



Summer Village of Grandview

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Summer Village of Grandview

Winter 2016/2017 Newsletter

Season's greetings from your Council. We hope everyone had a great 2016 and is looking forward to the New Year. We are pleased to provide some of the latest news concerning our beautiful lake and Summer Village.

Wastewater System

There is a lot to report concerning our wastewater system. We have recently received a letter advising that funding is in place for Phase 2 of the Regional Line. The federal government's Clean Water & Wastewater Fund will be covering 50% of the cost and a *Water for Life* grant from the provincial government will cover 40%. The remaining 10% will be funded by the six participating municipalities. Grandview's share of this remaining amount will be 15% or approximately \$100,000. This pipeline system will extend from the Village at Pigeon Lake (VPL) to a pump station west of Poplar Bay. The final design of the pipeline and pump station is being completed and a tender package will soon be issued. The anticipated completion date of this system is March 2018. We have also heard that government approval will soon be given for the creation of the regional services commission, which will own and operate this regional pipeline system. Grandview will be a member of that commission.

Our neighbouring municipalities, Norris Beach and Crystal Springs, which are connecting to the Phase 1 Westrose pump station, are in the process of tendering the construction package. It is anticipated that we will see construction activities for these municipalities commence during the first quarter of 2017 and continue throughout the year. Construction is also planned in Crystal Springs and Ma Me O Beach for next year. The design engineers have been advised that Poplar Bay and Grandview wish to commence construction of the municipal line through our two communities in the summer of 2017. This pipeline will connect to the Phase 2 pump station. We will then follow this with the individual service connections to each residence so that we will be ready for operation when the regional system is completed. Directional drilling will be the primary method of installing pipelines so that disturbance of our infrastructure will be minimized.

The current plan is for the Summer Village to own the service connection right up to each holding tank. By having the SVG own and pay for the installation of these lines, we can achieve a significant cost saving for each resident and also provide for the orderly development of this system. For undeveloped lots, the shut-off valve ("CC valve") will be placed at the property line (unless the lot owner decides to install a holding tank at the time of construction). If your holding tank is not in the desired location for future anticipated construction or if it is known to be at the end of its useful life, it may be wise to install a new tank during the construction period to reduce future expenditures. A detailed checklist of installation requirements and procedures will be made available to you at a future date.

Grandview has received approval for a Building Canada grant that will cover two-thirds of the costs of the local infrastructure. The Trustees of the Hamblin Trust have recommended that the trust be wound up and the proceeds used to fund the Summer Village's portion of the costs (one-third of the total) and to purchase for each lot owner, the pump and pump holder assembly. Implementation of this funding proposal will eliminate any tax burden for the installation of the municipal line while also reducing the on-lot hook-up expense for developed lots by approximately \$1500 (the cost of the pump assembly). Over the summer, an informational handout and consent agreement was given to each lot owner to obtain feedback and support for the recommendation to wind

up the trust. As of the end of November, 94% of residents have responded, with 100% of the respondents supporting the recommendation. We are now in the process of making a court application to ask for approval of the changes to the Trust as outlined in the consent agreement. We will be setting a court date in January 2017 for the application. For those few residents who have not returned the consent agreement, the legal firm handling this application (Dentons Canada LLP) will be sending another letter to give further information about the court date. A copy of the court application will be available in the Summer Village office in the New Year for anyone wishing to review it. Any resident who has a question about this matter can contact Grandview Mayor Don Davidson at 403-860-1050 or Mandy England at Dentons Canada LLP (780-423-7227).

A display of the pump assembly has been set up in the village office for those interested. This type of system has been successfully used throughout Alberta and North America for low-pressure wastewater systems. Completion of this system will be a major step in getting rid of the many septic fields still in existence around the shoreline of our lake. If you have any questions about the installation of the system on your lot, please contact Don Davidson.

Historical Database

We will be starting a historical database for Pigeon Lake to record information such as ice-on and ice-out dates, lake levels, cyanobacteria blooms, etc. If you have records of the dates concerning the ice or any other interesting facts concerning our lake, it would be appreciated if you could forward them to the summer village office.

Water Quality Issues

In spite of low water levels, the water quality in Pigeon Lake remained quite good during 2016 except for a brief bloom that occurred in the middle of August. The lake level dropped over the open-water season from 849.68 m ASL (meters above sea level) in May to 849.56 m ASL in November, or a total drop of 12 cm. For reference purposes, the top of the weir is at 849.935 m ASL. Pigeon Lake varies in elevation by about 1.3 m, an amount similar to other prairie lakes. The lack of snowfall last winter was largely responsible for this drop in lake level. The significant variability in the intensity of cyanobacteria blooms is thought to be caused largely by fluctuations in weather patterns. Temperature surveys showed that the lake temperature remained below 20 degrees C in the first part of August, lower than the 21 degrees C temperature measured the previous year. A review of previous temperature surveys from as far back as the 1980s shows a significant increase in the lake's temperature, which is not ideal for a healthy lake. This year also saw an unusually long open-water season (7 ½ months) with the ice coming off the lake on April 15 and freezing over on December 1.



