



## Summer Village of Grandview

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### Spring Newsletter 2017

After a winter with very warm temperatures, spring has finally arrived and more residents are returning to the lake. This will be a summer with lots of activities, including our Canada 150/Grandview 50 celebrations and the start of our wastewater project. We are providing some highlights of important issues affecting our Summer Village and our lake.

#### ***Wastewater Project***

The South Pigeon Lake Wastewater Project is rapidly moving forward. The design for the Regional Line Phase 2 is finished and the tender package will be submitted soon. This phase includes a pipeline extending from the Village at Pigeon Lake (VPL), along Hwy 13 and then north along Hwy 771 to a new pump station. This work is scheduled to be completed by March 2018.

Construction work for the local collection systems has commenced for some of the summer villages. The final design work for the Poplar Bay/Grandview system is being completed and the tender package is expected to be submitted in May. This work will involve directionally drilling the collection line through both of these summer villages and then to the Regional Pump Station. This work is planned for this coming summer.

Following completion of this municipal collection line, another tender package will be submitted for tie-ins (service lines) at each lot. As we have announced before, the plan calls for the service line to be directionally drilled from the mainline to the holding tank with the shut-off valve (CC valve) placed adjacent to each holding tank. This means that the municipal utility will install, own, operate and finance the service lines which will achieve a significant cost savings for each cabin owner. The connection costs for each lot have not as yet been determined but will be based on the distance and difficulty of installing this line. Costs associated with work between the CC valve and the house will be the responsibility of the owner including any landscaping or replacements (trees, fences, etc.). The plan is to have the contractor make the connection between the CC valve and the holding tank under a fixed-price contract for the owner.

To facilitate the efficient completion of this work, all residents should consider the following points:

- Any encroachments (fences, etc.) on the road allowance must be removed. The mainline is to be constructed in the ditch, rather than under the roadway, and operating space is required for equipment. We do not want anything impeding the work. Any relocated fence, shed, etc. must be positioned within residential property lines with setbacks as specified in Land Use Bylaw #291. Trees and shrubs do not need to be moved at this time but may require removal during construction.
- Tank inspections will be done during the construction period. Any failing tanks will have to be replaced with a new, two-chambered 1200-gallon tank. Some tanks are not situated in the optimal location for future building development. All lot owners are encouraged to consider the age, location, and condition of their holding tanks as it will

be significantly cheaper to replace a tank during this construction period than at a later date.

- Electrical power (120 V) is required at each holding tank. We will be providing details of the location, control panel requirements, and other specifications later this summer.
- For single-chamber holding tanks or two-chamber holding tanks with only one riser, a secondary chamber will be required for the pump installation. The Village is planning to purchase this equipment in bulk to reduce costs. New tanks and add-on tank chambers can best be installed at the same time as service lines are being installed.
- Wastewater Bylaw #272 requires that after completion of the collection system, all wastewater-producing lots must become connected to the wastewater system within 90 days for lots with fields and one year for others, finally eliminating all remaining septic fields and greywater bypass systems. To simplify the installation process for residents, the Summer Village will be offering to arrange for this connection when the service line is installed. This coordination of tasks will remove from residents the responsibility of getting the hole to the CC valve re-dug with a hydrovac truck at a considerable cost.
- Most installations in our summer village will be routine and simple. However a few will require more consideration. These will be evaluated by wastewater experts and the contractor in order to determine the optimal design.
- Throughout the summer, we will be taking information and measurements for the service line connection. To keep up with the latest news, visit the Grandview website: [www.grandview.ca](http://www.grandview.ca) . Please consider signing up for automatic updates.
- During the design and construction period, the cooperation and patience of all residents will help make this project advance in smoothly and efficiently. We look forward to having our summer village connected to the regional wastewater system. If you have any questions, please come to the Meet and Greet on May 21<sup>st</sup> or contact Don Davidson (403-860-1050).

**NOTE: contrary to information you have may have received from contractors, residents do not have to make reservations for connections to wastewater line. We are planning to arrange for this connection service and information will be coming later from the Village Office advising as to this phase of the project, and any arrangements to be made by residents.**

### ***May Long Weekend Meet and Greet***

We will be having a Meet and Greet on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 3PM. At this time, we will have a display available of the pump assembly which we will be using for the wastewater system. We encourage all residents to drop by to meet your neighbors, have a cup of coffee and get the latest news of what is happening in our village.

