



Summer Village of Poplar Bay

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Spring 2020 Newsletter

This year is presenting many challenges as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are reaching across communities, including our Summer Village. The situation is rapidly changing, 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 health crisis. Your Council is closely monitoring the situation through the Pigeon Lake Regional Emergency Management Agency (REMA) <https://www.pigeonlakeemergencyagency.ca/> and is prepared to take whatever action is necessary to protect our residents.

We welcome all residents to enjoy their property at the lake but would ask that everyone Please follow Alberta Health Services (AHS) guidelines: respect physical distancing, limit the number of people you have contact with. Visit the Government of Alberta website: www.alberta.ca/covid-19

2020 ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING & BBQ IS CANCELLED

The 2020 Annual Information Meeting is now CANCELLED.

WASTEWATER UPDATE

The wastewater system in Poplar Bay has been working well over the winter and this spring. THS Septic and Civil Solutions has been in contact with many of you who are now ready to activate pumps on the system. Please note – THS will not be able to activate your pump until you have sent in a signed Wastewater Utility Services agreement, and either paid the local improvement levy up front, or signed the Wastewater Utility Amortization of Local Improvement Levy form. These forms are available on the Poplar Bay website at poplarbay.ca/WW-Service-Agreement and poplarbay.ca/WW-Service-Amortization.

For those of you who already have pumps installed, and have not already done so, the payment and or forms are due in the office on or before July 24th, 2020. If you have any questions about these forms, please contact the office at 780-586-2494 and select option 3 to leave a message for Gail.

THS is already back in the Summer Village completing landscaping of properties connected last year. This work will proceed as quickly as possible dependent on soil conditions and weather.

THS plans to start tank connections and pump installations for the remaining 80 properties in beginning the first week in July. They will contact you directly to schedule this work. Even given the current concerns around CoVid-19, THS expects to complete all of the tank connections and pump installations this summer.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS POSTED ON POPLAR BAY 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 signed up for email notifications, you will be sent a notification whenever a future newsletter or other news is posted.

NO WAKE ZONE

Residents are asked to respect the “no wake zone” in the lake adjacent to the shoreline. A “no-wake zone” is an area where vessels are expected to travel at slow (idle) speeds to minimize the wake. This zone minimizes the erosion to the shoreline and keeps residents and other watercraft users safe.

YARD WASTE

Please do not dump yard waste such as grass clippings and leaves in the ditches. This negatively affects the water drainage and contributes to blockages in culverts and flooding.

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 total.

Late last fall we were able to undertake some road repairs to patch the worst of the breaks on the lake road, we were able to do this work with grants and did not have to use any your tax dollars.

Our focus this summer is to work on improving drainage and water runoff management throughout the village. We plan to re-contour some ditches and to install or repair culverts where necessary. We also will be looking to do some hazardous tree removal from our municipal reserves. This will include cutting and removing dead and dying trees from the municipal property. We would welcome any residents who would like to volunteer to assist in this undertaking. If you would like more information, please contact one of your Councillors.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT REQUIREMENTS

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 which we have now have in place with five 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 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.

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

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 village website will include only limited information that is pertinent to our Summer Village. Please remain vigilant, and focus on following health guidance and responsibly enjoy another summer at the lake. We wish everyone well.

POPLAR BAY COUNCIL:**Mayor Fraser Hubbard**

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Deputy Mayor Brian Meaney

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Councillor Gary Carew

780-910-7310