Dr. Rolf Vinebrooke at the research facility at Pigeon Lake Provincial Park

The University of Alberta research project on Pigeon Lake finished its second year using “mesocosms” to test the effects of minnow population on cyanobacteria growth. It was thought that the high population of minnows severely reduced that population of zooplankton, thereby removing the algae grazers. The scope of this project was to determine if changes to the ecological balance in the lake have caused changes in water quality and if bioremediation, the process of adjusting food web, would reduce the intensity of the algae blooms. While the results of the study did show a noticeable diminishment in water clarity as a result of the presence of minnows, the reason was different than anticipated. The results showed a definite increase in total phosphorous in the presence of minnows, a condition that supported the growth of cyanobacteria. This increase is thought to be a result of phosphorous cycling by the minnows. Further research is being planned for the coming summer with the possibility of two graduate students being involved in the project.

Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan

Work is underway for the preparation of a watershed management plan for Pigeon Lake. This work is being done under the auspices of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) and the Alliance of Pigeon Lake Municipalities (APLM) with the full support of the Government of Alberta. This watershed management plan will provide direction for the future development of our watershed to provide protection for our lake. Watch for more information on this plan being issued in the near future. We hope that all residents become actively engaged in this important work and consider how their actions affect the lake, either positively or negatively.

Neighborhood Watch

At our last Annual Information Meeting, there was a discussion on whether our residents were interested in starting a neighborhood watch system. This would be a volunteer program run by the residents to help keep a watchful eye throughout our Summer Village, not only for criminal activity but for fallen trees, storm damage, or anything else that might negatively affect a neighbour’s property. A few people indicated an interest, but no one has stepped forward to coordinate the effort. In view of the significant number of minor break-ins that have occurred over the past month, it may be an opportune time to re-examine this program to determine the level of interest. The Summer Village would help organize the program with the help of the RCMP, but it would require volunteers to follow through with the actual program. If you are interested in participating in this program, please call the Village office at 780-586-2494 or send an email to information@svofficepl.com.

Bylaw Enforcement

Grandview has engaged the services of a Bylaw Enforcement Officer to make regular patrols through the Village. If you have a concern about bylaw enforcement (noise, unsafe fires, nuisance dogs, improper development practices, etc.), you can call Doris McAllister directly at 780-719-6447. To report a serious crime, you should still call the Wetaskiwin RCMP at 780-312-7267. In the event of an emergency, always call 911.

New Storage Policy

In September, a new policy was put into effect for the storage of piers and boat lifts on Village property. As before, residents are permitted to use designated municipal areas for winter storage, but stored items must now be registered in the village office and marked with an identifying number (usually the lot number). This policy was put in place because of the significant increase in stored equipment on Village property. We want to ensure that items are stored in a safe, environmentally friendly manner and that the privilege is shared fairly. There is no cost for the registration.

Road Works

In September, there was a major upgrade to the road through Grandview Heights. Because the roadbed was of an inferior quality, it was decided to use a technique called soil cementing, where cement is added to the road base to increase its strength. The road was then chip sealed, a process involving a heavy coat of sealant followed immediately with a covering of stone chips. Depending on the success of this project, we will be looking at other areas on Lakeshore Drive where soil cement may be used.

Volunteers

We would like to give special recognition to the volunteers who helped refurbish the gazebo in Hamblin Park. Fran Rowland, Betty Norton, Judy Stayura, and Gail Farewell did an excellent job in painting, and Ray Lemieux helped with the roofing project. This work has really improved the appearance of the gazebo, which was built 29 years ago and was in need of a little TLC.



Volunteer team painting the gazebo

Grandview's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration

Next year, our Summer Village will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. We are planning a combined event on July 1st to also celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. Current plans include kids' games in the afternoon, a barbecue, and a music night. We will be looking for volunteers to help make this celebration a success, so be sure to contact one of your Councillors if you can help. Further information will be available in the spring.

Movie Nights in the Park

Some of you may recall the movies in the park nights we used to hold (weather permitting) during the summer Saturday nights. The Summer Village still has a projector and screen for such events, but we need a family or two willing to take on the task of selecting a family-friendly movie and the setup/takedown of the equipment. It's not too tough a task, and on the four or five weekends that have the right conditions, it really makes a memorable experience for kids of all ages. If you'd like to volunteer, please call Councillor Ken Lewis at 780-919-7967.

Website

Be sure to register on the Grandview website (www.grandview.ca) so you receive notification of news and updates.

Season's Greetings

We hope everyone has a great Christmas holiday and wish you all the best in the New Year!

Your Village Council
Don, Hugh, and Ken