



#10 Norwood Close
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June 18, 2012

2012 Taxes

The 2012 tax notice and assessment is included in this package. Taxes are due July 31st. They MUST be post-marked on or before that date. The only option available is to mail in a cheque. Other electronic or banking options were considered, but were found to be too costly.

A blue-bag recycling program could be made available if there was enough interest from ratepayers. The rate would be \$6 / residence / month. Each additional Summer Village that signs up reduces the price by \$0.25 / residence / month to a bottom rate of \$4.50 / residence / month. The company was suggesting weekly curbside pickup in the summer and bi-weekly in the winter, although we could try to get them to offer the service only in the summer.

To make the area look more natural and aesthetic, 6 new aspen trees were planted around the portable toilet.

An agreement was signed on May 16, 2012 to transfer the access lot (Block 1 Plan 1534 ET) to the back lot owners. Rather than having access to the lot by a lease agreement, they have now formed a non-profit company and have fee simple ownership of the property. Use of the lot will continue as it has in the past, the property will not be developed, and if any of the covenants or obligations are not followed, the Summer Village will have the option to purchase the property back for \$1.00.

An agreement has been signed with the County of Leduc for the Summer Village of Itaska Beach ratepayers to access the Sunnybrook Transfer station for disposal of materials other than household garbage. There would be no fee for taking your waste there. Garbage may also be taken to West Dried Meat Lake Landfill at no cost, or to the Leduc County Landfill but you must pay cash or cheque. There will only be 10 cards available for the Sunnybrook Transfer station, so the cards must be shared. A \$50 deposit cheque will be required to ensure the cards are returned. Contact the Summer Village office if you need to use one.

Two regional grant initiatives involving all 10 Pigeon Lake Summer Villages are underway. Both the Pigeon Lake Policing model, and Regional Emergency Management Planning are continuing to progress as planned.

The Summer Village of Itaska continues to recognize the important role the Pigeon Lake Watershed plays in protecting Pigeon Lake. A donation of \$40 per ratepayer has been made to help fund their continued projects.

A special “thank you” to Kevin Valastin again this year who has volunteered to put out and remove the buoys from the lake!

Long-term planning meeting: This fall, the Summer Village Council will be hosting a long term planning meeting for capital projects that could be considered and funded through grant programs. Residents are encouraged to attend.

Himalayan Balsam: Work continues to be done around the entire lake to get rid of the prohibited noxious weed: himalayan balsam. Please pick this weed on your shoreline, and help a neighbour if you are able.

Annual Information Meeting: July 28, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at Sandholm Community Hall

Annual Picnic: ~4:30 p.m. on July 28th, meet in the park for a picnic and games. Bring your own meat to bbq, plates & cutlery – Council will supply the rest. Enjoy an afternoon in the park with your family and visit your neighbours!

Volunteers are appreciated to help with the setup of tables, and clean-up after the picnic.

For up to date information, please visit our website: www.itaska.ca

Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater System

The Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater Planning Committee is comprised of the municipalities of the County of Wetaskiwin, County of Leduc, Maskwacis Cree, and the Summer Villages of Ma-Me-O, Sundance, Grandview, Norris, Poplar Bay, and Crystal Springs, as well as the North East Pigeon Lake Regional Services Commission. The Committee exists to address wastewater issues surrounding Pigeon Lake, and the associated environmental and health concerns by constructing and operating a Regional Wastewater System to service the growing population around the Lake.

The Committee commissioned an engineering study, completed in 2007, which gave recommendations on possible solutions to the issue of wastewater going into Pigeon Lake. The report included public consultation sessions in the area around Pigeon Lake, at which residents had the opportunity to voice ideas and concerns.

The recommendation from the report involves the installation of a regional transmission system separated into two parts, north and south. Both the north and south regional transmission lines would utilize the existing Mulhurst Lagoon, which has been recently upgraded to be capable of treating the additional effluent, but will require a storage upgrade to handle increased flows.

