



Summer Village of Poplar Bay

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It's May and many of you are beginning to think about spending more time at the Lake and enjoying many fun experiences with family and friends. As the season kicks off, we want to share some information – some of it new, some just reminders - which we hope will contribute to a safe and enjoyable summer and fall.

You will notice that fire safety is a recurring theme in many of the updates in this newsletter. The tragic wild fires experienced in Ft. McMurray last year created the need to heighten our awareness of fire safety and protection in Poplar Bay, given the vegetation, topography and other related factors. Recognizing that this need existed across the province, the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta (ASVA) worked with a series of experts to produce a Fire Bylaw Guide and Template to assist councils in the development of bylaws that promote fire protection by encouraging safe behaviours and establishing preventative measures. We have incorporated many of these recommendations into our new Fire Control and Fireworks Bylaw, outlined below. Our intent was to enhance the fire safety and protection for the Summer Village as a whole, while not unduly limiting the ability of residents to continue enjoying the activities that make their time at the lake special.

NEW FIRE CONTROL & FIREWORKS BYLAW

A new Fire Control & Fireworks Bylaw has been implemented, replacing the Fire Ban Bylaw which had been in effect since 2003. The new bylaw aligns more closely with similar bylaws in our neighbouring municipalities. Highlights include:

- The only outdoor fires that are allowed at any time will be those confined within a non-combustible structure or container which is lit for the purpose of cooking, obtaining warmth or viewing pleasure and **fueled solely by dry wood, charcoal, natural gas or propane**. These fires must be a minimum of four meters away from any buildings and from any combustible material; three meters from any property line other than the lakeside property line; and be kept under one meter in height and one meter in width.
- During a Fire Ban, only portable propane fire pits, gas or propane stoves, barbeques designed for cooking or heating and indoor fires are allowed. All other outdoor fires and fireworks are prohibited.

- The Alberta Fire Code requires all municipalities to issue permits for the use of fireworks. The permits outline the conditions under which fireworks can be used. They also provide a record for the Summer Village in case of an unfortunate incident arising from the use of fireworks. Copies of approved permits will be given to the local Fire Department and Bylaw Officer. Residents are also required to have the permit on hand at the time of use.
- Fireworks Permits are issued at no cost by the Summer Villages Office to anyone 18 years of age or older. Fireworks Permits are valid for a period of one year. Given that this is a new requirement, enforcement will not take effect until June 30, 2017 in order to give residents time to obtain their permits.

For full details, please refer to the Fire Control & Fireworks Bylaw 248 and Fireworks Permit Application which are included with this Newsletter. Please support the new Fire Control and Fireworks Bylaw and help keep our Summer Village safe.

REMOVAL OF FIRE HAZARDS FROM MUNICIPAL RESERVES

To reduce the risk of fire, a program to remove dead trees and other fire hazards from Municipal Reserves will be implemented. This is a reminder that storage of any material on reserves is not allowed unless items are clearly identified by lot number and then only in designated areas. Further, all such items must be removed by **June 30 each year**. Unidentified items will be removed and/or destroyed, so if you have unidentified items stored on reserves, either remove or identify them at your earliest convenience.

FIRESMART HOME ASSESSMENTS AVAILABLE SOON

The South Pigeon Lake Fire department is developing a service that will provide one on one consultation with residents to improve fire safety in and around their properties. Staff is currently being trained to perform this free service. Further information will be posted on www.poplarbay.ca once the service is ready to be implemented. If you have not subscribed to receive updates to the website, please click on the "Subscribe" link and complete the subscription process to ensure you stay informed.

CHECK HOMEOWNER INSURANCE POLICIES FOR 'FIRE FIGHTER' COVERAGE

Important reminder - if the Fire Department is called to your Poplar Bay residence, your current insurance policy may not cover the full cost of the response, which is currently \$300 per hour, per fire truck. You will be responsible for paying any gap between your insurance coverage and the actual cost for the response. "Fire Fighter" coverage is available through top-up insurance or a premium policy. Ensure your coverage is complete by contacting your insurance provider.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE CONFUSION REDUCED

A big thank you goes out to the more than 40 residences who responded to last year's request to remove old lot numbers from their properties. By doing this they have significantly increased the ability of emergency responders to provide timely service to residents in need. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

DORIS MCALLISTER - BYLAW OFFICER

Doris McAllister, an experienced and well-qualified Bylaw Officer, is on board to assist Poplar Bay residents with bylaw questions and concerns, including parking, noise, animal control, use of fertilizer and herbicides, etc. Doris can be reached at 1-780-719-6447, but she encourages residents to flag her down and say hello as she makes regular rounds (including weekends) in her vehicle, which is clearly marked with Bylaw Officer Signage.

