the IDP will result in an agreement between the municipalities on how to work together to manage lands related to future land development areas, transportation and infrastructure, environmental considerations, agricultural land use viability, and economic development. Information regarding the IDP can be found on the Summer Village website <http://www.sylvansummervillages.ca/>

Sylvan Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan

A collaborative project with all 8 municipalities surrounding Sylvan Lake





GARBAGE SCHEDULE AND WASTE TRANSFER SITE

The garbage schedule is presently on the winter rotation of once every 2 weeks. The pickup dates in December are the 4th and the 18th. The 2019 schedule will be posted soon

http://www.sylvansummervillages.ca/uploads/8/8/0/5/88056186/half_moon_bay_garbage_schedule_2018.pdf

The waste transfer site north of Eckville will take most other large waste and information can be found on it via this link. <http://www.lrwsc.ca/index.php/transfer-sites/eckville>

FIVE YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

In 2018, a committee of community members was formed to provide comments and recommendations to Council on capital expenditures and infrastructure projects. The committee met several times last summer to share ideas and identify potential infrastructure projects that would benefit the residents of Half Moon Bay. Items discussed included such things as Buoy systems, HMB entrance signs and bulletin board, Trails and Pathways, shoreline access for emergency vehicles, west beach development, and east reserve enhancements. This work will lead to the formulation of a Five Year Capital Plan as mandated by the Municipal Government Act and the Government of Alberta. As this work progresses, Council will hold public open houses to allow residents the opportunity to provide input on the various projects.



OTHER NEWS & INFORMATION

Cannabis legislation. The Province has placed the burden on municipalities to come up with its own rules relating to the consumption of cannabis in public. Council has elected to ban the use or smoking of Cannabis in all public areas within the Summer Village. This includes the roadway, pathways and the beach where young children can be present. We would thank you for your cooperation.

Council and Administration are always seeking individuals that may be interested in representing the village on the MPC (Municipal Planning Commission) and SDAB (Subdivision & Development Appeal Board). The next two years will go very quickly and we are also asking you to consider running for Council in 2020. Taxes can be paid monthly through the Tax installment program but only if you register by December 31st of this year. Council recently agreed to accept payment for taxes via a credit card with the credit card transaction fee paid for by the ratepayer. The 2019 municipal operating budget was set last week with a 0% increase over 2018. We will not know the provincial assessment until later in the spring which may change this.





As Mayor I wish to thank all of the residents for their support and efforts over the past number of years. I ran for council in 2004 with one of my goals to see a walking path along Half Moon Bay Drive due to the speeding vehicles and no sidewalk making it unsafe along this roadway. I feel this has been a success and is very well used. The pathways have been improved and I hope to see them developed even more, so that even those even with a disability can access the wonderful beach areas we have. We continue to support the improvements in the reserves along the lake for all to use. Half Moon Bay developed due to the lake and the beach area is a very important part of the Summer Village. This could not have been done without your assistance and help over the past number of years. As Mayor since 2007 I am looking to you for new ideas on what would make our Village not only better but even more of a community. We are unlike any other Summer Village in the events we already hold on the beach for everyone. Half Moon Bay is not only a community but truly a family where we all look out for one another. We are very blessed and have our own peace of heaven here on earth.

We presently have a large amount of money (not enough) set aside to start the waste water project within the Village and will continue to save for this project which is inevitable. We also encourage you to start setting aside each year money to pay for the hookup to the line from your property and the associated grinder pump which will be required.

The village owns one AED (Automated External Defibrillator) and this unit is presently stored at Jonathon & Stephanie Johnston's residence at #22 Hummingbird Land, Half Moon Bay during the winter and can be accessed there at any time. During the summer it is located in the Beach Shelter on the east beach reserve. Once a shelter is constructed on the west beach we would like to see one placed there also in the future. In closing I wish to say big Thank You to all the residents that assisted over the past year with the events on the beach, the kid's annual marathon, fireworks displays and just for being so involved and community minded. There are so many other things that your council is working on in various committees and with the other municipalities to make Half Moon Bay the best it can be. It is only due to you that this can be accomplished as we cannot do it alone without your help.

With that we hope that 2018 was an awesome year for you at the lake and that 2019 will be even better.



*We wish a very Merry Christmas to you and your family
From your Council & Administration*



SAFE ROADS

To learn about safe roads, please visit:

<https://saferoads.com/>

Alberta



WHEN EYES LOCK IT'S SAFER TO WALK.

Pedestrian safety is a shared responsibility.