



SUMMER VILLAGE OF CRYSTAL SPRINGS

NEWS FROM THE SUMMER VILLAGES ADMINISTRATION

Sylvia Roy, Chief Administrative Officer

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NEW: Office hours: 9:00-12:00 Monday-Friday

SUMMER VILLAGES NEWSLETTERS

Electronic versions of our newsletters are currently available by subscription on our web site. If you don't have computer access, pick up the Newsletter at the Summer Villages Office or make a request for it to be mailed to your home. Computer subscribers can choose to receive notifications on all items posted to the web-site Or please check the web site for other News & Information.

Council Meetings

Council Meetings are held on a regular basis, generally every six weeks. Council meeting dates and times are posted in the window of the Summer Villages Office and on the Crystal Springs Website. Sometimes due to other obligations of our Council, it is necessary to change these dates so please call the office to verify Council meeting dates. If you would like to make a presentation to Council (10 minute limit), please provide a note to the CAO in writing or via email, 7 business days before the scheduled meeting.

Annual Information Meeting

The Annual Information Meeting is scheduled for July 18th at the Crystal Springs Day Park at 10:00 a.m.

Village Office Information

The Summer Villages Office will be open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. In 2014, statistics regarding the amount of business conducted on Saturday found that the majority of customers and phone calls were for directions and queries not related to this office. The Development Officer **is available** by appointment after office hours and/or weekends.

Administration seeks to make ongoing improvements to the level of service to our residents & 7 Village Councils. The following staff changes/additions have been made as part of our improvement initiative:

Sylvia Roy

Gail Coleman

Carolyn Huddleston
Paula Lamoureux

Rose Mary Peel
Tammy Riviere
Sharon James-Lock

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and Development Officer for Argentia Beach
Assistant CAO,
Financial Officer for Crystal Springs, Ma-Me-O Beach, Golden Days, Norris Beach and Poplar Bay.
Assistant CAO, Financial Officer for Argentia Beach, and Financial Officer for Joint Services and IT.
Administrative Assistant
Development Officer for Golden Days, Grandview, Ma-Me-O Beach, Norris Beach, Poplar Bay and Crystal Springs
Accounting clerk for 7 Villages
Administrative Assistant
FCSS Coordinator

Financial Information

Property Assessments – The property assessment in Crystal Springs based on the Valuation date of July 1st, 2014 shows an overall average increase of 0.6% as compared to the same date in 2013.

Municipal Property Taxes and School Requisition – Overall taxes have remained the same as the previous year. The minimum tax payable is also unchanged at \$800.

NEPL Levy – The annual fee per lot is unchanged at \$122.12 (shown as a separate line item on your tax notice).

More detailed information regarding the 2015 Budget will be available at the Annual Information Meeting or may be obtained by calling the Summer Village Office.

Your combined Assessment and Tax Notice was mailed on May 22nd, 2015. Taxes are due June 30th, 2015 and any assessment complaints must be filed before July 21st.

Development Permits

You need a development permit to build, renovate, demolish, or move buildings. Development Permits approve the development only, ensuring it complies with the Land Use Bylaw. For further information and to view the Land Use Bylaw please go to our web site at www.svofficepl.com.

Apply for a development permit in person at the Summer Villages Office or on our web site. For inquiries and information please contact Paula Lamoureux, our Development Officer at 780-586-2494.

Please Note: Placards are issued with the development Permit to be Posted in full view of the roadway at all times while the work is in progress at the work site. Failure to follow the process to acquire the right Permits could result the Development Officer having to issue in a Stop Order for your work project.

Development Safety Codes:

Did you know that a property owner/developer is responsible for ensuring all aspects of the *Safety Codes Act* are followed during construction? After your Development Permit has been approved, additional permits will be required for building, demolition, electrical, plumbing and gas changes: contact Superior Safety Codes Inc. at 1-888-358-5545 or @ 403-358-5545. Qualified designers/architects/contractors can make it easier to design and construct your project.

Shore Line (INCLUDES PLACEMENT OF ROCKS ON THE SHORELINE)

Alberta Environment & Sustainable Development has jurisdiction over shorelines of all lakefront properties (property lines generally extend only to the high-water mark). This means to do any work on a sea wall or that might disturb the lakeshore you need permission from Alberta Environment, who will issue approval via a permit. In recent years regulations have been toughened and without a permit Enforcement Officers will ask you to remove rocks and restore the shore and could be assess Fines. The Village Office is happy to help you with your plans.

Himalayan Balsam Eradication Project

After five years of shoreline patrols, we are pleased to announce that the Himalayan Balsam, a prohibited noxious weed, has been eliminated from the shoreline of Pigeon Lake. Our thanks go out to Don Davidson from Summer Village of Grandview, who has led this project. This year, the Land Stewardship Centre has provided a grant to continue the eradication program further back in the watershed. A small number of gardens still have a few remaining plants that we hope will be cleaned up this summer. If you see Himalayan Balsam anywhere, remember to “pull, break, and drop” them, and please report any sightings to the Village Office so that further clean-up can be done. To volunteer or for more information, e-mail Don Davidson at donald_d@telus.net

The Summer Village of Crystal Springs has appointed Linda Kerr as weed inspector for 2015.

Dangerous Tree Removal

Residents are strongly encouraged to regularly check trees on their property for disease and have them removed before they damage buildings, power lines or neighboring property. Diseased trees can pose a potential hazard during high winds. Also, if a tree is within 1.5 meters of the primary power line it is considered to be “interfering”. Notify Fortis of interfering trees and allow them access to your property to trim trees and make sure your property is safe from potential fires (a free service).