ICE & WATER RESCUE EQUIPMENT FOR PIGEON LAKE IS ON THE WAY

A new Search and Rescue Personal Water Craft is in the process of being purchased to provide rescue services for Pigeon Lake. Thanks to fundraising efforts from individuals and surrounding communities, along with commitments from the Summer Villages of Argentia Beach, Crystal Springs, Golden Days, Grandview, Itaska Beach, Ma-me-o Beach, Norris Beach and Poplar Bay and the County of Wetaskiwin to provide ongoing financial support for the operation of the rescue service, this long awaited goal is becoming a reality. Training on the new equipment will begin once the Water Craft is delivered. Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible.

UPCOMING SUMMER VILLAGE ELECTION

The date for the Poplar Bay municipal election has been set for Saturday August 26, 2017. For anyone wishing to join Council, completed nomination forms must be submitted to the Summer Villages Office by 12:00 noon on Saturday July 29, 2017. If more than three completed nomination forms are received, an election will be held. Otherwise, the three nominated individuals will be acclaimed as members of Council.

Participating as a member of Council can be a very interesting and rewarding experience. The term is four years and training and support is provided to get you up to speed. There will be at least one vacancy to fill in this election, so please give some thought to putting your name forward. For further information, please feel free to contact any of the existing Councillors and/or review the information posted on the Alberta Municipal Affairs website, at http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/mc_elections

ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING – SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Information Meeting will be held on Saturday September 2, 2017, giving residents an opportunity to meet the new members of Council. Further details will be provided as the date approaches.

WASTEWATER UPDATE

The South Pigeon Lake Wastewater Project is rapidly moving forward. The design for the Regional Line Phase 2 is finished and the tender package will be submitted soon. This phase includes a pipeline extending from the Village at Pigeon Lake (VPL), along Hwy 13 and then north along Hwy 771 to a new pump station. This work is scheduled to be completed by March 2018.

Construction work for the Summer Villages with local collection systems connecting to Phase 1 of the Regional Line will be commencing this month. The final design work for the Poplar Bay/Grandview system is being completed and the tender package is expected to be submitted in May. This work will involve directionally drilling the collection line through both of these Summer Villages and then to the Regional Pump Station. This work is planned for this coming summer/fall. Further updates will be presented at the Annual Information meeting on September 2, 2017.

LAKE HEALTH

Poplar Bay has committed \$2,500 in support of a research project with the objective of developing a model that will predict algae blooms and determine the factors that influence the growth of algae on Pigeon Lake. Led by Dr. Rolf Vinebrooke of the University of Alberta, this project will build on the research that was conducted at the Pigeon Lake Provincial Park monitoring station last summer. His work found an abundance of minnows in the lake and an absence of beneficial zooplankton, which preys on algae.

At this time, we do not know the reasons for the recent spate of harmful algae blooms in our lake. There have been no significant changes in our watershed, although increases in water temperature have been observed. Don Davidson, Grandview Mayor, has been leading the charge to obtain funding for this initiative. In Don's words, "Really we can't solve the problem at Pigeon Lake until we know what the problem is. The only way we are going to solve this is through a collaborative effort." Of the 12 municipalities around Pigeon Lake, eight have committed funding to the project.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO ELIMINATE NEWLY IDENTIFIED NOXIOUS WEED – COMMON TANSY

This year, the municipalities around Pigeon Lake will be making a concerted effort to remove the Common Tansy – similar to the efforts to eliminate Himalayan Balsam. This noxious weed can easily be recognized as a shrub with yellow, bud-like flowers. It is rapidly taking over the shoreline in many places and displacing native vegetation. We are asking all residents to help remove this plant. Small plants can be hand pulled. Larger plants may require a pry bar. Another variety of tansy, called Tansy Ragwort, is classified as a prohibited noxious weed. This means it must be removed. This plant has small yellow flowers with petals. Information on how to identify and eliminate these weeds can be found on the Poplar Bay website. Let's make our Summer Village free of these and other noxious weeds.

Remember to always use the garbage bins to dispose of any weeds removed from your property.

Council would like to wish everyone a safe and wonderful summer.

Deb, Brian & Gary