

November 2022 Newsletter



We hope you were able to enjoy a beautiful summer and fall in Sunbreaker Cove with family and friends this year, and that you have a safe and enjoyable time this winter!

Council

Jim Willmon was appointed as Mayor and Keith Kimball as Deputy Mayor at our last organizational meeting in July. While remaining involved in all Council matters, Teresa Beets stepped back from being Mayor for personal reasons.

Taxes

Council approved a four-year budget/plan in late November that has taxation revenue increasing at three percent a year.

If you are not currently registered for the monthly installment plan, please consider doing so before the end of this year. It reduces 1) the taxes you would otherwise have to pay by the tax deadline, 2) the potential you might be assessed a penalty for late payment, and 3) the savings we need to cover operating expenses and school taxes paid before the tax and utility bills due date.

Policing/Bylaw Enforcement

The Sylvan Lake Summer Villages will be hiring a Bylaw Enforcement Officer very soon. For any complaints, there is a complaint form on the website that can be filled out.

As always, we still have enforcement from the RCMP. Each community has been and will continue to be visited by the RCMP at least once a day (unless responding to another emergency), at random hours. Please forward any concerns or complaints directly to the RCMP for the time being.

Garbage Collection



Council agreed in late November to discontinue manual garbage collection next spring, when black two-wheel carts will be provided to enable automated road-side garbage pickup. Our current 3-yr contract expires this year. The annual garbage levy is anticipated to increase from \$112 to about \$135; in comparison, we paid \$137 in 2018 and \$154 in 2019.

Docks & Mooring

SBC introduced a Dock & Mooring Bylaw this year. Some bylaw revisions will be considered by February 2023 to reflect learnings and input received. The most significant impact of the bylaw roll out was the consolidation of numerous docks in front of the reserve to the south of Briar Road into a large, shared dock that dramatically improved shoreline access.

Collaboration and compromise between dock captains is required to meet the bylaw requirements and manage the space between docks in most areas. While applications will continue to be on an individual dock basis, they will only be approved on a mooring administration segment (MAS) basis once it is clarified how the MAS width is to be allocated and we can assess the extent future changes are planned or required. No approvals were issued this year.

Applications for MAS B1, MAS B3 and MAS B4 (i.e. where shared docks north and east of Larch Road are required) will be accepted in March and April 2023. It's still too early and administratively challenging to roll out applications for the entire summer village.

Wastewater

Our municipal wastewater system was commissioned on April 6, 2022 and 128 properties are currently connected. We would remind those not yet connected that:

- all dwellings are required to be connected by April 6, 2024 under the Wastewater Collection Bylaw,
- you should consider connecting in 2023 when the ground is not frozen, and
- your curb stop will only be authorized to be opened after you or your installer has submitted the completed application form found on our website along with a safety inspection report.

Please note that the following items should never be flushed down the sewer system: Baby or cleaning wipes, feminine hygiene products, paper towels or trash of any kind.

Should you experience any freezing problems, a list of qualified contractors is available here: <http://www.sylvansummervillages.ca/after-hours-sewer-emergency-information.html>

Ice Fishing

The Alberta government has a webpage (<https://mywildalberta.ca/fishing/ice-fishing.aspx>) with information about ice fishing that includes rules that apply to protect fish populations and our lake. Sylvan Lake is within fisheries management area PP-2.

Please be aware that if you are leaving your ice fishing shelter on the ice for longer than 24 hrs, you must label it with the following information written in a contrasting colour with text 2.5 cm or taller: Your Wildlife identification Number (WIN) or Your name and telephone number.

Trees

Homeowners should consider the risk of damage associated with larger trees falling onto their house or other structures, or those of their neighbours. You may want to alert adjacent landowners of your concerns to ensure they are aware of your perspectives and clarify your own insurance coverage for falling trees.

We recently had a forest health assessment conducted, which is posted on the website, that included several recommendations being considered by council. Residents are asked to avoid introducing ANY invasive tree or shrub species such as caragana, Russian olive, common buckthorn, or salt cedar just to name a few. Caragana, a non-native shrub species that is very invasive and detrimental to the natural forest and very hard to destroy was observed throughout the Summer Village.

Emergency preparedness

How prepared would you be to deal with an emergency or disaster if you needed to shelter in place for safety or travel restriction reasons? Please consider the information available at <https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness.aspx> and signing up on our website to get email blasts from our administration.

SBC participates in a 13 member Lacombe Regional Emergency Management Partnership (LREMP) designed to provide a regional response to an emergency,

especially as transportation, weather, and environmental incidents threaten large areas.

One issue discussed in a Sylvan Lake Summer Villages tabletop exercise conducted this spring, involving council and staff simulating a hypothetical emergency, was our ability to contact residents. While we would rely on the Alberta Emergency Alert system and local radio stations, information would also be provided in website postings and email blasts.

LREMP subsequently conducted a full-scale emergency management exercise on October 26 to consider a 3-day winter storm scenario that cripples the 13 LREMP communities, with power outages and water systems failures forcing the communities to activate their municipal emergency plan at their municipal office. The exercise triggered a simulated partial evacuation of 10 communities that will go to evacuation centers in Lacombe and Blackfalds.

Tourist Homes

There are currently six tourist homes approved by the Municipal Planning Committee (MPC) under discretionary use provisions set out in our Land Use Bylaw for short-term rentals several years ago. While the Summer Villages of Birchcliff and Norglewold have banned tourist homes, Half Moon Bay and Jarvis Bay allow them. Some believe allowing tourist homes is more likely than not to improve property value and is consistent with their desire to be able to use short-term rentals on their own vacations. SBC's policy objective is to mitigate problems typically encountered with short-term renters and have an annual approval process to address any specific concerns raised.



Seasons Greetings!

From your Council (Jim, Keith & Teresa) and administration.