



Summer Village of Grandview

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Winter 2017 Newsletter

Greetings from your Council.

As the year draws to a close, it is time to give an update of some of important issues facing our Summer Village.

1. Wastewater Project

The design of the Phase 2 Regional pipeline and pump station, which will provide service to Grandview, Poplar Bay, County of Wetaskiwin developments, and possibly the Provincial Park, is being completed and will go to tender in mid-January 2018. The scheduled completion date is November 2018. The route for the pipeline is west on Hwy 13 from the Village of Pigeon Lake to the Lakedell road (RR 12), north along the Lakedell road for approximately 1.5 km, west to Hwy 771, and then north to the location of the new pump station. Construction will commence in the first quarter of 2018.

2. Local Municipal Collection Systems

The local collection systems have been completed in Viola Beach, Norris Beach, and the Village at Pigeon Lake. Individual service connections have started and should be finished next summer. In addition, the local system has been completed for Ma-Me-O Beach, and tie-ins will commence next year. Construction of the local collection systems has commenced in the remaining Summer Villages: Crystal Springs, Grandview, and Poplar Bay.

For Grandview, the installation of the pipeline is complete, and the fusing of the pipeline segments and installation of valves, cleanouts, and air relief valves is underway. The connection between the Grandview and Crystal Springs pipelines is also underway. A valve between these two pipelines will be normally closed and will be opened only in emergency operations. The construction work for the installation of the local pipeline has taken longer than expected but will soon be complete. Please exercise caution in construction areas.

3. Grandview Service Tie-ins

We will be meeting with the engineering contractor early in 2018 to discuss the preparation of the tender package for the residential tie-ins. As we have discussed previously, the design plan is to have the CC valves installed adjacent to each holding tank. Under this arrangement, the connection line from the

mainline to the CC valve will be owned by the Summer Village. The costs for any work done on the residence side of the CC valve will be charged to the home owner. This work will be done under a rate schedule basis to provide price certainty. Arranging the project as a village contract rather than individual contracts for each property owner will help everyone benefit from the economies of scale.

For those residents who require a secondary “pump vault,” the work will also be done under a rate schedule. Costs to each resident will depend on the type and condition of the holding tank and the distance and obstacles involved in making the connection. If you have not yet sent in your response to our previous inquiry about the situation on your lot, please do so at your earliest convenience. We will be able to provide a more accurate assessment of the costs after the bid documents have been received from the successful bidder. As we have outlined previously, all residents should carefully consider their existing situation in terms of age and location of the holding tank. It will be far cheaper to replace the holding tank, if needed, during the hookup time rather than some future time to accommodate a redevelopment or a tank failure.

Undeveloped lots will have the CC valve situated at the property line unless owners request some other placement, such as may be desired to protect trees along the property line or to accommodate a planned tank installation.

We are currently preparing the connection agreement that each resident will need to sign for wastewater service. This document should be available at the end of the first quarter, 2018.

While most service connections will be straightforward and simple, a few locations will require special consideration. We plan to have a wastewater installation company review these cases to provide suggestions for the connection. If you feel you have a special or difficult installation, please contact the Summer Village office or Don Davidson (403-860-1050). Special situations can also be reviewed next summer during the construction period.

Significant construction will be occurring next year, and we ask all residents to be patient and understanding. The project is now near completion, and we will be soon be able to enjoy a modern, efficient wastewater system!

4. Modernized Municipal Government Act

You may have read about the revisions that have been made to the Municipal Government Act this year. This Act provides the rules and direction for municipalities on how they provide governance to their residents. Summer Villages, as municipalities, are required to follow this Act.

Among the more significant changes is the requirement for collaboration between neighboring municipalities. Each municipality is to have an *Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework* (ICF) with each of the municipalities sharing its borders. This document is to address where the neighbors can share

possible shared services such as fire, recreation, waste management, and transportation. The Summer Villages of Pigeon Lake, including Grandview, currently collaborate on many services including joint administration, wastewater management, garbage collection, fire protection, emergency management, emergency aid, library support, and road sharing.

Another requirement is for each municipality to have an *Intermunicipal Development Plan* (IDP) with neighboring municipalities. We currently have such an agreement with the County of Wetaskiwin and the Summer Villages of Norris Beach, Crystal Springs, and Poplar Bay. This agreement covers development activities, annexation, and road cost sharing. We expect that our current agreement, with only be minor adjustments, will meet the new MGA requirements.

