



## Summer Village of Poplar Bay

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**CAO** Sylvia Roy  
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**ACAO/CFO** Gail Coleman

It's May and many of you are beginning to think about spending more time at the Lake and enjoying many fun experiences with family and friends. As the season kicks off, we want to share some information – some of it new, some just reminders - which we hope will contribute to a safe and enjoyable summer and fall.

You will notice that fire safety is a recurring theme in many of the updates in this newsletter. The tragic wild fires experienced in Ft. McMurray last year created the need to heighten our awareness of fire safety and protection in Poplar Bay, given the vegetation, topography and other related factors. Recognizing that this need existed across the province, the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta (ASVA) worked with a series of experts to produce a Fire Bylaw Guide and Template to assist councils in the development of bylaws that promote fire protection by encouraging safe behaviours and establishing preventative measures. We have incorporated many of these recommendations into our new Fire Control and Fireworks Bylaw, outlined below. Our intent was to enhance the fire safety and protection for the Summer Village as a whole, while not unduly limiting the ability of residents to continue enjoying the activities that make their time at the lake special.

### **NEW FIRE CONTROL & FIREWORKS BYLAW**

A new Fire Control & Fireworks Bylaw has been implemented, replacing the Fire Ban Bylaw which had been in effect since 2003. The new bylaw aligns more closely with similar bylaws in our neighbouring municipalities. Highlights include:

- The only outdoor fires that are allowed at any time will be those confined within a non-combustible structure or container which is lit for the purpose of cooking, obtaining warmth or viewing pleasure and fueled solely by dry wood, charcoal, natural gas or propane. These fires must be a minimum of four meters away from any buildings and from any combustible material; three meters from any property line other than the lakeside property line; and be kept under one meter in height and one meter in width.
- During a Fire Ban, only portable propane fire pits, gas or propane stoves, barbeques designed for cooking or heating and indoor fires are allowed. All other outdoor fires and fireworks are prohibited.

- The Alberta Fire Code requires all municipalities to issue permits for the use of fireworks. The permits outline the conditions under which fireworks can be used. They also provide a record for the Summer Village in case of an unfortunate incident arising from the use of fireworks. Copies of approved permits will be given to the local Fire Department and Bylaw Officer. Residents are also required to have the permit on hand at the time of use.
- Fireworks Permits are issued at no cost by the Summer Villages Office to anyone 18 years of age or older. Fireworks Permits are valid for a period of one year. Given that this is a new requirement, enforcement will not take effect until June 30, 2017 in order to give residents time to obtain their permits.

For full details, please refer to the Fire Control & Fireworks Bylaw 248 and Fireworks Permit Application which are included with this Newsletter. Please support the new Fire Control and Fireworks Bylaw and help keep our Summer Village safe.

#### **REMOVAL OF FIRE HAZARDS FROM MUNICIPAL RESERVES**

To reduce the risk of fire, a program to remove dead trees and other fire hazards from Municipal Reserves will be implemented. This is a reminder that storage of any material on reserves is not allowed unless items are clearly identified by lot number and then only in designated areas. Further, all such items must be removed by **June 30 each year**. Unidentified items will be removed and/or destroyed, so if you have unidentified items stored on reserves, either remove or identify them at your earliest convenience.

#### **FIRESMART HOME ASSESSMENTS AVAILABLE SOON**

The South Pigeon Lake Fire department is developing a service that will provide one on one consultation with residents to improve fire safety in and around their properties. Staff is currently being trained to perform this free service. Further information will be posted on [www.poplarbay.ca](http://www.poplarbay.ca) once the service is ready to be implemented. If you have not subscribed to receive updates to the website, please click on the "Subscribe" link and complete the subscription process to ensure you stay informed.

#### **CHECK HOMEOWNER INSURANCE POLICIES FOR 'FIRE FIGHTER' COVERAGE**

Important reminder - 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. You will be responsible for paying any gap between your insurance coverage and the actual cost for the response. "Fire Fighter" coverage is available through top-up insurance or a premium policy. Ensure your coverage is complete by contacting your insurance provider.

