

Summer Village of Silver Sands

May 2021 Newsletter

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Mayor's Message:

We are very thankful to live in our Summer Village during this challenging time of COVID.

The ice went off the lake on Monday, April 26th, disappearing without an accumulation of ice on our lake shore.

Our Council meetings over the past year have been mainly by Zoom. We certainly miss the face-to-face interaction with our community members. Council set the 2021 budget for residents with a 1.5% increase in municipal tax dollars collected and a minimum municipal tax payable set at \$850.00.

We will have Fireworks, sponsored by the Federal Government, on July 1st, Canada Day.

2021 is an election year for all Alberta municipalities. Silver Sands' Election Day will be held on Saturday, July 10th at the Darwell Hall.

Family Day is set for Saturday, July 24th. The format will be subject to COVID restrictions. We hope to offer a children's component this year.

Council is establishing an Historical tab on our website. If you have documents of historical value, please refer to our website explaining how to submit your information.

Hopefully, the Telus tower will be functional by mid-July. The reason for the delay is that key components remain unavailable at this time.

Council will be offering an informational Zoom meeting on future regional sewage services for Silver Sands. We hope the Zoom meeting will occur in late May. Please watch the website for a date.

On behalf of Council, thank you to Dan Golka for his years of service to the Summer Village. Welcome to Dustin Uhlman as our new Public Works Supervisor.

Mayor, Bernie Poulin

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR 2021 CENSUS??



We encourage all residents to complete their census questionnaire (online option:

www.census.gc.ca). Accurate & complete census data supports programs and services that benefit **our Community** including grant funding to our Summer Village.

Bylaw Enforcement/ Community Peace Officer/ Animal Control/ RCMP

The Summer Village currently contracts Peace Officer/Bylaw Enforcement/Animal Control services through a joint agreement with the Town of Mayerthorpe. Residents can contact this office directly at 1-844-786-4650 or by email at bylaw@mayerthorpe.ca. A reminder that if you have an emergency pertaining to Police, Fire or Ambulance, you must dial 9-1-1 (the non-emergency RCMP line is 780-727-4446).

Snow Removal Bylaw

Please be aware of the new snow removal bylaw that is in place. Keep in mind that residents are responsible for snow removal on private property, and all snow debris cleared on a lot should remain on the subject parcel. Refer to bylaw 309-2020 on the Summer Village website for more information.

*Please clean up
after your pets!*



Use of Municipal Reserves

What are the Summer Village municipal reserve areas intended for?

- reserve areas are intended to provide active or passive park and recreation areas
- reserve areas are intended to provide walking trails and enjoyment of the natural plant and wildlife for residents and their guests

What are the Summer Village municipal reserves NOT intended for?

- reserve areas are not to be "annexed" into properties adjacent to them
- reserve areas are not to be cleared unless Council determines that areas need to be cleared of dangerous undergrowth or decay
- reserve areas are not to be used for the purpose of placing buildings or structures or extra storage of material or disposal of refuse without written authorization from Council
- reserve areas are not to be used for the storage of boat lifts or boat docks
- reserve areas are not for camping or recreational fires of any kind

Surveys have revealed significant encroachments upon municipal lands; including the placement of chattels and unauthorized use of the property such as cutting of trees and planting of non-indigenous plants and grasses. The Summer Village will be enforcing the use of the Municipal Reserve areas and will begin removing items from the Municipal Reserve Lands. Please ensure any personal items are removed from reserve lands prior to June 30th, 2021.

TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT

Property Assessment and Assessment Complaint Procedure

Each year, the Assessor will inspect certain properties within the Municipality. The property assessment is the estimated market value of your property which is used to calculate property taxes. If you disagree with your assessed value, you have 60 days from the date of your assessment notice to make an assessment complaint. The assessment complaint deadline is **Monday, July 26, 2021**. There is a fee of \$50.00 that must accompany a completed assessment complaint form which is available on the Summer Village website or by contacting the office. Prior to completing the assessment complaint form, please contact the assessor to first discuss the matter of your assessment (not your tax dollars) – Tanmar Consulting – 780-417-5191.

Property Taxes – Due June 30, 2021

The Summer Village collects revenue annually to meet the projected costs of providing services to the community. These revenues are received through grants and through municipal property taxes. Other amounts collected on your annual tax bill are collected on behalf of the Lac Ste. Anne Seniors Foundation, the Alberta School Foundation Fund and the Provincial Policing Fund.