### ***Hamblin Trust***

A court order was received to wind up the Hamblin Trust. This is the formal approval for using the Trust funds to cover Grandview's costs for the local wastewater line and also to purchase pump assemblies for each lot. The court order also provides for undeveloped lots to receive the equivalent pump costs when the lot is developed or, if remaining undeveloped for a period of 5 years after the project starts, to have that amount credited against the taxes for those lots. The Trust will start to advance funds this year to the Summer Village to cover construction costs.

It should be noted that 94% of the lot owners agreed with the proposal to wind up the trust and there were no objections.

## ***Municipal Elections***

Municipal elections will be held across Alberta this year. Most municipalities will have the elections on a fixed date in October, but Summer Villages are granted the right to hold their elections during the summer period. The Summer Village of Grandview has set July 8<sup>th</sup> as Nomination Day and August 5<sup>th</sup> as Election Day. Anyone wishing to run for council can obtain nomination papers and requirements at the Summer Village Office. All three incumbent councillors have indicated that they will again be running for office.

## ***Canada Day 150 and Grandview 50 Celebrations***

Celebrations will be held on July 1<sup>st</sup> for both Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> and Grandview's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries. We plan to have activities for kids in the afternoon, followed by a BBQ and a music night for the entire village. A grant from the federal government has been secured to help fund this event. Volunteers will be needed, to organize and supervise the children's activities and to provide desserts for the meal. We hope everyone will participate in the celebration to make it a special day. If you can help, please contact a council member.

To help commemorate this special date, we are encouraging all residents to **plant a tree** on their lot. For anyone wishing to have a spruce tree for their yard, we will be providing these at no cost. The trees will be approximately 1 foot high. Planting trees will also help achieve the goals of the Watershed Management Plan which encourages more tree cover along the lake. Anyone wishing to obtain one or two of these spruce trees should contact the office (780-586-2494) or a council member. This project will be done in May, so don't delay in ordering.

## ***Municipal Addresses***

Municipal address numbers are very important when first responders need to find a specific location. Most residences have their addresses clearly visible from the road, but a few properties are still unmarked or poorly marked. Other municipalities have gone to considerable expense to install address placards at each lot in order to improve this situation. Hoping to avoid this cost, your Council has decided instead to appeal to individual property owners to upgrade their address signs where needed. Please note that our Land Use Bylaw requires street addresses to be clearly shown. This summer, we will be checking for compliance and sending reminder letters as required. This is a good opportunity for the residents to help keep our taxes low while also making our village safer.

## ***Purple Martin Project***

Last year, two purple martin houses were erected in our Summer Village. Based on the number of nests, it is estimated that over 100 eggs hatched. As well as providing enjoyment for people who like to watch and listen to these birds, they provide an important service in eating mosquitoes and other insects. This year, we are planning on installing four additional houses. It will be interesting to watch the population of purple martins increase in Grandview. We hope all residents will consider how they can improve their own properties for birds and butterflies.

## ***Cattail Restoration Project***

We have obtained a permit from Alberta Environment and Parks to transplant cattails to an area in front of Hamblin Park. These plants play an important role in the ecosystem of the lake, but unfortunately, they have been removed from many places along the shoreline. We hope to restore a small area to cattails in order to improve fish habitat and help encourage residents in other areas of the lake to protect these valuable assets for the lake's ecosystem.

## ***Tansy Control Project***

This year, the municipalities around Pigeon Lake will be making a concerted effort to remove the Common Tansy. This noxious weed can easily be recognized as a shrub with yellow, bud-like flowers. It is rapidly taking over the shoreline in many places and displacing native vegetation. We are asking all residents to help remove this plant. Small plants can be hand pulled. Larger plants may require a pry bar. Another variety of tansy, called Tansy Ragwort, is classified as a prohibited noxious weed. This means it must be removed. This plant has small yellow flowers with petals. Let's make our village free of these and other noxious weeds.