#### **EMERGENCY RESPONSE CONFUSION REDUCED**

A big thank you goes out to the more than 40 residences who responded to last year's request to remove old lot numbers from their properties. By doing this they have significantly increased the ability of emergency responders to provide timely service to residents in need. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

### **DORIS MCALLISTER - BYLAW OFFICER**

Doris McAllister, an experienced and well-qualified Bylaw Officer, is 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.

### **ICE & WATER RESCUE EQUIPMENT FOR PIGEON LAKE IS ON THE WAY**

A new Search and Rescue Personal Water Craft is in the process of being purchased to provide rescue services for Pigeon Lake. Thanks to fundraising efforts from individuals and surrounding communities, along with commitments from the Summer Villages of Argentia Beach, Crystal Springs, Golden Days, Grandview, Itaska Beach, Ma-me-o Beach, Norris Beach and Poplar Bay and the County of Wetaskiwin to provide ongoing financial support for the operation of the rescue service, this long awaited goal is becoming a reality. Training on the new equipment will begin once the Water Craft is delivered. Thanks to everyone who helped make this possible.

### **UPCOMING SUMMER VILLAGE ELECTION**

The date for the Poplar Bay municipal election has been set for Saturday August 26, 2017. For anyone wishing to join Council, completed nomination forms must be submitted to the Summer Villages Office by 12:00 noon on Saturday July 29, 2017. If more than three completed nomination forms are received, an election will be held. Otherwise, the three nominated individuals will be acclaimed as members of Council.

Participating as a member of Council can be a very interesting and rewarding experience. The term is four years and training and support is provided to get you up to speed. There will be at least one vacancy to fill in this election, so please give some thought to putting your name forward. For further information, please feel free to contact any of the existing Councillors and/or review the information posted on the Alberta Municipal Affairs website, at

[http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/mc\\_elections](http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/mc_elections)

### **ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING – SAVE THE DATE**

The Annual Information Meeting will be held on Saturday September 2, 2017, giving residents an opportunity to meet the new members of Council. Further details will be provided as the date approaches.

### **WASTEWATER UPDATE**

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 Summer Villages with local collection systems connecting to Phase 1 of the Regional Line will be commencing this month. 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/fall. Further updates will be presented at the Annual Information meeting on September 2, 2017.

## **LAKE HEALTH**

Poplar Bay has committed \$2,500 in support of a research project with the objective of developing a model that will predict algae blooms and determine the factors that influence the growth of algae on Pigeon Lake. Led by Dr. Rolf Vinebrooke of the University of Alberta, this project will build on the research that was conducted at the Pigeon Lake Provincial Park monitoring station last summer. His work found an abundance of minnows in the lake and an absence of beneficial zooplankton, which preys on algae.

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. Don Davidson, Grandview Mayor, has been leading the charge to obtain funding for this initiative. In Don's words, "Really we can't solve the problem at Pigeon Lake until we know what the problem is. The only way we are going to solve this is through a collaborative effort." Of the 12 municipalities around Pigeon Lake, eight have committed funding to the project.

## **ASSISTANCE RQUIRED TO ELIMINATE NEWLY IDENTIFIED NOXIOUS WEED – COMMON TANSY**

This year, the municipalities around Pigeon Lake will be making a concerted effort to remove the Common Tansy – similar to the efforts to eliminate Himalayan Balsam. 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. Information on how to identify and eliminate these weeds can be found on the Poplar Bay website. Let's make our Summer Village free of these and other noxious weeds.

Remember to always use the garbage bins to dispose of any weeds removed from your property.

Council would like to wish everyone a safe and wonderful summer.

