



Summer Village of Grandview

P.O. Box 100 (605 - 2nd Avenue)

Ma-Me-O Beach, Alberta T0C 1X0

Phone: (780) 586-2494 Fax: (780) 586-3567

Email: Information@svofficepl.com

Website: www.grandview.ca

Spring Newsletter 2020

Greetings from your Council

This year is certainly presenting many challenges as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are reaching every corner of the earth, including our Summer Village. The situation is rapidly escalating, and only with the support of every resident in following the rules and guidelines provided by the federal and provincial governments can we make it through this crisis. Your Council is closely monitoring the situation through the Pigeon Lake Regional Emergency Management Agency and is prepared to take whatever action is necessary to protect our residents. The playground has been closed until further notice, and all public gatherings, including the Meet and Greet meetings we have had for the past 10 years, have been cancelled. Please follow Alberta Health Services (AHS) guidelines: respect social distancing, and if you feel unwell, self-isolate for 14 days. The Summer Village website <https://www.grandview.ca/> will be our main venue for making public announcements, so be sure to go there and, if you haven't already done so, register for notifications of updates.

Newsletters Posted on Grandview.ca website

Because of the costs and inconvenience of printing, handling, and mailing, this will be the last paper newsletter that we will be sending out by regular mail. Future newsletters will be posted online. If you have visited the Grandview website and signed up for email notifications, you will be sent a notification whenever a future newsletter or other news is posted.

Summer Village Operations

In finalizing the 2020 operating budget, your Council has been able to achieve another year with a zero increase in overall requisitions. As you are aware, your final tax rates are also influenced by property assessments and provincial educational assessments, neither of which we control. In any case, your tax bill this year should remain the same as or very close to last year's. It should be noted that the province has announced it will not be increasing the educational assessment for this year.

Two major capital projects, the wastewater system and the road restoration, are currently in their final stages. The road will be examined after spring breakup, and any necessary repairs will be made. The road will then receive another coating of chipseal to provide a more substantial level of surface protection. We are hoping the absence of potholes will not lead to an increase in speed violations!

Regarding the wastewater project, only a few minor repairs to manhole valves and holding tank connections remain to be done. Both the Regional System and our local pipeline have performed without problems throughout the winter. At this time, 62% (132) of our 214 wastewater-producing lots have had pumps installed and 37% (81) have had the pumps commissioned. Council has decided that the current operating fees are sufficient for the ongoing operation of the system, so they will remain the same for the coming year. These fees appear on your annual tax bill. And, in recognition of the hardships being caused by the COVID-19 crisis, the deadline for connecting to the wastewater system has been extended by one year.

A separate information sheet is being provided to residents concerning details of pump installation, commissioning, and operation.

Municipal Government Act Requirement

As we had previously mentioned, recent revisions to the Municipal Government Act (MGA) specified new obligations for municipalities for collaboration and development. The first obligation was to have an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework completed by April 1st. This was accomplished by the writing of a bylaw in unison with five other neighboring municipalities. This bylaw outlines a framework for how neighboring municipalities must provide services in a collaborative manner. The next phases of this project include the preparation of the Intermunicipal Development Plan and the Municipal Development Plan. Further updates on these projects will be provided on our website.

Pigeon Lake in the Winter

This past winter, Pigeon Lake saw no ice ridges, ice quakes, or ice thrusts on Pigeon Lake like those seen in recent winters. These phenomena are caused by rapid increases in temperature. If you are interested in reading a technical paper about the 2018 “cyroseism” at Pigeon Lake, click the following link to the *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*.

<https://www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/abs/10.1139/cjes-2018-0196>

During the winter water sampling program, something amazing was noticed: visibility through the water under the ice was measured at a remarkable 22.5 feet. This shows how transparent lake water can become in the absence of disturbance of the sediment by wind and boats and without the growth of phytoplankton.

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association

In spite of the challenges facing us with the COVID-19 concerns, the valuable work of the PLWA will be continuing throughout the year with the goal of improving our watershed and protecting our lake. This year, the water sampling program has been expanded to include spring runoff and under-ice sampling in addition to the ongoing summer water sampling program. The main emphasis will be on the implementation of the Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan. This plan provides the roadmap for improving the health of our watershed and Pigeon Lake. See www.plwmp.ca

Catherine Peirce, the Executive Director, is doing a very capable job in organizing the many programs and events of the organization. PLWA is supported by many volunteers, but Catherine’s energy and dedication are essential to its success.

Funding for the work of the PLWA is an ongoing challenge. If you appreciate the organization’s considerable efforts to sustain the health of your lake, please help them out with a tax-deductible donation. Details can be found at www.plwa.ca

Annual Information Meeting

In view of the COVID-19 crisis, we will not be having any public meetings in the foreseeable future. This includes our Canada Day BBQ, the Music Night in the Park, and the Annual Information Meeting (AIM). However, Council has decided to hold the AIM as a video conference. We are currently using the video conference app called “Zoom” for council and committee meetings, and the province is also using it for many larger conferences. Many people are using this free, user-friendly app to keep in touch with family and friends. If you would like to try Zoom, you can use it for free from the Zoom website: <https://zoom.us>. If you need some assistance in setting it up, contact a member of Council.

To participate in the July 18th AIM, just follow these steps:

1. Send an email to GVaim@telus.net. In the Subject line, write AIM. In the message, write your name and lot number; nothing else is required. Our response will be sent to the email address you have written from.

2. In the week prior to the AIM, you will receive an invitation to join the July 18 meeting online. This invitation will contain a link to be clicked on the day and time of the meeting.
3. On July 18 at a few minutes before 10 a.m., click the aforementioned link. You will be connected into the AGM. On your computer screen, you will be able to see any documents provided by the speakers. If you have questions or comments, you will be able to address them to the group, much like our meetings in Hamblin Park.

We suggest that you send your email as soon as you read this newsletter so you won't forget this requirement. You will receive a confirmation email shortly after you send the email.

We will add a reminder on our website in July for any updates to this process and another reminder to register.

Prior to the AIM (at a date to be announced), we will host a practice session for anyone interested to deal with any questions or problems with use of the app. You can also call a member of Council for assistance.

To our knowledge, we are the first municipality to schedule a teleconference for the Annual Information Meeting. Your Council feels it is important to share information in an open and transparent manner so that the residents of Grandview understand the direction we are taking for our Summer Village. For this reason, please be sure to participate in this important meeting. Online meetings may be more common in our new future, and this will be an excellent opportunity to try one out.

COVID-19

To ensure that all residents are receiving consistent, up-to-date information, Council recommends that you frequently visit the Government of Alberta website: www.alberta.ca/covid-19 and the Government of Canada website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>. Our Grandview website will include only limited information that is pertinent to our Summer Village. Please remember that social media cannot be considered a reliable source of anything!

In the meantime, here are some useful tips:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently.
- Practice social distancing, religiously!
- Self-isolate when required.
- Do not leave your residence if you are unwell in the slightest!
- Consider wearing a homemade face mask or scarf when you are out in public. Masks have been shown to reduce transmission.
- Maintain contact with your neighbors. This is a great opportunity to get to know them!
- Seek help if you need it.

Your Council is closely monitoring the daily developments of this crisis and will be taking all appropriate actions, including declaring a State of Local Emergency if necessary.

If we all maintain vigilance and focus on the important issues, we will be able to enjoy another summer at the lake. We wish everyone well.

Your Summer Village Council,

Don Davidson (403-860-1050)

Hugh Read (780-221-9357)

Ken Lewis (780-919-7967)