



Summer Village of Poplar Bay

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Wastewater Project Update

We are pleased to announce that Phase II of the Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater Line has been approved for federal and provincial funding under the Clean Water & Wastewater Fund and Water for Life Grant Programs. The approved federal portion is \$3,470,548, representing 50% of the total project cost of \$6,941,096. The Province of Alberta portion is \$2,776,438, representing 40% of the project cost. The balance of \$694,110 will be shared between the participating municipalities on the same basis as the Phase I construction costs. Poplar Bay's contribution will be approximately \$80,000. Phase II of the regional line will connect to Phase I at the Village at Pigeon Lake and extend to the north end of Poplar Bay.

With Phase II funding approved, we are moving forward with the plans to build our municipal wastewater collection system. Meetings are on-going with MPE Engineering Ltd. and we hope to put the project out for tender in March, 2017.

As previously communicated, MPE has recommended a STEP – sewage treatment effluent pump –system be installed. Some questions regarding the reliability and performance of the STEP system have been circulating among residents recently – specifically issues with a STEP system installed in the City of Port Orchard, Washington. The Utilities Forman at Port Orchard has been contacted to determine exactly what was at the root of the problem. It appears that the main lines were constructed out of iron pipe, which became corroded by the hydrogen sulphide gas that is generated during the digestion process in the first chamber holding tank. Other than the corrosion problem, the system is functioning well and would be retained if not for the iron pipes.

Concerns such as this, and others that may be raised through out this process, help us to achieve our goal of building a robust wastewater system that will serve our community well for many years ahead. We appreciate the input and will forward this and any further concerns to MPE for their review.

With respect to resident hook-up costs, Council has been reviewing a number of cost/funding models in an effort to minimize the financial impact for residents. While we are still in the early stages of this review, we have identified some options that amortize all

hook-up costs other than new tanks, tank modifications and landscaping, over a period of 5 – 25 years. Based on existing cost estimates, a 25 year amortization could result in a per lot cost as low as \$300 per year. While we are still in the preliminary stages of this review, we are very encouraged by these findings. We will have better information regarding costs once the tenders for the municipal lines in Phase I Summer Villages are received later this year. Also, we need to ensure that the funding decisions we make today serve the best interests of Poplar Bay in the long run. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Pigeon Lake Water Quality Initiatives

At our June Annual Information Meeting (AIM), a resident wondered if water from the Brazeau Dam could be used to improve the water quality in Pigeon Lake. Since the dam is 100 metres higher than Pigeon Lake, the water could flow naturally through a pipeline and since it is unpolluted, it would not require a water treatment plant.

Upon investigation, it appears there are two main challenges with this idea. Although the dam is higher than Pigeon Lake, there are many hills between the two water bodies. Water can flow naturally through a pipeline and can "siphon" over a small hill (about 8 metres) but will not flow over the greater elevations which exist along the pipeline route. Simply put, water can't flow uphill. As such, the water would have to be pumped. Since the distance is over 100 kilometers, the infrastructure costs of a pipeline system would be considerable. Water transferred to a lake from another watershed requires treatment to remove any contaminants and also to remove any species which are not native to the lake. The transfer of different types of fish and other life forms would not be allowed and therefore water treatment would still be required.

This explanation illustrates just some of the many factors that need to be taken into consideration when identifying ways we can improve the water quality of Pigeon Lake. The Alliance of Pigeon Lake Municipalities (APLM) and the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) continue to work in partnership on a variety of initiatives such as Phoslock, bio-remediation and algae harvesting. These potential solutions are in various stages of progress, which we can be frustrating for all of us – we want to see results. However, whatever in-lake solution is finally agreed to (if any) needs to be based on reliable scientific analysis that takes into account all of the unique characteristics of Pigeon Lake, including size, depth, residence time, eco system, etc. What works in one lake may not necessarily work in our lake and we don't want any unintended negative consequences of our actions.

In the meantime, please refer to the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan (PLWMP) for actions each of us can take to prevent any more phosphorus from entering the lake and compounding the issue. For up-to-date progress on these initiatives, please refer to the APLM website: <http://www.aplm.org/Home> and the PLWMP website: <http://www.plwmp.ca>.

Residents Are Encouraged to Check Homeowner Policies for "Fire Fighter" Coverage

If the Fire Department is called to your Poplar Bay residence, your current insurance policy may not cover the full cost of the response, which is currently \$300 per hour, per fire truck. As one resident shared at our AIM, you will be accountable for paying the difference

between your coverage and the actual cost for the response. Upon investigation, we have discovered that this “Fire Fighter” coverage is available to purchase through a top-up or premium policy. Ensure your coverage is complete by contacting your Insurance provider.

RCMP Patrols & Community Watch Program

The Wetaskiwin RCMP continues to provide policing patrols throughout Poplar Bay. A report of their activities is expected this month and will be posted on our website as soon as it is available. As an increase in break-ins has been reported in some Summer Villages, we asked the RCMP to provide us with details of establishing a Rural Watch Program to support their efforts. Such a program requires a volunteer coordinator who is a member of the community. If anyone is interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please contact Sylvia Roy at the Summer Villages Office, either by phone at 780-586-2494 or email at Sylvia.Roy@svofficepl.com.

Emergency Response

Issues with Pigeon Lake residents calling 9-1-1 and not having the correct information to get the emergency services dispatched in a timely manner are occurring. This information was shared at a recent meeting of the Pigeon Lake Regional Emergency Management Agency (REMA), which is a joint committee representing all 10 of the Summer Villages around Pigeon Lake.

Because emotions run high during emergencies, critical information can sometimes be omitted when communicating with the dispatchers. For example, even identifying your location as the *Summer Village of Poplar Bay* instead of just Poplar Bay can save valuable time. It is recommended that residents have their complete location information, including the official municipal lot number, posted for easy reference during an emergency. It may be a visitor who has to make that call and having this information readily available can save valuable time.

For more useful emergency response information, please visit the REMA website: www.pigeonlakeemergencyagency.ca.

Welcome to Our New Bylaw Officer, Doris McAllister

Doris McAllister, an experienced and well-qualified Bylaw Officer who is currently providing services to Thorsby, Breton and some of the Summer Villages around Pigeon Lake, is now on board to assist Poplar Bay residents with bylaw questions and concerns, including parking, noise, animal control, use of fertilizer and herbicides, etc. Doris can be reached at 1-780-719-6447, but she encourages residents to flag her down and say hello as she makes regular rounds (including weekends) in her vehicle, which is clearly marked with Bylaw Officer signage.

Council would like to wish everyone a safe and wonderful fall season.

Deb, Brian & Gary