Deb, Brian & Gary

## SUMMER VILLAGE OF POPLAR BAY

### BYLAW NO. 248

A BYLAW OF THE SUMMER VILLAGE OF POPLAR BAY, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, AUTHORIZING THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF FIRES AND TO BE KNOWN AS THE FIRE CONTROL & FIREWORKS BYLAW.

WHEREAS, Sections 7 and 8 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-26, provide that Council for the Summer Village of Poplar Bay may pass bylaws for the prevention or extinguishing of fires, the preservation of life and property, the protection of persons from injury or destruction by fire; and

WHEREAS, Council for the Summer Village of Poplar Bay, pursuant to the powers granted under the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-26, wishes to provide for the prevention, regulation, and control of the lighting of fires and use of fireworks within the Summer Village of Poplar Bay.

NOW THEREFORE, Council for the Summer Village of Poplar Bay, duly assembled, hereby enacts as follows:

#### SECTION 1: NAME OF BYLAW

1.1 This Bylaw may be cited as “the Fire Control & Fireworks Bylaw.”

#### SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

2.1 In this Bylaw:

*Alberta Fire Code* means The Alberta Fire Code 1997 (2014), as amended.

*Council* means the Council for the Summer Village of Poplar Bay.

*Designate* means the Chief Administrative Officer, Council, or Fire Chief as appointed by Summer Village Bylaw.

*Fire* means any flammable or combustible material in a state of combustion.

*Fireworks* means the fireworks listed in the Alberta Fire Code and the Explosives Act (R.S.C. 1985, cE-17), and includes firecrackers.

*Fireworks Permit* means a permit issued by the Summer Village to have in possession and discharge Fireworks with the Summer Village.

*Fire Ban* means an order by the Designate of the Summer Village may, at his/her discretion, prohibit the lighting or require the extinguishment of a Fire, including the ignition of Fireworks.

*Fire Department* means the Fire Department authorized by Council and/or any other Fire or emergency service organization providing Fire Protection Services to the Summer Village, whether pursuant to the terms of an aid agreement or on an ad hoc basis.

*Fire Hazard* means any condition, circumstance or event wherein the possibility of Fire is increased

*Illegal Fire* means any Fire which is in contravention of this bylaw.

*Indoor Fire* means any Fire contained in an indoor wood-burning stove or fireplace.

*Peace Officer* means a member of the RCMP, a Bylaw Enforcement Officer, or a Peace Officer.

*Person* means an individual and includes a firm, partnership, joint venture, proprietorship, corporation, association, society, and any other legal entity.

*Permissible Outdoor Fire* means a Fire confined within a non-combustible structure or container which is lit for the purpose of cooking, obtaining warmth or viewing pleasure and is fueled solely by dry wood, charcoal, natural gas or propane.

*Responsible Person* is one who is 18 years of age or older and is able to act without guidance or supervision because he or she is accountable and answerable for his or her behavior.

*Summer Village* means the Summer Village of Poplar Bay.

*Violation Ticket* means a form approved by the Summer Village or a form prescribed by the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter P-34.

### **SECTION 3: POWERS**

- 3.1.1 Where an emergency or a potential emergency exists, the Designate of the Summer Village shall be empowered to declare a Fire Ban, which prohibits all Fires within all or a portion or portions of the Summer Village for such a period of time and on such conditions as may be determined by the Designate. When a Fire Ban is in place, no person shall set off any Fireworks.
- 3.1.2 During a fire ban, portable propane fire pits, gas or propane stoves, barbeques designed for cooking or heating and Indoor Fires are allowed.
- 3.2 Fire Department personnel have the authority to investigate fires and order compliance to this Bylaw.
- 3.3 Where a Fire Hazard is discovered, the Designate of the Summer Village may order the Person in control of the land on which the Fire Hazard exists to reduce

or remove the Fire Hazard within a fixed time and in a manner prescribed by the Summer Village.