### **Common Tansy**

*Tanacetum vulgare*



### **Tansy Ragwort**

*Jacobaea vulgaris* (Aka Stinking Willie, Staggerwort, Tansy Butterweed)



## ***Boat Lift and Dock Storage Policy***

As many of you are aware, your council recently updated the Municipal Properties bylaw (now Bylaw #332) and instituted a policy to cover the safe and orderly storage of boat lifts and docks on village property during the winter. These changes were considered necessary due to the increasing amount of equipment being placed in Hamblin Park and other lake accesses. The policy requires each equipment owner to obtain a permit for storage of equipment and to clearly display an identifying number on each stored item. Most people have complied with this policy, and that compliance is greatly appreciated. In the few cases where equipment is stored improperly, it will be tagged with a reminder notice. There is no charge for a storage permit, and the new process is intended to ensure that residents of Grandview can enjoy storage privileges in a safe and fair manner. Also, as a matter of good governance, it is useful to know the extent of equipment being stored by non-residents.

## ***Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan***

A revised Watershed Management Plan is in the final stages of completion and will be rolled out to the watershed residents very shortly. The actions we choose can affect our environment in positive or negative ways. This Plan identifies specific things we can all do to protect the health of our watershed and our lake. As the Plan and related information becomes available for the public, it will be provided by the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association or on the website [www.plwmp.ca](http://www.plwmp.ca). It is important that all of us understand the goals of this Plan and support it fully.

## ***Research Project into Cyanobacteria***

Through the collaborative support of the municipalities around Pigeon Lake, a research project is being planned to develop an empirical model that can predict the occurrence of cyanobacteria blooms. This work will be done by Dr. Vinebrooke of the University of Alberta, a renowned expert in cyanobacteria.

At this time, we do not know the reasons for the recent spate of harmful algae blooms in our lake. There have been no significant changes in our watershed, although increases in water temperature have been observed.

Over the past two years, Dr. Vinebrooke has conducted research at Pigeon Lake into the importance of a balanced food web in the lake for maintaining algae blooms within historical levels. His work found an abundance of minnows in the lake and an absence of beneficial zooplankton, which preys on algae. A paper will be submitted to a peer reviewed scientific publication during May to present the results of this work. This paper will be posted when it is finalized.

Watershed stewardship is a critical step in addressing the issue of protecting water quality, but we need to know what further steps could also help. Although small lakes are amenable to specific interventions, in-lake treatments for lakes as large as Pigeon Lake have never been successfully identified and applied.

Before taking any corrective action on Pigeon Lake, it must first be understood what the specific drivers of these blooms are. Dr. Vinebrooke's project over the coming summer will have a price tag of \$25,000. During the month of April, presentations have been made to all of the Pigeon Lake municipalities (ten summer villages and two counties) to explain the value of the project and ask for funding support. A total of \$19,000 has been committed for this project by eight municipalities.

### ***Yellowhead Library***

Our Village supports the Pigeon Lake Public Library, a member of the Yellowhead Regional Library. It is located next door to the Summer Village office in Ma-Me-O. You are encouraged to patronize the library for books, movies, music CDs, e-resources, and a wide array of library services, including interlibrary loans.

### ***Municipal Finances***

Your council has just finalized the budget for 2017, and again we are budgeting for a reduction in operating costs. For most residents, municipal taxes, school taxes, and wastewater fees will all be lower this year than last year, depending on the most recent assessment of property value.

### ***Welcome to New Residents***

Many new residents have moved to Grandview over the past year. We offer our warmest welcome to these new neighbours and hope everyone will extend greetings and make them feel welcome to our community.

### ***Recognition of Volunteers***

We want to thank Marc and Sean Robbins, Brian Stasynek, and Kent and Claire Asselstine for helping with the buoys and Ray Lemieux for helping with the bird houses, and to express our ongoing appreciation of all other unnamed volunteers who help make our Summer Village a special place.

We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer! Please do not hesitate to contact any council member if you need more information on any matter, and be sure to attend our Annual Information Meeting in Hamblin Park on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 10 AM.

Have a great summer!

Your Grandview Council,

Don, Hugh, and Ken