

## **Summer Village of Sundance Beach**

### **An Update - Wastewater Inspections - Our Plan Moving Forward**

**August 26, 2016**

Your Council and Administration are most appreciative of the overwhelming support for our efforts to effectively manage the affairs of the Summer Village, as expressed by several of the speakers who addressed Council at the August 17, 2016 regular Council meeting. We always have the long-term interests of the Summer Village in mind when making decisions, especially the difficult ones where we have to recognize that individual interests and priorities of ratepayers vary and that compromises are inevitable.

How we help to protect the health of Pigeon Lake is one of the greatest challenges we all face and your Council is committed to doing whatever we can do, recognizing that there is no “magic bullet” and that it is the cumulative effect of many decisions over many years that will produce the greatest improvements. The decisions we make with respect to wastewater, fertilizers, vegetation management, property development and landscaping must be made to protect and enhance the health of Pigeon Lake.

We are committed to ensuring that all wastewater (including all types) from the Summer Village is collected in holding tanks and subsequently transported to the Mulhurst lagoon for treatment. The 2000 wastewater bylaw (as amended) was a big step forward in achieving this objective by banning conventional outhouses and septic fields. However, the 2000 bylaw was deficient in that it did not require inspections to ensure compliance. The 2016 wastewater bylaw now requires inspections of all properties and the repair or removal and replacement of all wastewater holding tanks that do not meet provincial requirements.

Your Council and Administration are unwavering in our commitment to proceed responsibly and as quickly as reasonably possible to have all wastewater systems inspected and, where deficient, brought up to the required standard by repair or replacement.

Over the next few weeks, with professional guidance and advice, your Administration will investigate alternative wastewater holding tank inspection methods which will meet our objectives and the requirements of the Province of Alberta. The due diligence completed prior to our July 30, 2016 Wastewater Information Meeting convinced your Council and Administration that one contractor had extensive experience with other summer villages around Pigeon Lake, was unconditionally recommended by those customers, maintained professional liability insurance and produced inspection reports acceptable to the provincial government . We were also advised that no other contractors had responded to the tenders or otherwise advertised requirements of the other summer villages.

Since that meeting, however, we have been advised that the Province of Alberta does not specify how municipalities must meet their wastewater treatment requirements: it is only interested in whether or not they do meet the requirements. Accordingly, additional information has been provided to your Administration, from knowledgeable ratepayers, from a member of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association and by way of a petition, that there may be alternative, acceptable and less expensive methods for inspecting wastewater holding tanks and receiving the required inspection reports from the applicable contractors.

Your Administration, over the next few weeks, will gather all the relevant information with respect to:

- provincially acceptable alternative inspection methods which will enable us to receive the required inspection reports for all wastewater holding tanks within the Summer Village,
- for each qualified and acceptable contractor :
  - o detailed description of inspection methods and documentation,
  - o contract terms, conditions and costs,
  - o experience and references,
  - o capacity and timetable for completion of inspections,
  - o such other information as your Administration deems advisable.

When your Administration has gathered all of the required information and is comfortable in making a recommendation to Council, Council will make a decision as to the inspection method to be adopted by the Summer Village and the contractor to complete the work and provide the necessary inspection reports. We recognize that this timeline will likely require Council to extend the September 30, 2016 deadline set out in section 4.1 of the 2016 wastewater bylaw.

We have committed to keep our ratepayers informed on this important topic, and all other significant matters within or affecting the Summer Village. We will use emails, postings on the Summer Village website and personal communications to honour this commitment.

Respectfully,



Peter G. Pellatt,  
Mayor, Summer Village of Sundance Beach

On behalf of the Council: Peter Pellatt, Brian Waterhouse and Richard Miller, and  
the Chief Administrative Officer, Harold Wynne,