



SILVER BEACH NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter 2014

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2013 Highlights

January-February	The year started with favorable weather. An application for a Final Mile Rural Community Program grant of \$70,000 to bring wireless Internet service to Silver Beach was submitted.
March	Silver Beach and Sundance Beach received a \$150,000 Regional Collaboration Program grant to develop a shared administration.
April	Council learned the application for wireless Internet service to Silver Beach was not successful.
May	Tax notices were mailed to residents on May 14. Bins were placed at the upper turnaround on Silver Beach road for the long weekend spring clean-up.
June	Colored boundary stakes were placed to establish the boundaries between private and public land.
July-August	Summer students again maintained the public lands and roadways in Silver Beach. Fortunately, a large fish kill in Pigeon Lake did not materialize.
August 17	Elections were held for Silver Beach Councillors and Allan Watt, Brad Clough, and Barb Martinson were elected for a 4-year term. Three advance polls were held to allow residents more opportunities to vote.
November	Ground-breaking and construction of the new shared administration office at Sundance Beach began. Development and planning for Silver Beach went on-line with the provincial eSite program. A public hearing was conducted to receive residents' feedback on the closure of four Silver Beach roadways, with Ministerial approval pending.
December	Record snowfall resulted in the major challenge of keeping Silver Beach Road cleared and the Baumann's did an outstanding job of keeping us moving.

2014 Plans

Road Improvements	Asphalt repairs and new asphaltting of Silver Beach/Silver Bay Road will continue this spring. Engineering for retaining wall remediation to prevent erosion near the
Park Planning	Council will consider options for upgrading Ouimette Park.
New Administrative Office	The Silver Beach administration will be relocated to the new administrative offices at Sundance Beach. Residents will have a staffed admin office they may visit to get information, pick up forms, pay taxes, and discuss any concerns they may have.
Residence Street Numbers	Council will begin planning for the placement of street number signs on public property in front of each residence to facilitate emergency vehicle access to the correct address.
Recycling	Council will consider implementing a recycling program in Silver Beach during the summer months.
Policy and Bylaw Review	Council will conduct a review of all municipal policies and bylaws.

**THE EDMONTON
COTTAGE LIFE &
CABIN SHOW**

**APRIL 25-27, 2014
EDMONTON EXPO
CENTRE**

Development

Development Permits

Most residential developments at Silver Beach require the owner to get a development permit. Permit applications are available for downloading from the Silver Beach website (www.silverbeach.ca) or by phoning the admin office. All developments are subject to the Land Use Bylaw which is also available on the website or from the admin office.

Safety Code Inspections

Once a development permit has been issued, the owner or contractor must contact The Inspections Group (780-454-5048) to obtain building, gas, plumbing, and electrical permits. These permits are required to ensure the construction is completed in a safe manner.

Compliance Certificates

As part of selling your property or for other purposes, the owner or their confirmed agent may apply to the summer village for a Compliance Certificate that shows the house, garage and other buildings are located on the property within the setback boundaries required under the Land Use Bylaw. To obtain a Compliance Certificate, please contact the admin office.

Encroachment Agreements

If a property owner's house, garage, sheds, sidewalks, parking pads, decks, stairs, retaining walls, landscaping materials, gardens and other similar structures are located beyond their property line and onto municipal lands, these must be removed. The owner may apply for an Encroachment Agreement or Letter of Authorization to keep these structures on public lands and application forms may be downloaded from the website (www.silverbeach.ca) or obtained by contacting the admin office.

**SAFE BOATING GUIDE
BOAT MAINTENANCE
TIPS AND SAFETY
RULES**

www.discoverboating.ca

Emergency Services

Pigeon Lake Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO)

On September 17, 2013 the Minister of Municipal Affairs issued the first ministerial order of its kind in Alberta to establish the Pigeon Lake REMO. The REMO is responsible for ensuring there is an updated Emergency Management Plan in place to prevent and respond to disasters and emergencies should these occur (e.g., tornados, wildfires, ice storms). Two Emergency Coordination Centres are being established on Pigeon Lake, at Ma-Me-O Beach and Sundance Beach. Clinton Boyda is the Director of Emergency Services and he is responsible for coordinating an immediate response to any emergencies that may emerge. If you are interested in the REMO or Emergency Management Plan, please contact Clinton (780-619-2466) or the admin office.