An engineering pre-design study for the Regional Wastewater System was completed in November of 2009, funded through Water For Life funding. The study analyzed, among other

things, such factors as line location, geotechnical issues, lift station location/design, pipe size, flows, lagoon requirements, and costs. The study has been adopted by the Committee as the basis of moving forward with design and construction of the project.

The engineering pre-design study was submitted to Alberta Transportation as the basis of a "Water For Life" program application for funding for detailed design and construction of the regional wastewater system. Correspondence has been received from Luke Ouellette, Minister of Transportation, indicating that funding has been approved in the amount of 92.86% of project costs, up to a maximum of \$10,307,400 for Phase One of the project. This will fund the expansion of the Mulhurst Lagoon and the construction of a regional wastewater line running from the lagoon, south around the west end of Pigeon Lake. The final grant amount will be based on actual costs from design and construction of the system.

From the beginning of the Regional Wastewater System project it has been recognized that the First Nations around Pigeon Lake are a major stakeholder in this project. Representatives from the First Nations have been contacted and involved in each step of the process. Administration has been working alongside Maskwacis Cree staff, Councils from each First Nations Band, Alberta Transportation, and Alberta Environment to determine an ideal pipeline route for the Pigeon Lake Regional Wastewater System through the Pigeon Lake Reserve #138A. Through this process it has been determined that a needs assessment of the Pigeon Lake Reserve #138A is required in order to properly size the area and ensure that the best interests of all stakeholders are met.

In late 2011 engineering services for Phase one of the project was tendered out, with the contract being awarded to Genivar Engineering. A Wastewater Needs Assessment of the Pigeon Lake Reserve #138A, which the proposed wastewater line is routed through, is a requirement by the Pigeon Lake First Nations in moving forward under the current alignment. The purpose of the needs assessment is to assess the current and future wastewater collection and treatment needs for the Pigeon Lake reserve #138A, and to provide the Pigeon Lake First Nations with sufficient information to define the future needs, service concepts and cost implications of tie-in to the regional system. A proposal for the Needs Assessment was drafted by Genivar Engineering and approved by the Maskwacis Wastewater Committee and Planning Committee administration. Band Council Resolutions have been received from each of the Four Bands around Pigeon Lake Reserve #138A.

Detailed design of the lagoon project is currently underway, with a project completion date of approximately October 2012. The work will comprise of the construction of a 223,000 m³ HDPE lined lagoon storage cell and all associated components and the reconstruction of 2100 m of outfall ditch and all associated work as outlined in the contract drawings.

Design of the regional pipeline portion of Phase One is expected to commence in late 2012, with construction to be tendered and completed in the 2013 construction season.

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association Update

Major Development in the Watershed!

- The Watermere Resort application to the Leduc County to develop an area equivalent to 232 NFL football fields just beside Tide Creek was denied by the Leduc County June 12th. The PLWA has been very active on this application making detailed submissions of questions and concerns. Whether or not this is the last attempt to develop that area is yet to be seen. See the PLWA Watermere webpages for the full story.
- The County of Wetaskiwin is now reviewing the feedback report the PLWA submitted May 15th, 2012 on the Draft Pigeon Lake Area Concept Plan (PLACP). Given that the County intends to support development in their portion of the watershed, and wanting to do it right for the lake; the PLWA hired watershed development consultants to do an in-depth review, who have knowledge of the most current best practices for development in a watershed. There was much to commend as well there are a few important recommendations needed to strengthen the PLACP because the cumulative effects of development affects the health of the whole lake. It is posted on the PLWA website.

Launching... New website address is www.plwa.ca

Membership renewals are underway: Many people are choosing to renew (or join) on-line. The nominal fees have not changed. The PLWA appreciates the support of many members and from the Summer Village of Itaska. What we do, is limited to our resources (capacity and finances) so donations are appreciated.

