

Summer Village of Sunbreaker Cove

Spring & Summer 2020 Newsletter



COVID-19

For any questions or administrative needs please call 403-596-1084. The Administration office remains open for business, but our physical location has been closed. For the most accurate and up to date information on COVID-19 please visit this website:

<https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>

OUR BEACHES

Our beaches will be temporarily closed, both Glens Cove Beach and Sunset Beach. However, our pathways will remain open. The portable washroom at Glens Cove as well as the washrooms at the boat launch will be closed temporarily. Lacombe County has not provided any information on whether the boat launch will be closed. Administration will continue to discuss the County's plans and provide all residents with an update when appropriate. Signs will be posted at the entrance of the Summer Village and at the entrance of both of our beaches. Please also understand that our Peace Officer has the authority to issue tickets if anyone is caught gathering in group settings within the Summer Village, or not respecting the physical and social distancing of 6ft that has been issued by our Alberta Government of Health.



THANKS FOR BEING GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Let's all remember to take the time to check in on our neighbours, by phone or in person, to ensure their needs are being met. The fewer of us out right now the better, especially those at greater risk from the virus. If you're able to assist or run an errand for a neighbour or someone in our community while you're out and about, it is a super helpful way to give back.



THINKING ABOUT HEADING TO THE CABIN?

Please follow the social and physical distancing of people outside of your own household when you arrive to your property at the lake. Please review/observe local directives concerning self-isolation if you are feeling unwell. For more information, there are live links available on our website.

2020 BUDGET & TAX UPDATE

The 2020-2023 operating budget for our Municipality is posted on our website at:

<http://www.sylvansummervillages.ca/finance--taxation.html>.

Copies will be available at our Annual Information Meeting. The 2020 net municipal tax revenue will have a 0% increase from last year's budget. Although the budget was initially approved on

February 4th, the 2020 portion of the budget was reduced on April 6th in response to significant changes to our economy. This year, through provincial programs such as the new rural Alberta policing model, an increase in funding the FCSS, and the requirement for multiple Inter-municipal Collaboration Frameworks and Inter-municipal Development Plans, the province has downloaded a significant amount of costs onto municipalities. We have worked hard to absorb these mandatory extra costs by tightening our budget. Tax notices will be mailed on May 22nd.

We have also approved a change in the monthly tax installment payment plan as of April 6th. Previously we were only set up to allow new users to join at the beginning of the year. We are now allowing new participants to sign up for this service by July 15 (as long as taxes are not in arrears) by making an upfront payment of 50% of the 2020 levy and signing a tax installment agreement that pre-authorizes monthly payments of 1/12 of the 2020 levy starting on July 31st. This can help those under financial stress by giving the option of paying a fraction of the levy at a time and avoid penalties. By moving to the installment plan only about 75% of the current taxes are paid by October 1st.

Garbage collection is a utility service separate from your property tax but levied at the same time. The service provider was changed this year and the garbage levy has been reduced by 21%.

WASTEWATER PROJECT UPDATE

Although timing remains uncertain, and we are very aware of the economic downturn, we will continue the education process around the wastewater project. We have produced three videos throughout this past winter, that were made to help residents prepare for the eventual construction and tie-ins to the municipal system. To view these videos, please go to our website at <http://www.sylvansummervillages.ca/sunbreaker-cove.html>. The video topics are summarized as follows:

1. Alex Quast, operator, and owner of Xandal Backhoe Ltd. has experience connecting resident homes in Birchcliff, Pigeon Lake, Jarvis Bay, and Norglenwold to newly installed wastewater infrastructure. In this video, Alex details the steps required to connect your home successfully to Sunbreaker Cove's wastewater system in the near future.



2. Thom Jewell, the former Mayor of Birchcliff, shares his experiences of the challenges, costs, benefits, and successes of Birchcliff's wastewater infrastructure installation. Mayor Jewell also outlines the technical and practical processes and decisions that guided that installation and how Birchcliff was able to navigate this process while ensuring that residents stayed informed and kept up to date about their wastewater installation project.
3. Benjamin Zukiwski, Master Electrician also an Electrical Safety Codes Officer. This is our latest video describing what electrical needs you will have when connecting to the line.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs has recently approved the Borrowing Bylaw. With this approval we now have the legislative approval to finance the construction of the municipal wastewater collection system.

EMAIL BLASTS

Every Friday our office administration is committed to sending out email blasts of all that is new. If you would like to be part of this service please email, call the office to give your email, or sign up on the website. This has been well subscribed to so far, however there are some that do not know about it. This is your chance to be informed regularly as to what is happening. The email to sign up is kkashuba@sylvansummervillages.ca.



FIBRE INTERNET UPDATE

The following are statements from the representatives. Missing Link is currently in a holding pattern because of weather and now COVID-19.

Missing Link was prepared to go back and start getting the fibre optic cable into the conduit in mid-March but now have postponed due to COVID-19. Missing Link's day to day operation of providing internet services to existing customers is considered essential services but the build out of the new network or new installs are not considered essential at this time. Missing Link is hoping to have more answers in the upcoming weeks.

To review the details of Missing Link and what they have accomplished so far in our Village you can read our last Fall and Winter Newsletter 2019 to obtain those details.



ICE HUTS

We wanted to relay some good news that shows the efforts of the “Take it Off” program has resulted in positive changes ensuring our waters stay clear and safe for human and animal activity. The following is information handed down to our Sylvan Lake Management Committee from Minister Nixon of Environment and Parks.

In situations where voluntary compliance is not attained, their staff use enforcement tools under section 181 of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, prohibiting the deposit of waste on ice or in water. The department remains committed to supporting partnerships with local lake municipalities to educate the public about hazards of abandoned ice fishing huts and to encourage voluntary compliance. That said the department has added a provision to the 2020-21 Alberta Guide to Sportfishing Regulations to require that no person shall leave an ice fishing shelter unattended on ice-covered water, unless that person’s wildlife identification number and/or their name, address and telephone number are clearly and permanently marked on the outside surface of the shelter.

IMPORTANT DATES

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the “Team up to Clean up” that has been scheduled will be cancelled this year.

The Annual Information Meeting has been postponed indefinitely for 2020.

Please stay safe,
Council & Administration