If paying your taxes by mail:

Please make cheque payable to the Summer Village of Silver Sands and mail to Box 8, Alberta Beach, AB, T0E 0A0.

If paying your taxes through telephone banking or online banking:

You are required to set the Summer Village of Silver Sands up as a "Bill Payment", the account number will be your "Tax Roll Number" as shown on your Combined Tax and Assessment Notice.

The Summer Village is currently registered with the following financial institutions for on-line payments:

ATB FINANCIAL	BMO	CIBC	TD CANADA TRUST
SERVUS CREDIT UNION	SIMPLII FINANCIAL	SCOTIA BANK	TANGERINE

If paying your taxes through e-transfer:

Please contact the administration office to set up an email and a password.

Flowering Rush is a prohibited, noxious weed that has been introduced into several Alberta water bodies. It is an aquatic plant that grows as an emergent plant along shorelines of both lakes and rivers. Flowering Rush was brought to North America from Europe as a garden plant. This variety will form dense stands which will interfere with recreational lake use. Flowering Rush crowds out our native plants and has the potential to fill in an entire lake if left uncontrolled.



The invasive species known as Flowering Rush continues to threaten Lake Isle and surrounding watersheds. With the support of many other regional partners, the Summer Village of Silver Sands submitted an application under the Alberta Community Partnership - Collaborative Grant Program to help stakeholders build an effective Flowering Rush abatement strategy to address the issue. This application requested \$198,500 in funding to help with research, mapping, method testing and finalizing an implementation strategy.

We are excited to report that the application was approved. Together with our regional stakeholders, including Lac Ste. Anne County, Alexis First Nation, the Summer Villages of South View and West Cove and the Lac Isle Lac Ste. Anne Watershed Quality Management Society (LILSA), we have assembled a sub-committee and are preparing for some busy months, and years, ahead as we work to understand and address the Flowering Rush issue in Lake Isle. If you are interested in helping out, LILSA will be coordinating volunteers to support the field activities of the project and we encourage you to be in contact with them.

Lake Isle & Lac Ste. Anne Water Quality Management Society

www.LILSA.ca

Did you know that LILSA:

- ✓ Advocates for the health of our lakes;
- ✓ Is working hard to slow and prevent the spread of **FLOWERING RUSH**, an invasive species that is taking over Lake Isle and making its way to Lac Ste Anne;
- ✓ Completed a State of the Watershed Report and is working with other organizations to develop a Watershed Management plan;
- ✓ Partners with municipal and provincial governments to apply for grants and improve the quality of our lakes;
- ✓ Is working on short and long-term solutions to improve our lakes and keep them healthy and useable for generations to come;
- ✓ Needs more members to keep doing their important work!

Become a LILSA Member today!

There is no time commitment required. You can do as little or as much as you choose.

By becoming a member you will:

- ✓ Help support the health of our lakes;
- ✓ Be able to vote at our AGM;
- ✓ Be eligible to run for the board;
- ✓ Be a part of the solution!

Annual Memberships are \$20 (individual or family) & can be purchased at:

Alberta Beach Village Office (4935-50Ave)

Lac Ste Anne County Building (56521 Rge Rd 65)

Onoway Town Office (4812-51St)



Lake Isle and Lac Ste. Anne (LILSA)

LILSA is interested in hearing the viewpoints on lake water quality from residents & general users at Lake Isle & Lac Ste. Anne and have created a survey. Their primary goal from this survey is to find out the current knowledge base around the water quality, overall lake health, and residents major concerns surrounding it. This survey is completely anonymous, however, if residents would like any further information or would be willing to take any additional follow up surveys, you can leave your contact information at the end of the survey. Providing LILSA with contact information also gets you entered into a draw for a gift card to a local business. The survey is available until June 15, 2021.

LILSA, a nonprofit society, is committed to promoting the preservation of Lake Isle and Lac Ste. Anne Lake, located 40 minutes west of Edmonton, Alberta. LILSA's goal is to maintain and improve the quality of water. Their society is run entirely by volunteers.

Please go to the link: LILSA Lake Water Quality Survey or go to the LILSA website:

<https://www.lsawaterquality.com/> and click "Take Survey Now" which is located on the homepage.

DO YOU THINK YOU'VE SPOTTED A QUAGGA OR ZEBRA MUSSEL?