Fortis has tree trimming programs because many fires start when tree branches rub against primary and secondary power lines and eventually through the coating. It is extremely important that you understand you can be liable for the cost of a resulting fire. Fortis is responsible for power lines all the way from poles and transformers to the meter (the primary line is the high voltage line located topmost on the power poles). If you would like to do your own trimming Fortis will temporarily move the line free of charge. To notify Fortis call 780-310-9473 and for more information contact the Mulhurst Fire Department at 780-312-5016.

Boat Launching

Please check the following website for information regarding boat launches at the Provincial Parks in Alberta: <http://Alberta.ca/home/NewsFrame.cfm?ReleaseID=/acn/201005/28394AC869CFA-EAE9-7FDB-9CC205EC225AB372.html>. The Summer Villages Office will also post any updates we receive from the Government of Alberta regarding boat launches at the provincial parks and recreation areas. See the Summer Villages web site at www.svofficepl.com.

Pigeon Lake Public Library

The Pigeon Lake Library is located in Ma-Me-O Beach next door to the Summer Village Office. Do stop by and see the wonderful displays that have been accomplished by the hard work of so many volunteers in our community. Our Librarian is Opal Taylor.

Please support the Library by donating your empty bottles! Drop bottle returns in the barrel at Adair's cabin – Ma-Me-O Beach 417A (back alley) next to the Catholic Church. In 2014 \$3,000 was raised. Please spread the word!

Ma-Me-O Weekly Market

This year the Ma-Me-O Beach Market will be held every Sunday from 10 am to 2 pm beginning June 14, 2015. New vendors - contact our new Market Manager Robert Dygos @780-352-5386.

Insurance for Fire, Flood and Storm Damage

CHECK YOUR INSURANCE POLICY! Over past winter seasons, several buildings in other Summer Villages at Pigeon Lake have burned to the ground. Residents are reminded that the annual fee paid by your Summer Village only supports the maintenance of the fire department. You will be billed for the services of the volunteer fire department if they are called out to fight your fire. We encourage you to have maximum fire insurance protection with regard to the cost of fire departments responding to a fire at your location. Some policies only have a \$3,000 coverage. Also check your insurance for flood and storm damage. The Summer Village is not responsible for damage from these events.

Emergency Response and Fire Protection - House Numbers

Post your lot/house number where it can be seen from the road. *Lives may depend on it!* Visible house numbers are the only way Emergency Vehicles (Fire, Ambulance, and Police) can find you when they answer a 911 call.

Ensure numbers are at least 4 inches high.

The 911 Emergency call program is centralized meaning the person answering is not familiar with Crystal Springs. Have an 'In Emergency' Notice beside the phone or in a prominent place in your home for how to report an emergency. If you are unsure of your municipal number or how to report an emergency, call the Summer Village Office at 780-586-2494 to help you be prepared.

Water Leaks

Please ensure you turn off the power to your wells (pressure system) when you are not at the lake. We have had reports of lines leaking that result in water damage to ratepayers' homes.

Moving??...Change of Address? Phone #?

Please notify the Summer Village Office if you are changing your principle residence address, telephone numbers or e-mail addresses. Keeping us up-to-date is very important as if your cabin is broken into, we provide contact information to police who will notify you.

Garbage Removal

WEEKLY pick-up occurs on **MONDAYS** during summer months beginning May 18th, 2015 and runs up to and including October 5th, 2015. Please contact April at MCL Waste Systems @780-352-2625 for concerns regarding garbage pickup. The 12 month Collection Schedule for 2015 is available at the Summer Village Office or on the web site at www.svofficepl.com. Please ensure that you place your garbage in your Tote with the wheels facing the road and the lid closed. Garbage placed beside the Tote cannot be picked up.

Curb-side Large Item Pickup July 18th, 2015

The Curb-side pick-up will be held again this year. A truck and crusher will be pick up items at the curb-side of your property, crushed and trucked to the landfill. As part of our service improvement, we have found curb-side pickup is less labor intensive and more cost effective. Residents who do not have resources to transport items for disposal to the Transfer Stations or Landfill find this is a great service.

Each property owner can dispose of 2 large items (ie; large furniture items, stove, washer, dryer, etc.) and 6 green garbage bags (50 lb maximum for each bag). The bags can be filled with any household waste, small appliances etc. Place items at the curb side before 7:00 a.m. the morning of July 18th, 2015. This is the actual start time that the Contractor will begin picking items up from 6 of our Summer Villages. Pick-up will continue into the evening.

Item that will not be picked up at the curb-side:

- Fridges, freezers or coolers containing Freon. (If Freon has been removed from your appliance please be sure to mark on the appliance "Freon Removed" in large letters and it will then be taken).
- Propane tanks and bottles
- Tires
- "E" waste: TV's and computers
- Paint
- Batteries
- Used oil
- Household Hazardous wastes
- Loose materials and debris (if bagged and tied up it will be picked up)

PLEASE DO NOT PUT OUT ITEMS OUT THAT ARE NOT BAGGED OR ANY LOOSE YARD DEBRIS THAT ISN'T TIED.

With the exception of loose materials, the items above are to be taken to the Toxic Round Up or to any recycling facility throughout Alberta.

Administration would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Summer!