Mulhurst Bay and District Fire Department

Silver Beach continues to enjoy fire protection services from Chief Wayne Benson and the dedicated firefighters from the Mulhurst Bay fire department. This year, we will be working with Chief Benson to develop a Fire Protection Plan for Silver Beach and implement fire prevention actions to make Silver Beach a "Fire Smart Community." Please feel free to visit Chief Benson at the Mulhurst Fire Hall or contact the admin office for more information.

Check Your Insurance Policy!

We remind all residents that the annual fee Silver Beach pays for fire protection only supports the maintenance of the fire department. If the volunteer fire department is called out to fight your fire, you will be billed for their services. Check that you have fire department response insurance.

Also check your insurance for flood control because the summer village cannot accept any responsibility for storm damage. The distance from Ouimette Park to the Mulhurst Fire Hall is 1.7 km.

Pigeon Lake Protective Services (PLPS)

The Silver Beach Council and administration are responsible for managing the Pigeon Lake Protective Services department. PLPS provides Peace Officers who patrol Pigeon Lake summer villages and enforce the following Provincial Statutes:

Animal Protection Act	Petty Trespass Act	Stray Animals Act
Dangerous Dog Act	Youth Tobacco Use Act	Tobacco Reduction Act
Environmental Protection Act	Provincial Offences Procedure Act	Traffic Safety Act
Gaming and Liquor Act		

Peace Officers also enforce summer village bylaws such as:

Development permits	Noise complaints	Unightly properties
Speed limits	Road Bans	Vehicle parking
Liquor bans	Fireworks	Off-highway vehicles
Fire bans	Commercial vehicle load weights	

Peace Officers provide other services in the summer village communities including vacant residence security checks, advice to Councils on bylaw development, bike rodeos and safety programs for kids, mechanical inspections of commercial vehicles, and car seat safety checks.

To learn more about PLPS services, contact Senior Peace Officer Marty McKinney (780-586-3882)

CANADIAN RED CROSS

**DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS KIT**

www.redcross.ca

**INSURANCE BUREAU
OF CANADA**

WEBSITE

www.ibc.ca/en/

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA)

What is the PLWA?

The PLWA is a charitable, non-profit environmental advocacy group made up of a diverse membership of people who live, work and play in Pigeon Lake and its Watershed.

The PLWA mission is to enhance, preserve and protect Pigeon Lake and its Watershed as a healthy and environmentally sustainable ecosystem for current and future generations.

The primary work of the PLWA is the restoration and preservation of natural ecosystems and water quality such that the water quality.

How is Silver Beach Involved with the PLWA?

Council budgets \$40/lot as Silver Beach's annual contribution towards the operations of the PLWA. Membership in the PLWA is free but Silver Beach residents must ensure their contact information is in the system by contacting info@plwa.ca or calling 403-816-6049.

PLWA News

News highlights from the PLWA include the following:

- PLWA was chosen by the Alberta Wastewater Operator's Association as one of 5 community groups stepping up to address a water-related challenge.
- PLWA received a \$35,000 grant from the Province to continue the work on the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan.
- *2013 Year End Homesite Living by Water Report* is now available. The Homesite Consultation is A FREE SERVICE for all watershed residents to learn how to be a good lake steward. The report highlights how we are doing to become a lake friendly watershed community.

If you haven't yet had a consultation please Sign Up Now for this next summer!

- The PLWA sponsors the development of a Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan (PLWMP). Terms of reference have been developed for the PLWMP steering committee and they have developed a strategy to involve Pigeon Lake residents in the planning process. The topics discussed to date include (1) the use of cosmetic fertilizers, and (2) model land use bylaws to protect the lake.

For more information on PLWA happenings, visit their website at www.PLWA.ca

PLWA Videos and Reports

To download the following and other reports, visit the PLWA website at www.plwa.ca.

- 2 or 5 minute videos showcasing Pigeon Lake and the PLWA, visit their website.
- *PLWA 2013 March Water Update*
- *AHS Pigeon Lake, 2012 Beach Sampling Results*
- *AE SRD Options to Control the Blue-Green Algae*
- *Presentation Lake Biology 101*

**PLWA
MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL**

info@plwa.ca

**PLWA
WATCH THE PIGEON
LAKE VIDEO**

www.plwa.ca

For Your Information

Update Your Contact Information

When you change your address, or if you are new to Silver Beach, please inform the admin office. Also, please forward your email address to the office if you wish to receive information updates from the office. Your email address will not be disclosed to outside parties and will only be used by the Silver Beach administration to communicate with you.