In addition, each municipality is required to have a *Municipal Development Plan* (MDP). Previously, only municipalities with populations greater than 5000 were required to have an MDP. Our MDP will address policies governing development within the municipality.

These agreements and plans will be developed over the next two years. We will be working within the Joint Services Committee to prepare common documents through a planning agency with the possibility of obtaining a grant for this project.

Planning documents require the input from the residents, and you will soon be receiving draft plans for your review and comment. Your participation is important for the success of our summer village.

A *Code of Conduct* for councils is also required. We have updated this document for Grandview's council and have just enacted it as a bylaw. It will be posted on our website.

5. Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan (PLWMP) Update

After many years of work, the PLWMP has been completed and is out for comment from the stakeholders. This plan can be found on the website www.PLWMP.ca. All residents are encouraged to review this plan and participate in the 46 recommendations provided.

The Plan is currently being reviewed by all the municipalities within the watershed with the request that they adopt it by resolution. The PLWMP Steering Committee has already started to prioritize and implement the recommendations. One important recommendation will be the development of an agreement, possibly an Intermunicipal Development Agreement, between all 12 Pigeon Lake municipalities for the commitment of a certain standard of development and redevelopment of the lakeshore lands adjacent to the lake. The underlying goal of this plan is to reduce the amount of phosphorus that enters the lake. Phosphorus is the critical nutrient that diminishes water quality.

While municipalities play an important role in following through on the recommendations in the Plan, it is ultimately the responsibility of all residents in the watershed to ensure their actions do not have any negative impact on the lake. Many small, incremental improvements are required to make a positive change.

6. Ice Heaves

If you come to the lake this winter, you will notice significant ice heaves on the shoreline. These heaves, the result of the thermal expansion of the ice during the current warm weather, are occurring on the beach and should not be causing any shoreline damage. They result from the temperature cycles that occur each day and night. During the day, the ice expands while at night it shrinks. Since it cannot pull back, it cracks. The refreezing of the cracks causes the ice to continue creeping during each period of warming.

In recent years, we have experienced warm weather during November and December. Since the ice has not had a chance to freeze to the lake bottom, the ice heaves occur at the shoreline. In years when warm weather does not occur until late in the winter, the ice will have become securely fastened to the lake bottom, and the point of least resistance occurs in the centre of the lake, resulting in a major heave along the centre axis of the lake.



Ice Heaves Along Shoreline

This year, the lake became snow-covered soon after freeze up (November 11). Most of the snow has melted, leaving only a few spots smooth enough for skating. The ice is currently 12 inches thick. Enjoy the many winter activities our lake provides.

7. Fibre Optic Cable Installation

We have been approached by a company wishing to provide internet services to the residents of Pigeon Lake. This company is proposing to install a fibre optic cable in all of the municipalities around the lake to offer internet services to each resident. An easement agreement is currently being negotiated for the installation of this cable within the road allowance in our Summer Village. If a satisfactory agreement is established, the company will be providing information to residents, including connection costs and monthly fees, at a later date.

8. Hamblin Trust Distribution

In line with the court order concerning the winding up of the Hamblin Trust, the first distribution from the Trust has been made to the Summer Village of Grandview. The distribution amount of \$350,000 will be used to cover Grandview's share of capital cost of installation of the local collection system. A cheque was presented to CAO Sylvia Roy by the trustees on December 15th. As in previous years, a distribution will be made to each resident for the interest received during the current year. This distribution will appear as a credit on your 2018 tax assessment. Because of the recent change in tax rates for trust accounts from 25% TO 48%, this year's credit will be lower than in previous years.

9. Canada Day Celebrations

Following the successful Canada Day celebration last summer, Council has decided to continue this event next year. Again, we are planning to have a Penny Carnival during the day for the children followed by a barbecue and a music night in the park for everyone. Please save the date (Sunday, July 1st) and consider participating as a volunteer. We hope to encourage some of the great cooks in the village to bring desserts and treats. More details of this event will be provided next year.

New information is posted on our village website frequently. If you haven't already done so, please go to www.grandview.ca and sign up for updates by clicking the SUBSCRIBE TODAY button on the home page.

All the best to everyone over the Christmas season, and if you are out at the lake over the holidays, be sure to come to our Meet and Greet at Hamblin Park at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 31.

Your Village Council,

Don, Hugh, and Ken