

May 13, 2013

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Fire Ban: Effective May 10, 2013 there is a fire ban. Please visit the website, or albertafirebans.ca for up to date information.

Nomination Day

There are 3 positions for Councillor in the Summer Village of Itaska Beach. This four-year term commences August, 2013.

Nominations for these positions will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2013 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. (during the Annual Information Meeting) at the Sandholm Community Hall.

Nomination forms can be found on the website, or by contacting the Summer Village Office. Please ensure that your nomination form is completely filled out, including at least 5 eligible elector signatures.

Policing

As of February 15, 2013, the Pigeon Lake Protective Services no longer provides service in the Summer Village of Itaska Beach.

An enhanced R.C.M.P. contract has been entered into for the remainder of 2013. If you have an emergency, please call 9-1-1. If you wish to make a complaint, please contact the Thorsby R.C.M.P. at (780) 789-3950.

Council will cover the change in policing services in more detail at the forthcoming Annual Information Meeting.

Big Bin Cleanup

- The big bin cleanup will be held on the May long week-end (Friday May 17— Sunday May 19)

Taxes

- Assessment and tax notices will be sent out mid-June, and due on July 31.

Emergency Management

The 10 Summer Villages are working together on a Regional Emergency Management Plan.

The plan has been drafted and now the structure of the organization that will manage and operate the plan is being developed.

A regional emergency management bylaw is being passed by all the Summer Villages of Pigeon Lake.

Work continues on getting everything in place to apply for the

ministerial order to authorize the delegation of powers to the regional body.

An ICS 200 (Incident Command System) course was recently offered to emergency personnel and your CAO, June Boyda attended.

Itaska Beach Fire Prevention

The Mulhurst Bay Fire Chief reviewed Itaska Beach, and noted some recommendations to help make and maintain a fire safe environment for the Summer Village. Some of the points are listed below. If any of them address your property, please take appropriate action.

1. It was noted that the entrances to home owner lots from approx. 52 down to 41 have become very overgrown with foliage, thus affording very limited access, or in several cases no access to structures along the beach front by our fire or EMS units. This situation is very detrimental to not only quick fire suppression, but to ambulance accessibility in case of an emergency situation. There are also a few other lots along the road with similar situations. We require a minimum width of 15 ft, and a minimum height of 15 ft to allow quick and safe access and egress for our fire units. This should also be kept in mind when snow plowing occurs during the winter months.
2. Another situation was noted involving lot numbering. The existing numbers on many of the lots are not clear, as they have become discoloured, and blend in with their surroundings. We also noticed a major inconsistency as to where they are placed. During daylight hours this is not as big a problem as it is in darkness or during poor weather conditions such as fog, snow or rain. This has been recognized as a problem throughout many of the summer villages around the lake, and is a greater problem for the ambulance service, as they are not as familiar with many of the village numbering systems. We have been recommending a simple white and blue number sign (similar to many county signs) which could be placed in a common location for all lots, close to the road, close to the lot entrance, and high enough to stay above the snow depths. Staying away from winter snow plow damage should also be a consideration.

In order to provide some consistency in signage in the event of an emergency, as part of our Emergency Response Plan, the Summer Village will be installing consistent signage to each property this season, similar to many of the other Summer Villages around the lake. This project will be completed by Alberta Traffic Supply and is fully funded through Provincial grants. Visit the Summer Village of Poplar Bay for an example. Your current house signage does not need to be removed.

3. The turnaround / staging area at the very eastern tip of the Summer Village including the grassy area is adequate for summer months, but there should be adequate area for snow ploughs to pile snow without affecting the turnaround diameter. This is of key importance for winter access and egress of their units.

Council is working on this matter with the Audubon Society.

3. The final point noted was the close proximity of trees to overhead power lines. This is very important during late fall dry conditions, and during lightning storms. Fortis has been very accommodating regarding this matter, and usually respond to notifications within a reasonable time frame.

Road Work

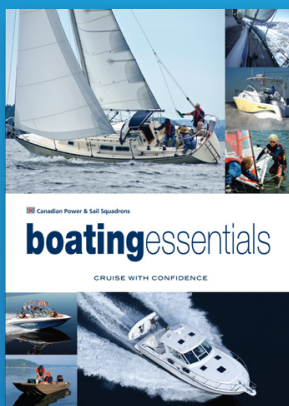
Plans for "Beach Ave" this year include: repair some frost boils, and re-gravelling prior to the dust control application. This work is generally completed before the May long week-end, but will be delayed due to the frost being late coming out of the road.

The Township Road 474 from Range Road 13 to the Itaska Beach entrance is under the County of Leduc. Their plan is to hot mix surface this road, however, this is still subject to the costs of tenders received (it has been placed out for public bid) and the final discussions of Council regarding road priorities balanced against allocated budget.

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) Update

The PLWA is your watershed association. Make sure you are connected and receiving updates about the lake and the efforts for the health of the watershed and lake: www.plwa.ca.

- **Be Part of the Solution!** Efforts around the lake are being stepped up (big time) this summer. Many opportunities are coming soon! Together we will show Alberta how much we care.
- **Exciting Summer Ahead!!** We are working on the following:
 - **Kids programs** - Nifty exercises, games and crafts about water quality, biodiversity and more...
 - **Field Trips** – Have a wonderful short family walk, learning about the life in our lake and watershed.
 - **Homesite Consultants** are here again! Want to know what you are doing right for the lake? Find out... [it is time to sign-up!](#)
- **AGM Open House:** August 24th morning (put that date in your calendar).
- **Water quality:** A two year in-depth water quality assessment is happening...
 - 2012 – Year 1 told us that most main streams carry water into the lake that is equal to the water quality of well developed areas. Our lake needs this improved.
 - 2013 – Year 2: Far more sampling. This information will tell us where to put our efforts for the greatest difference; what on-going monitoring will be needed; and, it will enable us to measure the difference we are making.
 - Is there a stream need you, even part of the year? If so, please - Be Part of the Solution: be a 'Stream Watcher'. Email: plwainfo@gmail.com
- **The Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan (PLWMP)** – is rolling:
The most current science on Cosmetic Fertilizers and research has been collected. We know who is doing what, and what is working. A Model Land Use Bylaw has been drafted. A resource website is being created. Surveys will be coming soon so you can tell the committees what social considerations to work into the recommendations. Tell us which topic should tackle next. Help make this plan, our watershed management plan. If you are getting PLWA updates you are connected. If not, please get connected, learn along with us!



Have you ever thought about taking a Boating Course?

You have your Operator Card, now get the Essentials and Cruise with Confidence. If you want to learn more about coastal cruising, these courses may be of interest.

Courses are held during the fall and winter months in Edmonton. The Maritime VHF-DSC Radio course could be held at Pigeon Lake if there is enough interest.

- Boating Essentials / Basic Boating
- Seamanship
- Advanced Piloting
- Fundamentals of Weather
- RADAR for pleasure craft
- Maritime VHF-DSC Radio
- Electronic Navigation

Please contact:

Randy Woods, Training Officer, Edmonton Power Squadron

Lake Cottage: Lot #21 Itaska Beach

Email: training@cps.ab.ca

Phone: (780) 669-1034 (leave message)

Squadron WEB Site: <http://www.cps.ab.ca/>