

April 2018

Issue 3



“A Year of Revitalization and Renewal“

2018 will be remembered as a “year of revitalization and renewal” predicted Mayor Ian Rawlinson. According to the Mayor, the completion of the wastewater system, road reconstruction, fiber-optics for improved internet service, a plan for Day Park revitalization, refurbishing of entrance signage and landscaping, removal of derelict buildings, shoreline cleaning and apparent water quality improvements, will give the community “a fresh look of renewal.” The timing of the municipal improvements according to Rawlinson fit well with new home and cottage construction, an improving economy and what appears to be the beginning of a more robust real estate market.

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WASTEWATER UPDATE

We anxiously await spring so that construction can continue on our wastewater project. Many of you have commented on the wastewater bylaws council has prepared and are extremely appreciative of the way it is unfolding. The bylaws are available on our website and we encourage you to read both documents to fully understand the implications for your situation. The links are below



[Bylaw 229](#)

[Bylaw 330](#)

The weather is not our friend right now and while we expect Fusion to be back on site soon to complete the main line, THS is also being held up as the amount of snow makes it impossible to place the connection markers.

With regards to paying for connectionsTHS is working with our administration in trying to find a way to communicate the actual dollars to you at the time of quote and options for paying it according to our bylaws. We will strive to get this as clear as possible so you may make your decision with all the information needed. We expect THS to have these out shortly and to date well over 100 lots completed. Our early feedback is that nearly all residents are going to connect and we thank you for your patience.

We still expect most residents will be connected by the fall and we can move ahead with plans to repair the damages done by a large construction project.

ROAD

Yes it is a mess and yes it will likely get a little worse this year with all the heavy construction equipment moving to complete main lines and individual hook ups. While we have a long term plan for the road after construction, we will patch, grade and fill wherever we can to ensure it remains useable for our residents.

Please appreciate the limited impact we can have on road improvements at this time. Thank you for your understanding.

We also want to remind our residents to respect the 30km/hr speed limit especially once construction resumes.

Strategic Directions Confirmed

After six months of community consultation, discussion and debate, Council has approved a new vision for the community along with a multi-year plan of action. The "Strategic Directions" document details some forty-six objectives in Finance, Governance, Community Well-Being, Environment, Infrastructure and Collaboration. The plan for 2018 to 2021 will provide direction for Council, communicate priorities to residents and serve as a reference point for evaluating results. For a copy of the full report go to the following link. Page 14 and 15 contain a synopsis of key elements of the plan.

<http://www.crystalsprings.ca/Strategic-Plan>



Strategic Directions

A 2018 to 2021 Action Plan For the Summer Village of Crystal Springs

NOTE TO RESIDENTS: A preliminary Strategic Plan was prepared by Councilors following the August 2017 election. Following this document's approval and engagement with residents, the council on October 17th of 2018, a final report was approved by Council for Summer Association with the municipality and administration, following additional input and revisions. A "final" plan was approved on March 14th 2019. This plan is considered a "living document" and will be brought forward annually, and approved by the community.

Summer Village of Crystal Springs Strategic Plan

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POLICE and SECURITY

Rural crime is up across Alberta and the lake communities are not immune. While there are no police statistics for the area, anecdotally thefts and home intrusions appear to be up. Residents are rightly concerned and have proposed numerous strategies including a satellite police station, increased patrols, entrance and egress cameras, partnerships with the county to use Peace Officers, home security education, crime watch programs and citizen patrols.

Councillor Gagnon has taken a lead role in discussions with the RCMP regarding enhanced police and security services. Alberta's new Assistant Commissioner Todd Shean has also promised Councillors a new more effective approach to reducing crime statistics and we are awaiting specifics.

The new vision statement for Crystal Springs reads *"A caring, clean and safe lakefront community with opportunities for recreation, relaxation, respite and relationships."* In that context, Council has committed to working closely with the RCMP and neighbouring communities in order to make safety a top priority.

BOAT LAUNCH TO REMAIN PRIVATE FOR RESIDENTS

Following the election, Councilors noted numerous problems with the management of the locking system associated with securing the boat launch and a number of residents recommended abandoning the gates. Then early this winter Council agreed to a request from the Chamber of Commerce to open the gates and level the ice for fishermen who were having difficulty accessing the lake. We subsequently not only received a number of resident concerns regarding both the immediate and historic problems associated with allowing general use, but we witnessed that abuse first hand. Illegal and extensive parking, refuse, alcohol consumption and damage to property were all too evident.

After careful consideration we have opted to maintain private access to the launch. In our strategic plan you will see that we also plan to have increased signage placed around the launch and find a way to allow consistent access to the launch by residents of Crystal Springs. We appreciate the information given to us on the issues that surround the abuse of the launch and surrounding area and will be working to see how to better dissuade those that insist on causing disruption on the launch and the lake.

3 steps are being contemplated

- 1) Redistribute a common key or renewable coded lock to ALL residents (start with a clean slate)
- 2) Improve signage and reduce parking and abuse by increased bylaw enforcement.
- 3) Look to gate, aesthetic and structural improvements in consultation with Alberta Environment and parks and recreation.