Report it to Alberta's invasive species hotline at **1 855 336 BOAT (2628)**.

Clean, Drain, Dry Your Boat!

Clean

- Clean and inspect watercraft, trailer and gear
- Remove all plants, animals, and mud at the access area or dock
- At home, soak your gear in a bleach solution for at least one minute
- Rinse, scrub or pressure wash your boat away from storm drains, ditches or waterways

Drain

- On land, before leaving the waterbody, drain all water from:
 - Bait buckets
 - Ballast
 - Coolers
 - Internal compartments
 - Livewells,
 - Bilges

Dry

- Dry the watercraft and gear completely between trips and allow the wet areas of your boat to air dry
 - Leave compartments open and sponge out standing water
- Please help to keep our aquatic animals and plants healthy - **Do not wash Vehicles, ATV's, Boats etc. in the lake!!**



Fires can happen! ARE YOU COVERED?

Did you know that the cost of fire suppression by the fire department is payable by the **property owner**? In our area we have seen the cost of fire suppression for a structure fire as high as \$28,000 and for a wildland (grass fire) as high as \$12,000.

Be sure to check your home insurance policy or talk to your insurance agent about what exactly your policy covers and how much it covers. Besides inquiring about your home structure fire insurance, we encourage you to inquire about wildland insurance (for a grass fire that happens but never reaches a structure).

ALSO, please be advised that should the fire department be dispatched by 9-1-1 to your residence for any reason (house alarms including false alarms, campfires during a fire ban or fires deemed out of control or unattended, downed utility line, etc) you, as the property owner, will receive an invoice. The only exception is for medical response calls (assisting Alberta Health Services) – there is no charge for these calls.

FIRE PITS

Within the corporate limits of the Summer Village of Silver Sands, fire pits must:

- Be at least 3 metres (10 feet) from buildings, property lines and anything else that could catch fire.
- Be less than 0.6 metres (2 feet) high / Be less than 1 metre (3 feet) wide.
- Have enclosed sides made from bricks, concrete or heavy-gauge metal.
- Have a mesh screen on top to stop sparks (spark-arrestor) with openings smaller than 1.25 centimetres (1/2 inch).



A Volunteer Fire Department in Silver Sands?

Did you know that if we can recruit 8 local residents (within a few kilometers of Silver Sands) that we may in fact be able to house a volunteer fire department within our community. Discussions would have to take place with respect to the details of how this could work, but it certainly would be a benefit to our community. The first step is to determine if we have interest from within our community to become members of a volunteer fire department. Candidates would have to participate in the required training through Onoway Regional Fire Services (North West Fire & Rescue) and would have to commit to ongoing training, meetings and active participation. If you are interested in becoming a member, or just hearing more about the expectations of being a member, please contact Chief Dave Ives at 780-777-4688 or davidives.nwfr@gmail.com.

Blue-Bag Recycling

What items can be put into the Blue bags?

- ✓ Mixed Paper
- ✓ Paperboard/Cardboard (clean, no food soil)
- ✓ Tin Cans (cleaned)
- ✓ Rigid Plastic (#1 & #2)
- ✓ Deposit Items (Mix containers, pop & beer cans/bottles, tetra paks)

(NO styrofoam / NO straws or plastic utensils / NO plastic bags / NO hazardous waste)

*Reminder to breakdown your
cardboard boxes!*

Waste / Recycling Collection

Weekly waste and recycling pick up is on Tuesday mornings weekly during the months of May to October and Bi-weekly during the months of November to April.

Summer Village Compost Site!

The Summer Village Compost site is located at the Public Works Quonset site. Hours of operation are Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The site currently accepts leaves and grass clippings. Compost soil for gardens is available at no charge. Please contact the Public Works shop to inquire – 780-797-2207 – leave a message.

Large Bin Clean Up

**When: Friday, August 20th, 2021 &
Saturday, August 21, 2021**

**Time: Friday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. &
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Where: Summer Village Quonset

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- ✓ **Metal & white metal including stoves, washers/dryers (\$20 per white metal item – exact change only)**
- ✓ **Clean wood**
- ✓ **Mixed household waste (includes stained, treated or painted wood)**
- ✓ **Mattresses (\$20 per item – exact change only)**

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL **NOT** BE ACCEPTED:

- Fridges, freezers, watercoolers, air conditioning units
- Tires, shingles, TVs, microwave
- Paint, stain, antifreeze, oil, dangerous goods /chemicals
- Trees/brush/branches, Hot Tubs, Concrete

Please note that the Summer Village has the right to refuse any item.

