



COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Winter/2012

COUNCIL

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Council Notes...

Although the Land Use Bylaw changed the lake-side set-back for residential buildings from 3 m to 6 m, there is good reason to 'Step Back from the Shore'.

Consider how your property might be enhanced by having a few more trees and bushes on the lake-side!

South Side Wastewater Committee Update

With the upgrade of the Mulhurst Lagoon and pending Regional Wastewater line construction, the Summer Villages need to plan for their own local waste water collection systems. Representatives from the south side Summer Villages (Ma-Me-O Beach, Norris Beach, Crystal Springs, Grandview and Poplar Bay) have formed a committee to examine possible economies of scale and synergies that may exist by working together. The committee seeks to ensure the cost efficient construction and operation of the wastewater collection system and will work on project areas such as: design (reviewing installations in other municipalities), governance models and financing options. The goal is to have the project ready for construction when the Regional line construction reaches the Village at Pigeon Lake. The County of Wetaskiwin was also recently invited to participate on this committee. If you would like more information or have input, please contact the Summer Village Office to connect with the Committee.

Reflecting on Summer 2012

First of all, we want to thank everyone who participated in this Spring's public meetings to up-date the **Land Use Bylaw** (received third reading on July 11th, 2012). We appreciate that you took the time to be at meetings, to hear your neighbours' points of view, and let Council know your thoughts through letters, emails or in person. Council carefully listened and considered what was said in deciding how to balance everyone's input. These modifications will preserve the character of Crystal Springs, balancing reasonable flexibility with clear guidelines for property owners in our community.

Our summer really got started with the **Big Item curb-side pick up** that took place in June. And happily, we were able to make repairs to the **Boat Launch** without a lot of expense; the higher water level allowed more residents than usual to use the boat launch. Note that a key is required, or phone the number posted on the sign, to gain access to the Boat Launch.

The topic of **Public Access** has been raised a lot at Pigeon Lake regional meetings. Contrary to the appearance we are preventing public use of the Boat Launch, anyone can use it to walk to the water, by phoning number on the sign, or purchase a key for \$25 from the Administration Office. The only reason the gate was put in place was to prevent some 'inappropriate behaviour' by members of the public in the past.

You may be interested to know that our Summer Village has 7 points of access to the Lake: the Boat launch, 4 lakeside Parks & Reserves, and 2 laneways. It is estimated that public land is 5 acres of our Summer Village, and the Crystal Springs shoreline runs 2.42 km along Pigeon Lake. While our biggest Park Reserve is Eagle View Park, the Crystal Springs Daypark is our primary 'public access' point. Given the public use of this area, Council acted on the concerns of some residents: to ensure the beach at the **Daypark** is safe. It is estimated that this beach area is 1% of the total public land in our Summer Village, and 7% of our shoreline.

As good stewards of Pigeon Lake striving to maintain shorelines, it was necessary for Council to also address safety concerns and remove sharp, protruding roots on this public beach; the potential for soil erosion pointed out by another resident was addressed by covering the resulting bare areas with soil erosion mats.

Thank you to each of the residents who care so deeply for our Daypark and Pigeon Lake; together we will work to ensure best practices to improve the health of the lake and continue safe access for our children, guests and visitors at the Daypark.

This goal was reinforced by knowing that we had more Daypark visitors this year, enjoying the addition of some new picnic tables, which have the Summer Village's name on their tops; the tables were made for a very reasonable price at the Sheltered Workshop in Camrose, sourced by Kevin Pratt.

Crystal Springs Boat Poker Rally

Of course the new picnic tables came in handy as the Daypark was also the endpoint of our Boat Rally! August 11th was blessed with sparkling blue skies, though the air was a bit cool on the water. This year's rally included a 'Sail Past', with all boats passing the cottages along the Crystal Springs lakeshore before the Commodore blasted the horn. A very well-kept surprise, Diana McQueen, area MLA and Minister of Alberta Environment & Sustainable Resource Development, was in the Safety Boat for the Sail Past, to see for herself the state of the lake and how much recreational users enjoy it.

And enjoy we did: There were 26 boats and 180 people participating in the event which involved visiting five checkpoints around the lake to collect playing cards in sealed envelopes for organizers to announce a winner at the evening pig roast. Doug Muraca's boat had the best poker hand and won bragging rights and the Boat Rally Trophy, though we're not sure if Doug was happier with the trophy or his little grand-daughter who was in all the pictures!

Again there were many prizes, thanks to the generous support of local merchants and businesses who sponsored all of the door prizes and to whom we are very grateful. (Please see the next page and support these merchants with your business when you can!) And this year we included an activity for children, 'Dig for Pirate Treasure', at the playground where they (and certain adults) could also be decorated with face-paint!

Our Commodore David Edgar says, he organizes the Boat Rally as a fun way for residents to enjoy the lake and bring the community together for some fun. If you've missed it before, **circle the date for next year's Boat Rally on August 10th and come 'push the boat out*' with your neighbours!**

Thanks to the Recreation Board & Boat Rally Organizers David & Rosslyn Edgar, Linda Kerr and Violet Iles, and to the numerous volunteers who organized prizes, set up the Day park, and the put it all away again. Thanks also to Kevin and Josh Pratt for providing all that was needed for many Happy Hours.

Planning for 2013: Consultation

Council highlighted current issues at its Annual Information Meeting (AIM) and Pancake Breakfast on July 14th and very much appreciated comments and feedback expressed by residents at the AIM, the Boat Rally, along Crystal Springs Drive, via phone or email; thanks again to everyone who takes time to express their views. Council takes seriously the responsibility to represent your ideas for the benefit of our Crystal Springs community and the Pigeon Lake region. We look forward to consulting with you on addressing the larger questions facing Pigeon Lake residents, whether related to how to deal with cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) and fish kills, or the regional sewer project. Please feel welcome to contact us about what's on your mind.

Speeding

Our natural 'speed bumps' haven't been able to slow down some drivers! (Speeders, remember the road is also a side-walk; you may not see people walking around that bend at 7:30 in the morning in time to stop safely --- please slow down.) **PLPS reminds residents that if they can supply the vehicle license plate number and time, a speeding ticket can be issued: just give them a call.**

**Push the Boat Out - the English Thesaurus says it means "rejoice, have fun, party, enjoy yourself, make merry"*

*And on the subject of making merry, we wish all our residents a Merry Christmas and all the best for a Happy New Year
Doris, Wally & Kevin*

Sponsors and Donors for the 2012 Crystal Springs Boat Rally

Thank you to the following Sponsors and Donors who provided funding, goods or services which were used in our event on August 13th, 2012 or as door prizes for our Guests.

Merchants and Businesses

AG Foods	Hair That Rox
AMA- Geoff Edgar	JAB Motorsports
Back Street Antiques	Leibel's Pharmacy
Black Bull Golf Course	Pace Technologies Inc.
Country Sampler	Pigeon Lake Village Office
Daisy McBeans	Sherwood Ford
Decarson Rentals	Speedy Glass - Wetaskiwin - Kyle Mendryk
Dorchester Golf Course	The Clothing Store
Dwayne Harris Construction	Triton Tool Services
Eco Café	Western Spirits
Finishing Touches	

Please take a minute to thank these people for their generosity and let them know they were mentioned here.

And thank-you to these residents who also sponsored the event.

Residents

Ann Twedde	Leonard & Sharon Swanson
Barry & Bonnie Pratt	Murray & Lynn Porter
John & Glenna Johnston	

And thank you to everyone who volunteered, sold tickets, brought friends and family and helped set up, clean up and did everything else that needed to be done!

The Crystal Springs Recreation Board