Spring Beach Clean

We can all see the impact of the seemingly endless winter on our beaches. It is without question we will see algae mattes and well as debris that the winter months will leave behind.

The problem we face is algae is embedded in massive blocks of ice and combine this with what is expected to be a sizeable run off due to the amount of snow and late melt that we are unsure what we are able to do at this point, and more importantly the best way to do it.

Council has secured a beach cleaning permit for our community from AEP, but the Mayor is working directly with the APLM, AEP and all other communities to initiate a lake wide clean up plan. This plan has been met with initial support of the other villages and now we will be seeking a more unified approach to lake clean up as we realize the benefits to our lake of this initiative.

Council has dedicated funds to the clean up, AEP has given permission, now its up to mother nature. We will communicate a plan to residents and will be asking for everyone's help to improve our community shoreline and lake through this initiative.

It is also important to note that we will provide specific "do's and don'ts" when it comes to beach cleaning and work together with all parties interested in lake health.



COSTS UNDER CONTROL



Following a year of spiralling administrative, financial and legal costs, Council appears to have “turned the corner” according to Deputy-Mayor Ron Lajeunesse. “Costs were simply unsustainable” following the villages expulsion from the “Joint Services” coordinated administration he said. Negotiating a return to the central administration with the support of key staff like Chief Financial Officer Jeff Riege were “key factors in controlling our costs” said Lajeunesse. Other factors included developing a Strategic Plan and preparing multiple year draft operating and capital budgets. Although the 2017 year-end financial picture and the 2018 budgets may yet require a few adjustments, the “picture is much more positive than we originally thought.” “Or perhaps feared” Lajeunesse added. The preliminary projection for 2018 suggests that municipal tax revenue can be reduced by 3%, however Council has been advised that the school requisition will be increased by 7%. As a consequence, the blended tax structure would call for an overall increase of 1.5% - although the specific home assessments could result in greater or lesser numbers for individual homeowners. The 2017 inflation rate for Alberta was almost double the proposed tax increase.



PARKS PLAN LOOKS VERY PROMISING

by Arnold Moerth, Co-Chair

Several initiatives planned by recreation committee volunteers in the Fall of 2017 and endorsed by Council, the Pigeon Lake Renewal League, politicians, environmental and recreation groups, and by neighboring communities look promising for funding and implementation this summer

Day Park Enhancement Project: A submission was made to the Alberta Government in January 2018 for a grant of \$40,000 for a project totaling approximately \$86,000. The remainder of funds will come from donations of volunteer labour, material, equipment and cash. Construction will start upon determination of grant success in June 2018. The project includes removing dangerous trees and shrubs, a major day park shelter refurbishment (enlargement, new roof/concrete, improved lighting, electrical connections, inclement weather screening and a fire pit), improved lake access for people with mobility challenges, a lake viewing platform, volleyball and horseshoe areas, minor playground changes and storage / environmental improvements.

Foot Bridge Enhancement Project: Options are being considered to replace the footbridge at the NW end of Crystal Springs with a lower maintenance design. One option is a raised gravel type walkway with culverts for water diversion and future paving to allow for improved mobility challenged access.

Beach Enhancement Project: A meeting was held with Alberta’s Ministry of Environment and Parks in November 2017. A list of questions was presented and discussed to determine requirements for lake, shoreline and land-based projects. Clarification and approval requirements were recently received and are being reviewed.

WE WANT YOUR EMAIL!

We have over 140 on our email list already!

You will receive any newsletters electronically as well as any updates from council.

If you want on the list simply send me an email - ian.rawlinson@wolfcreek.ab.ca

We are on the web

www.crystalsprings.ca



David and Rosslyn Edgar...



For the past five years Rosslyn and Dave Edgar worked on the Crystal Springs Recreation Board and provided leadership to the communities premier social and recreational event. The couple sold their Edmonton home in 2009 and moved to Crystal Springs full time. With two sons and two grandchildren in Edmonton, the Edgar's enjoyed regular visits with seasonal gatherings from another son, daughter and three grand children who travelled "home" from New Jersey and London England.

A favorite family gathering was the annual August "Boat Rally and Pig Roast" with leadership by the Edgar family. Planning for the boat poker regatta and decorating contest apparently began a full year in advance, a testimonial to their top prize in 2016.

The couple enjoys a second property in Mexico and have pondered retirement there, but according to Rosslyn "wouldn't know what I would do if I couldn't live at Pigeon Lake."

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The Edgars resigned from the Recreation Board in 2017 leaving the community a legacy of fun, comradery and a nice financial surplus for future recreational endeavors. On behalf of the community your Council wishes them a public "THANK YOU!"

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Hours of operation

Monday to Friday 9:00 am - Noon.

Former Councilors Thanked for Their Service To the Community.

Past Council Mr. Kevin Pratt and Mr. Grant Churchill receiving recognition for their work at the Christmas Social. Missing is Mrs. Doris Bell who was unable to attend.