- 3.4 If an order made pursuant to Section 3.3 has not been carried out with the time prescribed, the Designate of the Summer Village may enter onto the land with any equipment and any person considered necessary and may perform the work required to eliminate or reduce the Fire Hazard.
- 3.5 The owner or occupant of the land on which work was performed pursuant to Section 3.4 shall, be responsible for the cost of the work required to eliminate or reduce the Fire Hazard. Default of payment of such cost will be charged against the land as taxes due and owing in respect of that land.

#### **SECTION 4: OFFENCES**

- 4.1 No person shall, either directly or indirectly, personally or through an agent, servant, or employee light any outdoor Fire other than a Permissible Outdoor Fire within the Summer Village. All other outdoor Fires are Illegal Fires.
- 4.2 During a Fire Ban, no person shall light any outdoor Fire or engage in any activity prohibited under Section 3.1.1.
- 4.3 No person shall, either directly or indirectly, personally, or through an agent, servant, or employee, ignite a Fire and let it pass from his/her own property to the property of another within the Summer Village.
- 4.4 No person shall burn or direct any other person to burn within the Summer Village waste materials including but not limited to household garbage, construction waste, leaves, branches, and garden waste. Clean, dry wood or charcoal is allowed.
- 4.5 No person shall allow Fire under his or her supervision to give off sparks, dense smoke, or offensive odour in a manner which creates a risk to property or public safety or which creates a nuisance to any person(s) within the Village. White smoke only is allowed.
- 4.6 No person shall obstruct a Peace Officer, Bylaw Officer or member of the Fire Department's Office in the performance of his or her duties pursuant to this Bylaw. Obstruction includes failure to provide access to property and failure to provide information as to the identity of individuals.
- 4.7 No person shall light a Fire within the Summer Village without first taking sufficient precautions to ensure that the Fire can be kept under control at all times. Required precautions include but are not limited to the following:
  - a) A Permissible Outdoor Fire shall be located a minimum of four meters away from any buildings and from any combustible material and three meters from any property line other than the lakeside property line.

- b) A Permissible Outdoor Fire shall be kept under one meter in height and one meter in width.
  - c) A reliable means of extinguishing the Fire shall be kept on hand at all times while the fire is burning.
  - d) A Responsible Person shall remain in charge of the Fire at all times while it is burning and until it is fully extinguished, leaving only cold ashes.
- 4.8 No person shall discharge, fire or set off Fireworks or any other pyrotechnic device within the boundaries of the Summer Village unless in possession of a Fireworks Permit for that purpose issued by the Designate of the Summer Village. A Person who has been issued a Fireworks Permit shall:
- i. Comply with all conditions outlined in the Fireworks Permit.
  - ii. Keep the Fireworks Permit at the site of the discharge for presentation to a Peace Officer, Bylaw Officer or member of the Fire Department upon request.
  - iii. Ensure a Responsible Person is in attendance at the Fireworks at all times.
- a. Fireworks Permits are automatically cancelled when a Fire Ban is in force.
  - b. Fireworks Permits issued under this Bylaw are not transferable.
  - c. Fireworks shall be handled, stored and discharged in compliance with the Alberta Fire Code.
- 4.9 The Person who owns of any Summer Village property damaged by Fire shall, either personally or by agent, immediately report the particulars of the Fire to the Fire Department.

## **SECTION 5: PENALTIES**

- 5.1 Any person, who fails to comply with any provision contained in this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine or fines as follows:
- a) First offence: a fine of not more that one hundred dollars (\$100). The fine is two hundred dollars (\$200) if the offence occurs during a Fire Ban.
  - b) Second offence: a fine of not more than two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250). The fine is five hundred dollars (\$500) if the offence occurs during a Fire Ban.
  - c) Third offence: a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500). The fine is one thousand dollars (\$1000) if the offence occurs during a Fire Ban.



