



# COUNCIL 2013 WINTER NEWSLETTER

## Crystal Springs Council

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## Council Notes...

*While we are a Summer Village, your Council is meeting, discussing and working out ways to preserve and improve your lake-side lifestyle through the winter too!*

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### 2013 Election

With three nominations filling three spots, we are happy to announce Council was acclaimed this July and we want to introduce residents to our new member of council, Grant Churchill! Grant has been a full-time resident of Crystal Springs for about 15 years, and we are grateful for his being 'on the ground' at Crystal Springs. Grant's background as a former RCMP officer and experiences with the Volunteer Fire Department and experience with Fire & Emergency Management (just to name a few!) are assets to our Summer Village; local committee members in the Pigeon Lake region have been eager to meet with him as well. Welcome aboard, Grant!

We also want to take this opportunity to thank past Council member Walter Schlese for his three years of service to our community. All the best to Wally and Christine --- here's hoping you snowbirds enjoy winter in Arizona! In the meantime, Council is off to a good start working together well, bringing Grant up to speed regarding the various regional initiatives our Council is part of.

### Association of Summer Villages of Alberta (ASVA)

Your Council attended the ASVA Conference in St. Albert a couple of weeks ago. We heard Alberta Urban Municipalities Association President Linda Sloan emphasize the importance of Summer Villages being heard in the process of the Municipal Government Act review.

The Province's comprehensive review includes gathering opinions from Albertans about desired changes to the MGA. The ASVA Board is urging each Council to write to Minister Griffiths in support of Summer Villages. All Councils and ratepayers need to show the Government of Alberta that we are viable and important communities in Alberta.

Council joins ASVA Board of Directors in trusting this information will provide assistance to ratepayers in formulating your position. If you would like further details, ASVA has produced a reference document that contains excerpts from the current MGA and the *Local Authorities Elections Act* which we would be happy to provide to you. We hope you will forward your opinions to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, the Hon. Doug Griffiths.

*Our voices need to be heard*

### ASVA Consensus Opinion about Summer Villages

Here's what ASVA Board members have discussed:

1. Summer villages were created under the MGA because property owners and residents of Alberta's lake-side properties have significantly different requirements than those of surrounding property owners, typically farmers

ranchers and business owners. Larger municipalities did not meet these requirements and the dominant focus of those councils on priorities of other residents left little hope they would meet SV resident needs in the future.

2. There has been no change in this focus of larger municipal councils or in the needs and priorities of the summer village residents and there is virtually no prospect for future change that could merge these priorities.
3. Summer village councils throughout Alberta provide good government, services and facilities that are necessary and desirable for their municipalities; specifically, they develop and maintain safe and viable communities.
4. Many necessary and desirable services provided by summer village councils to their ratepayers are obtained from surrounding larger municipalities or from private contractors. The municipalities providing those services benefit financially from these contracts and are able to provide a better service to all residents as a result of the improved operating economics. Summer villages pay their fair share of the cost of municipal services provided to them.
5. The test of a municipality's viability should include stewardship responsibilities as well as financial viability, including assessments of the municipality's ability to:
  - a) attract responsible councillors & admin staff,
  - b) provide effective administrative services,
  - c) obtain municipal services on a fair and equitable basis from surrounding municipalities, and
  - d) remain financially viable, with a stable assessment base and reasonable tax burden on its ratepayers
  - e) have high levels of participation in programs such as "The Living By Water Project"
  - f) significant contributors to Regional Collaborative Groups; such as the Sylvan Lake Management Committee and the Association of Pigeon Lake Municipalities
  - g) be the driving force in Regional Waste Water Systems around lakes
  - h) develop land use bylaws and open space plans with very specific protection for local watersheds
6. Summer villages should be allowed to amalgamate without the condition precedent of

the municipalities being contiguous. While preferable if the amalgamating summer villages are adjacent to the same lake or water body, an amalgamated summer village could adopt a ward or division system for the election of councilors, similar to current practice in larger municipalities.

7. There are multiple examples where Summer Villages located on the same lake are presently practicing "Regional Collaboration" in the truest sense by sharing administrative and operating costs. However, where this doesn't occur, well thought out and implemented amalgamations of summer villages, if desired by ratepayers, could significantly improve service levels to residents and possibly reduce net administration costs.

Thank you to the ASVA for providing these comments.

## **Regional Committees**

Council members work with over 12-13 committees throughout the year. Some meet only once or twice, others require more work outside more frequent meeting times.

We will highlight a couple, one of which would welcome your attention over the winter, namely the

### ***Southside Waste Water Committee***

Representatives from the five Summer Villages which will be serviced by the proposed regional waste water line have continued to meet throughout the past year. The goal of this group is to optimize the design of the local wastewater collection system and to work together to achieve the economies of scale. Based on engineering studies in each of the Summer Villages, the type of system which is being proposed is a low pressure collection system. This type of system will have pumps in holding tanks at each residence as opposed to lift stations throughout the villages. This system was found to be more economical than a gravity system both in terms of the initial installation costs and also full life economics. In addition, the low pressure system will be less disruptive to the village infrastructure when installed as the lines will be placed by directional drilling. A trip was made to Slave Lake to evaluate the operation of a similar installation and to gain from their experiences. This gave confidence in the success of a properly designed low pressure system. Work is continuing with investigations into project financing and governance.