Masks must be worn while attending large bin site. If you are not feeling well – please do not attend the event. Once you are done dropping your items off, please leave the site immediately. Everyone's cooperation will help to keep everyone safe and make this day a success.

NEW CHANGES TO ALBERTA'S DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Alberta Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) is intended to fund uninsurable losses incurred due to disaster events. Typically, this covers damage from overland floods or wildfire. Some of the changes include:

- 90:10 cost sharing arrangement with local governments and private-sector applicant, which include homeowners, residential tenants, small business owners, landlords, agriculture operations, condominium associations and not-for-profit organizations and cooperatives.
- This arrangement means that the province will provide assistance for 90% of eligible disaster costs and the impacted municipality and private sector applicants are responsible for the remaining 10% of their respective costs. For homeowners, the assistance will be capped at \$500,000, however this is a one-time limit on disaster financial assistance per property. This means that if a property owner makes a DRP claim for \$100,000, that is the only payout available for that property. Properties that have claimed a payout under the DRP will be listed on government website so that prospective homebuyers will be able to determine the status before a purchase. Municipalities must now consider developing a reserve fund to offset the costs in the event of a disaster, however, these changes also come at a time when the province has reduced the Municipal Sustainability Initiative allotment by 25%. Municipalities must already make difficult financial choices and it may not be feasible to consider a reserve fund at this time.

SUMMER VILLAGE CONTACT INFO

General Contact Information

Mailing: Box 8, Alberta Beach AB T0E 0A0
Office Location: 4808-51 Street, Onoway, AB
General Office Phone: 587-873-5765
Fax: 780-967-0431
Email: administration@wildwillowenterprises.com
Website: www.summervillageofsilversands.com

Council Members

Mayor: Bernie Poulin	780-938-1197	bpoulin@xplornet.com
Deputy Mayor: Liz Turnbull	780-991-4052	lizturnbull@telusmail.net
Councillor: Graeme Horne	780-797-3883	graemehorne@mail.com

Administration

CAO/General Office: Wendy Wildman/Heather Luhtala	587-873-5765
Public Works: Dustin Uhlman	780-797-2207
Assessment: Tanmar Consulting	780-417-5191
Development Officer/Development Permits: Tony Sonnleitner	780-718-5479

Building/Plumbing/Gas/Electrical/Private Sewage Permit Provider - The Inspections Group Inc.:	1-780-732-4645
Call Before You Dig to Locate Gas/Power Lines:	1-800-242-3447
Fortis Alberta:	310-WIRE (9473)
Ste. Anne Gas Co-op (is also 24-hour emergency line):	780-967-2246
24-hour Energy & Environmental Response & Complaint Line:	1-800-222-6514
Animal Control/Bylaw Enforcement/Community Peace Officer:	1-844-786-4650
RCMP Non-Emergency Line (Evansburg Detachment):	780-727-4446
Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance:	<u>9-1-1</u>

Election 2021

2021 is a general election year for the Summer Village and all three (3) Council positions are open to receive nominations. If you are interested in running for Council, you can find election packages and additional information on the Summer Village website – or you can make arrangements to pick up hard copies at the administration office. As there is a requirement to include several supporting signatures from those electors nominating a candidate, we encourage interested individuals to get their forms as soon as possible – especially as COVID-19 makes meeting and acquiring these signatures more difficult than in past years.

Nomination Day: Saturday, June 12th, 2021 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - **Darwell Community Hall**

Election Day: Saturday, July 10th, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. - **Darwell Community Hall**

Advance Vote: Friday, July 2nd, 2021 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. - **Darwell Community Hall**

Notice of Nomination was mailed on Thursday, May 13th, 2021.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

June 30th – Property taxes due
July 1st – 2% Penalty on current taxes
August 1st – 4% Penalty on current taxes
August 20th & 21st – Large Bin Cleanup
September 1st – 6% Penalty on current taxes
October 1st – 6% Penalty on current taxes
January 1st – 18% Penalty on outstanding taxes

ELECTION DATES

June 12, 2021 – Nomination Day
July 2, 2021 – Advance Vote (if required)
July 10, 2021 – Election Day (if required)