- d) Fourth offence and offences in excess of four: the fine will be at the discretion of a Provincial Court Justice.
- 5.2 A Peace Officer authorized to enforce this Bylaw under Section 7 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-26 and who has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a person has contravened any section of this Bylaw may under the authority of this Bylaw issue a Municipal tag, and where this tag is not paid by the offender, a Part 2 violation ticket may be issued under the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter P-34, to that person.
- 5.3 Where any action has been taken whatsoever by the Summer Village for the purpose of responding to a fire call, suppression activities, and/or extinguishing a fire or for the purpose of preserving life or property from injury or destruction by fire, the Summer Village may, in respect of any costs incurred in such action, charge such costs so incurred to the person who caused the fire or to the owner or occupant of the land in respect of which the action was taken.
- 5.4 In respect of any costs or fines levied or charged under this Bylaw:
- a) The Summer Village may recover such costs or fines due and owing to the Summer Village pursuant to Section 552 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, Chapter M-26; and
  - b) in default of payment, where permitted by Section 553 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000 Chapter M-26, add the amounts due to the tax roll of the land parcel.

## **SECTION 6: SEVERABILITY**

- 6.1 Should any section or part of this Bylaw be found to have been improperly enacted, then such section or part shall be regarded as being severable from the rest of this Bylaw, and the Bylaw remaining after such severance shall be effective and enforceable as if the section found to be improperly enacted had not been enacted as part of this Bylaw.

## **SECTION 7: REPEAL OF BYLAW**

As of the effective date of this Bylaw, Bylaw #172 is hereby repealed.

**SECTION 8: EFFECTIVE DATE**

8.1 This Bylaw shall come into effect upon the date of third and final reading.

Read a first time this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017  
Read a second time this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017  
Read a third time this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017



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Deb McDaniel, Mayor  
Summer Village of Poplar Bay



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Sylvia Roy, Chief Administrative Officer  
Summer Village of Poplar Bay



# Summer Village Office

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SERVING THE SUMMER VILLAGES OF: ARGENTIA BEACH, GRANDVIEW, NORRIS BEACH, POPLAR BAY & MA-ME-O BEACH,  
CRYSTAL SPRINGS AND GOLDEN DAYS

## Summer Village of Poplar Bay

### Permit to Possess and Discharge Fireworks

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMIT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMIT FEE: \_\_\_\_\_ N/C \_\_\_\_\_

#### PERMIT HOLDER:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SUMMER VILLAGE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT): \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/PROVINCE: \_\_\_\_\_ Alberta

PHONE NO: \_\_\_\_\_

#### DATE(S) OF PROPOSED FIREWORKS USE:

From \_\_\_\_\_ until \_\_\_\_\_

#### TIME(S) OF PROPOSED FIREWORKS USE:

As per the Poplar Bay Noise Bylaw # 191 (attached)

#### LOCATION OF PROPOSED FIREWORKS USE:

Cabin # \_\_\_\_\_, Summer Village of Poplar Bay

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. The Permit Holder agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Summer Village of Poplar Bay (the "Summer Village"), and all employees or contractors thereof, for any loss, damage (property, personal or otherwise), claims and/or expenses that result from the issuance of this permit and/or the possession or discharge of fireworks.
2. The Permit Holder shall not permit anyone but the person listed on the Permit to possess or discharge Fireworks.
3. Fireworks Permits are not transferrable, and are only valid on the date(s) specified thereon, at the location indicated on the Permit.
4. The Permit Holder agrees to abide by all Municipal, Provincial and Federal laws respecting the use and possession of Fireworks, explosives and incendiary devices.
5. The Permit Holder agrees to be personally responsible for the clean-up and removal of all Fireworks debris.
6. Upon the issuance of a fire ban by the Summer Village or the Province of Alberta, this Permit is void, and the Permit Holder shall not ignite Fireworks.
7. No person under the age of 18 shall be permitted to possess or discharge fireworks.

## DECLARATION

I am the person listed above. In exchange for the granting of this permit, I accept and agree to abide by all applicable Terms and Conditions of this permit.

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**Applicant's Signature**

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**Authorized Representative**  
*Summer Village of Poplar Bay*