### ***Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan (PLWMP) Steering Committee.***

*"The Steering Committee oversees an action-driven engagement planning process. As resources are*

*secured, the PLWMP engages educates and enables people and organizations around and involved in the lake, to take coordinated and prioritized actions for the health of our lake and watershed. Together, we are systematically identifying and tackling the factors on the lake that impact water quality. These are the 'Topics'."*

Over the summer, stakeholders (including some Crystal Springs residents) were surveyed regarding their knowledge of and support for the PLWMP. There are other surveys being prepared (eg. regarding fertilizer use) and we have seen the comments and ratings people provide being used by decision-makers around the lake and to support government initiatives. You really CAN have an impact --- the surveys are short (10 minutes or so) --- and your opinions do matter. Please take a few minutes to connect and let us know what you think via the web-sites below.

<http://plwa.ca/pages/integrated-watershed-management-plan-iwmp>

or

[www.plwa.ca](http://www.plwa.ca)

These web-sites also provide lots of information about the science of the lake.

### ***Association of Pigeon Lake Municipalities (APLM),***

Doris Bell has again been elected as Vice-chair. This association consists of a representative from each Summer Village, the County of Wetaskiwin and Leduc County, and invites Native Band representatives to its meetings. APLM hears presentations from guest speakers including the PL Watershed Association, Fisheries Department, Fire Department, Emergency Management, and Alberta Environment.

The APLM is a partner in the PLWMP, whose focus is more about efforts in land-based Watershed, on the other hand APLM has put significant effort into responding to Alberta Environment's suggestions as to what options for controlling blue-green algae might be viable on an In-Lake basis. Last year members divided 31 options identified by AB ESRD into three groups, with each group preparing a report about which options might be worth pursuing. The reports were received by APLM at the last meeting; members understand the need for science experts to be involved, and so established an In-Lake Technical Committee. The Technical Committee will use the reports as a starting point and seek expert advice to determine whether these options will control algae, and if so, secure funding and develop an action plan.

APLM members are looking for tangible progress --- not more studies --- because ratepayers are conveying there is an urgency to restore the health of Pigeon Lake. While some are of the opinion that

there should never be interference with the lake, others reason that if humans contributed to the problem, humans should find a solution.

Comments from Environment Minister McQueen indicate she is enthusiastic that the APLM is gathering groups that worked on solutions individually in the past to be under one umbrella, to speak with a united voice.

### ***Closer to Home***

We were all surprised to see the new road marked up by surveyors from Alta Gas. The markings have to do with planning and measurements for the replacement of gas lines. Administration is in contact with Alta Gas as it is hoped we can coordinate construction plans in the future.

### ***Evaluation of Services***

As part of its mandate under the MGA, Council's role is to evaluate the provision of services to ratepayers. Your input into our annual survey at the AIM helps us know what you think should be improved and what you find is satisfactory. We are considering this feedback and our services in terms of what are **acceptable standards** of service.

As an example, a standard might be 'the snow will be removed to keep roads passable during heavy snowfalls and at least at the end of each snowfall.'

Keep tuned ... we will be seeking your input in the up-coming months.

***We wish all residents and ratepayers a Merry Christmas and all the best for a Happy New Year in 2014  
Doris, Grant & Kevin***

# Sponsors and Donors for the 2013 Crystal Springs Boat Rally

*Thank you to the following Sponsors and Donors who provided funding, goods or services which were used in our event on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 or as door prizes for our Guests.*

## *Merchants and Businesses*

1. Wannasign-Wetaskiwin
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16. Wizard Lake Marine
17. Pace Technologies
18. Western Spirits
19. Village Emporium
20. Martin Motor Sports
21. Ocean Sports
22. Huckelberry's Café
23. Eco Café

*Thank-you to these residents who also sponsored the event.*

## *Residents*

Ann Tweddle & Doug Tweddle  
Barry & Bonnie Pratt  
Kevin Pratt  
Eldon Heck  
Leonard & Sharon Swanson  
Byron & Kathy Sommerville  
Collette & Patrick Miller  
Doug & Doris Muraca  
Craig Braun  
Andre Gagnon

*And thank you to everyone who volunteered, sold tickets, brought friends and family and helped set up, clean up and did everything else that needed to be done!*

The Crystal Springs Recreation Board

***"Perfect Stocking Stuffers"  
Boat Rally Hats & T-Shirts***

***Hats - \$12***

***T-Shirts - in White or Grey - \$12***

***Contact David Edgar***

***780-586-2358 or***

***E-mail: [dfedgar@airsurfer.ca](mailto:dfedgar@airsurfer.ca)***

*Please take a minute to acknowledge these people for their generosity and let them know they were mentioned here.*