Mark your calendars! 2012 Events & Resources

- **Awareness Event at The Village:** June 30th
- **Stewardship Workshops:** July 7th and 21st - Central Alberta Lake Biology 101 & Lakeshore Living 101 to promote more understand and a great place to come and ask questions.
- **AGM Open House:** August 25th - Given the concerns we heard from members, we've lined up Cheryl Galbraith who will speak on the topic of recreational water from a health perspective: Is it safe to swim? She has been an Environmental Health Officer for 15 years and her talk will include their role in monitoring health and issuing health advisories.
- **Homesite Consultations** ... and if you haven't yet – sign up for a free, informative consultation and information for how you live and steward your land. PLWA secured funds to have a consultant come to your place free, answer your questions. We each need to do what we can for the health of the lake so that collectively we do no further harm to the lake and start to improve the water quality.



The Itaska Yacht Club has been running races at Itaska since 1967. This year racing will begin with the Icebreaker on June 24th continue every Sunday morning until August 19th. Wind permitting, two races are held, with the first starting at 10:30. Coffee is served after each race at the cabin of the captain of the day.

Most of our sailors are from Itaska but a few come from other beaches. Newcomers are welcome. Non-sailors can help out by volunteering to run a safety boat during races. For more information contact one of the executive or just come out and sail. This year's executive are:

Commodore: OJ Clarke

Treasurer: David Alton

Racing Director: Heather Renaud

Members at Large: The Haley Family, Gordon Mckenzie

Itaska Audubon Society

In the late 1970s, a group of cottage owners on the South end of the beach joined together to buy 50 acres of land between Beach Avenue and the government road allowance immediately to the east and the entrance road to Itaska to the North. The goal was to protect the land from future development and to preserve it as a bird sanctuary and nature reserve. The 27 cottage owners later formed the Itaska Audubon Society to act as stewards for this land. Each year the Society collects dues and elects a board. More recently the Society added to original lands, by acquiring from the Village, the lots at the end of Beach Avenue and behind the Steier and Smith lots. While the land is owned by the Society, it benefits all residents of Itaska and serves as a buffer from development. It is the intent of the society to keep the land in as natural a state as possible. The forest is a rich environment with several unique ecosystems and a large number of birds, animals and insects as well as some rare species of plants.

To help preserve this unique environment, the Audubon Society requests that residents report any trespassing by ATV's or other vehicles and not dump branches, grass clippings or other refuse in the forest.

Let's work together to preserve and protect the Itaska Audubon Reserve!

For more information contact a member of the Audubon Society board:

David Alton, President

Blaine Gowing, Secretary

Janet Sperling, Director

Summer Village of Itaska
2012 Budget

Final

	2012 Budget	Detail	2011 Budget	Dec 31 2011	2010 Budget
REVENUE					
From Capital Reserve - Roads			0.00		0.00
Residential Taxes	288,212.00		286,469.76	285,716.60	298,170.26
Power, Pipe and Telephone	907.43		782.77	782.78	848.27
Local Improvements	9,995.00	off-sets expense	9,995.00	9,995.04	9,995.00
Tax Penalties and Costs	0.00		0.00	2,364.58	0.00
Sewer overdue bill charges			450.00	450.00	0.00
Return on Investment	350.00		400.00	393.72	400.00
Atco Gas Franchise Tax	2,700.00		2,628.00	2,813.72	2,667.00
BMGT Provincial Grant	7,065.00	474 resurface	5,900.00	6,010.00	9,525.00
Permits and Licenses	500.00		0.00	504.50	0.00
Tax Certificate and Searches			0.00	20.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	30.00		250.00	250.00	460.00
Fines			0.00	367.00	100.00
		Gazebo design, long term facilitator, cost-share rr474			
Prov. Cond. Grants (capital)	12,012.93	with Leduc County	2,800.00		9,400.00
Prov. Cond. Grants (Operating)	8,722.00	MSI	8,722.00	8,722.00	8,623.00
	330,494.36		318,397.53	318,389.94	340,188.53
EXPENSES					
Council Honoraria	1,785.00		1,785.00	1,615.00	1,785.00
Council Expense	600.00		600.00	281.21	1,000.00
Administration Fees	29,020.00		25,800.00	27,492.00	24,536.00
Medical and Health Insurance	1,739.00	BlueCross, WCB	1,356.00	1,481.33	1,688.00
Travel & Subsistence	3,000.00	NACLAA II Course	3,000.00	2,604.52	2,000.00
Postage	300.00		250.00	316.01	200.00
Telephone	650.00		650.00	658.41	480.00
Assessment Services - Private	2,000.00		2,000.00	2,023.07	2,000.00
Advertising			0.00	16.65	0.00
Municipal Membership	2,345.00		1,709.00	1,710.51	1,650.00
Auditing, Accounting	2,900.00		2,900.00	2,900.00	2,700.00
Legal Fees & LTO Expenses	1,000.00		2,000.00	444.86	5,500.00
		\$250 software upgrade (muniware), \$500 website homepage upgrade	250.00	0.00	0.00
Computer Software	750.00		250.00	0.00	0.00
Computer Support & Training	1,044.00		1,036.92	1,036.91	1,023.36
Election Expense	0.00		0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Purchased Repair & Maintenance	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
Rentals	2,656.00	office, computer, hall	2,656.00	2,656.00	2,696.00
Insurance & Bond	2,300.00		2,500.00	2,200.80	2,500.00
General Office Supplies	800.00		550.00	515.56	500.00
Bank Charges & Interest	50.00		0.00	91.10	14.00
		** Note: Do not build the amortization into mill rate; but need to ensure that reserves sufficient to fund capital items in the future	0.00	** 8861.62	8,545.00
Amortization			0.00	** 8861.62	8,545.00
		PLPS: \$55 * 44 hrs/month; RCMP: summer long weekends: \$2500			
Policing Costs	31,540.00		22,300.00	25,505.00	29,760.00
Firefighting Annual Contract	4,503.00		4,503.00	4,503.00	4,503.00
Disaster Planning	600.00			353.00	3,000.00
		snow plough, speed bumps, road repair			
Roads Contracted Services	18,095.00	Grant funded: Dust control and TWP 474 resurfacing	6,350.00	7,238.00	11,150.00
Boat Launch	1,500.00	maintenance	2,000.00		0.00
Roads: General Goods & Supplies	800.00	directional & stop sign	2,800.00		0.00
Roads Street Lights	5,500.00		5,760.00	5,400.85	3,900.00
Local Improvements	9,995.00	\$302.88 * 34 ratepayers	9,995.00	9,995.04	9,995.00
Sewer admin fees	21,000.00		20,679.37	20,679.37	20,244.71
		\$1900 big bins in spring; Regular pickup \$11,031; Grass Pickup \$100 per week; landfill agreement	15,330.00	15,277.80	16,977.00
Garbage: Contracted Services	14,831.02		15,330.00	15,277.80	16,977.00
Landfill fees	1,200.00		1,000.00	609.77	1,000.00
Public Facilities	900.00	portable toilet	900.00	850.00	900.00
Planning Contracted Services	2,050.00		809.00	871.89	400.00
		Grass mowing, pick himalyan balsam, PLWA support of \$40/ratepayer	22,501.00	23,799.41	13,526.00
Community Services	20,880.00		22,501.00	23,799.41	13,526.00
Parks & Rec: Contracted Serv	1,500.00	tree and stub removal	2,000.00	1,550.00	7,800.00
Parks & Rec: Gen Goods & Supplie	700.00	6 Aspens planted	0.00		
		volunteer to install/remove			
Buoys	300.00	\$300 supplies for repair	1,792.00	1,980.15	1,000.00
Playground	1,200.00	rototill, minor repairs	300.00	200.00	300.00
Picnic	1,400.00		1,200.00	1,345.51	1,350.00
Requisition: Res. School	135,054.20		147,695.64	147,695.64	154,008.82
Requisition: Non-Res. School	469.21		439.60	439.60	556.64
Contr. To Capital Programs	3,537.93	Gazebo design	1,000.00		0.00
Transfer to Reserve	0.00	no change to reserves	0.00		0.00
	330,494.36		318,397.53	316,337.97	340,188.53
	0.00		0.00	2,051.97	0.00