2014 Property Taxes

Property tax notices will be mailed to residents in May. Once Council has finalized the 2014 budget, we will know how much tax revenue is required. A mill rate will be set and this is calculated as the dollar amount/\$1000 of assessment for your property. For example, if the mill rate is 5% (\$5 per \$1000 of assessed value) and your property is assessed at \$500,000, your property tax for 2014 will be \$2,500 (\$500,000 divided by \$1000 times \$5).

Not all of your property tax goes to operating Silver Beach. Each year, the province requires that every municipality in Alberta contribute a portion of all property tax collected to the Alberta School Foundation Fund (ASFF) for the operation of schools throughout the province. The ASFF contribution from Silver Beach each year is substantial, and in 2013, it amounted to about \$250,000 or almost 60% of the total property tax collected from Silver Beach residents.

You may pay your taxes on a monthly installment plan. You have the choice of either having your bank account debited each month or mailing post-dated cheques to the admin office.

The 2014 property tax must be paid by June 30. Payments received after July 1 will be subject to a penalty of 10% of the total tax payable. If property tax is still not paid by January 1, 2015 an additional penalty of 12% will be levied.

Wastewater Services

The Northeast Pigeon Lake Regional Services Commission (NEPLRSC) provides wastewater services to Silver Beach and this includes maintaining the sewer lines and lift stations. Each year, four summer villages and the County of Wetaskiwin contribute their share to the NEPLRSC operating budget. In 2013, the Silver Beach share of 16% amounted to about \$25,000. In addition, Silver Beach continues to pay \$10,500 annually as our share towards the debenture (loan) that funded the construction of the wastewater system in 1989. The good news...the debenture will be paid off in 2014. To learn more about our wastewater services, please contact the admin office.

Waste Collection

Silver Beach contracts with MCL Waste Systems for regular curb-side waste collection for all residents. Waste bins are provided and emptied every two weeks from October to April and weekly from May to September. The 2014 waste collection schedule is posted on the Silver Beach website and weekly pickup commences on May 12 this season. If MCL has not collected your waste or you wish to purchase or repair the waste bin, please contact MCL at 780-352-2625.

Council Meetings

Silver Beach Council meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are usually held in Councillor Clough's office in downtown Edmonton at 11219-100 Ave. All Council meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend. If you wish to make a presentation to Council, 48-hour prior notice must be given by contacting the admin office.

Summer Employment

This summer, we will continue to hire summer students to provide maintenance services at Silver Beach (e.g., grass mowing, weed removal, park cleanup). If you or someone you know is interested in summer employment at the summer village, please send your resume to the admin office.

**ALBERTA MUNICIPAL
AFFAIRS**

**GUIDES TO PROPERTY
ASSESSMENT AND
TAXATION**

[www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/
mc_property_assessment_
and_taxation.cfm](http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/mc_property_assessment_and_taxation.cfm)

COTTAGE LIFE

**5 SPRING CLEANING
TIPS FOR YOUR
COTTAGE**

www.cottagelife.com

Contacts

Councillors

Mayor Allan Watt—(780-554-0881) (awatt@silverbeach.ca)

Councillor Brad Clough—(780-975-3737) (bclough@silverbeach.ca)

Councillor Barb Martinsosn—(780-986-4726) (bmartinson@silverbeach.ca)

Administration

Harold Wynne, Chief Administrative Officer—(780-985-2441) (hwyne@silverbeach.ca)

Joan Wynne, Municipal Clerk—789-985-2441 (jwynne@silverbeach.ca)

Office mailing address—P.O. Box 619, Thorsby, AB T0C2P0

Office phone—(780-985-2441) Fax—(780-401-3251)

Website—www.silverbeach.ca

Emergency Services

Fire Dispatch—(call 911)

RCMP-Thorsby—24 hour (780-789-3950) Administration (780-789-3951)

Pigeon Lake Protective Services—(780-586-3882)

Utilities

ATCO Gas emergency (1-800-511-2447) General inquiries (780-310-5678) Admin (780-352-3321)

Fortis—24 hour (780-310-9473)

Permits

Development Permit—contact the admin office or visit the Silver Beach website

Building, gas, plumbing, electrical permits—contact The Inspections Group (1-866-554-5048)

Alberta First Call—(1-800-242-3447)

**PLEASE REMEMBER
SEND US YOUR
CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

info@silverbeach.ca

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.silverbeach.ca