



# COUNCIL 2013 SPRING NEWSLETTER

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## NEWS FROM COUNCIL

### **Doris Bell, Mayor**

780-430-6074 or Cell 780-984-4994

### **Walter Schlese, Deputy Mayor**

780-586-2555 or Cell 780-446-3085

### **Kevin Pratt, Councillor**

780-672-1931 or Cell 679-9059

### **Sylvia Roy, CAO**

**Terri Wiebe ACAO**

### **Council Notes...**

### ***Crystal Springs Boat Rally***

*Save the Date: Saturday, August 10, 2013*

Electronic versions of our newsletters are currently available by subscription on our web site. For those without computer access, the Newsletter is available for pick-up at the Summer Villages Office or by mail upon request.

### **Happy Spring Everyone!**

It's been a long winter and we hope everyone is enjoying the sunshine! We've been busy with many projects this winter; if you have a question about the status of something you're interested in, please contact us.

### **Election Year**

This year is election year for all municipalities. The Summer Village of Crystal Springs will be accepting Nominations for the upcoming Election for 3 positions. Nominations may be dropped off at the Summer Villages Office on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Crystal Springs Election will be held on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Summer Villages Office from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars with these important dates.

### **Regional & Local Wastewater Collection Systems**

The Mulhurst Lagoon up-grade has taken place and construction of the regional line is next. The south Pigeon Lake summer villages have continued to meet to combine planning activities for the local wastewater collection systems. We will keep you informed about decisions regarding actual specifications, governance, financing and implementation continue to be discussed and as they take place. Providing sewer services will contain contaminants for all recreational communities with properties without holding tanks. More information is available in the Administration section.

### **Lake Water Quality**

The Summer Village of Crystal Springs is a member of the Association of Pigeon Lake Municipalities (APLM) which includes 10 SVs and the Counties of Leduc and Wetaskiwin and your Mayor, Doris Bell is Vice-chair of this regional group. Last fall, APLM organized 3 sub-committees to do feasibility studies on the options brought up by Alberta Environment's limnologist Chris Taichreb to address the Blue-green Algae (cyanobacteria) last spring. The subcommittees are looking at the 'in-lake' options: Water Augmentation, Chemical/Mechanical Strategies and Alternative Strategies; and APLM's Committee of the Whole received a report on Water Augmentation in March, which will also be reviewed by Alberta Environment and the PLWA.

Crystal Springs continues to support the work of PLWA, which is tackling the more 'land-based' alternatives and developing a Watershed Management Plan. Everyone in the Pigeon Lake watershed will be able to comment on the terms of reference on the web-site (<http://plwa.ca/>); and, there will be surveys to collect information and your opinion regarding various ideas to improve water quality. Discussions on these topics have challenged participating councillors to require the facts and dig into the studies; while many stakeholders now realize there 'are no silver bullets' to solving Province-wide lake water quality problems, 'silver buck-shot' may do the trick.

That is, we may have to try a variety of methods. Every 'small' effort an individual property owner makes is a positive step toward steward-ing our lake. For those of you who have recently joined our Summer Village, there *IS* a difference between maintaining a lake-side property as compared to your homes in urban areas. Check out the Living By Water Project, <http://www.livingbywater.ca/main.html>, which has some great money- and labour-saving advice and benefits our lake at the same time!

### **New Wastewater Bylaw – Seeking Your Feedback**

The Summer Village of Crystal Springs Council have had first reading of a new Wastewater Bylaw, developed to replace provisions formerly contained in the Land Use Bylaw (176). The current Land Use Bylaw 208 pertains to issues having to do with land use in the municipality; having provisions for wastewater in a separate bylaw will provide clarity and flexibility for future changes as wastewater systems are developed. Land Use Bylaws have different requirements under the Municipal Government Act, including provisions for public hearings and notices. If a portion of a Land Use Bylaw required changes, it has to undergo the same the process as for a complete replacement of the Bylaw. Therefore, it is easier to have a separate bylaw for Wastewater; if it requires changes, the process to make amendments is much simpler. This gives our community flexibility to address changes, if any are needed when the Sewer System is implemented.

*Council welcomes community input on the new Wastewater Bylaw.*

### **Documentation Developed**

The new Wastewater Bylaw, policies concerning Wastewater Inspections and Wastewater Complaints, procedures, flowcharts and forms were presented at the January Council meeting of the Summer Village of Crystal Springs.

The Wastewater Bylaw was developed through analysis of similar bylaws for four other Summer Villages in the Pigeon Lake region. Differentiation between sections relating to bylaws, policies and procedures were noted, leading to the division of more comprehensive bylaws into these separate documents.

### **Community Input**

Council believes that community engagement is vital to ensuring that ideas and experiences of property owners are included as regulations and policies are developed as well as ensuring concerns of residents are addressed.

### **Your Participation**

As valued and respected members of our community, we invite you to participate. Focus groups, which have been comprised of two or three property owners and one Council member, have been presented with documents as the bylaw has been considered, and provided feedback on the following questions:

- Is the bylaw clear and concise, effective for the purpose
- Will the processes being contemplated achieve the objectives of the Summer Village
- Are areas of concern, contention adequately addressed
- Are there obvious omissions and/or improvements

Feel free to contact Doris Bell at 780-984-4994 to get details. Your feedback can also be incorporated by

- Emailing comments to Council by May 30<sup>th</sup>
- Talking to Council members by May 30<sup>th</sup>
- Attending the next Council meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at the Village Administration Office.

### **Thank You**

For taking the time to view this message, the new Wastewater Bylaw and provide any comments to Council as they work to provide clear and flexible wastewater management systems for our community

### **Fireworks Bylaw**

Council has learned that according to the provincial fire code, fireworks in Alberta need to have a permit. (See Fire Facts - Alberta Municipal Affairs) Council recognizes that fireworks make holiday celebrations special and will work toward a bylaw that provides reasonable compliance with provincial regulations.

### **Canada Thistle**

Please take some time to tackle the Canada Thistle on your property. Council has asked Administration to look after its growth on road allowances; however naturalists say that the rhizomes of this weed can grow for 100 m. Let's get rid of this one together.

### **2013 Recreation Committee**

It's just about time to get ready to play --- Consider being part of this year's committee and join in the fun! We were informed by a Councilor of the County of Wetaskiwin that ***the trail to the Village has been closed*** and fenced because it crosses private property. ***Please use marked trails when walking through all reserve and park areas*** to preserve vegetation crucial to the health the Lake. Roots absorb contaminants and nutrients that otherwise run into the lake, feeding algae. Please show respect for property and your neighbours keep to existing marked paths.

***We would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Summer***

***Doris Walter, and Kevin***