

Summer Village of Silver Sands

May 2020 Newsletter

4808-51 Street, Onoway, AB

Box 8

Alberta Beach, AB T0E 0A0

Ph: 587-873-5765

Fax: 780-967-0431

Email: administration@wildwillowenterprises.com

Website: www.summervillageofsilversands.com



**DUE TO COVID-19 THE OFFICE IS
CURRENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.**

**STAFF ARE WORKING AND THERE IS A
SLOT IN THE DOOR TO DROP OFF
TAX PAYMENTS.**

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

How the world has changed since last spring! Covid-19 has created a new reality. I hope that all our residents and loved ones are keeping safe and healthy. It has been a long winter and hard to believe that the ice, last year, was off mid-April.

Thank you to our administrative team consisting of Wendy, Heather, Charlise and Dwight for providing council with excellent advice. Thank you to Dan, our Maintenance Foreman, for his continuing work to keep our village in tip-top shape. Thank you to Dennis Woolsey, Director of Emergency Management (DEM), and Rick Wagner, our Deputy DEM, for providing leadership in developing our emergency services plan.

We have set our budget for 2020 at a 0% increase. This was achieved by reducing the amount we normally set aside for an annual reserve. If you are encountering financial difficulties, we encourage you to go on a seven-month payment plan. Your total tax payable can be divided into seven equal payments, June to December 2020, with no additional charges or penalties.

Family Day is set for Saturday, July 18, on a modified basis. Join us and meet your neighbors. Restricted activities include breakfast for a toonie, golf, children's games, horseshoes, potluck supper for \$5 and fireworks. Please watch website for updates or changes to this event.

Northwest Fire and Rescue is our firefighting provider. They have fire halls in Onoway and Alberta Beach. They are prepared to place a fire truck at our Quonset if we can enlist at least 6 to 8 firefighting volunteers from our Summer Village and the Summer Village of South View. This could reduce our fire insurance rates. Please contact our Fire Chief, David Ives, at 780-777-4688 to make inquiries about training.

The work along Township Road 540 and Range Road 53 is part of the West Inter Lake District Regional Water Services Commission's regional transmission line taking water out to the communities of Seba Beach and Entwistle.

I would like to thank you for making the Summer Village of Silver Sands a great place to live and enjoy!

Mayor, Bernie Poulin

Budget and Tax Update

In recognition of the extreme circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting potential hardships faced by property owners, Council has approved the 2020 Operating and Capital Budget with a 0% increase in municipal tax dollars collected. As a result of passing a budget with a 0% increase in municipal tax dollars collected, the minimum municipal tax per property to be collected remains at \$700.00. Also in consideration of COVID-19, the tax penalty structure for 2020 was revised from 18% on July 1 to 2% on July 1, 4% on August 1, 6% of September 1 and 6% on October 1. The 18% penalty on outstanding balances on January 1 remains unchanged.

TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT

Property Assessment and Assessment Complaint Procedure

The assessed value amount that is on your notice is an estimate of the market value of your property as of July 2019. Each year, the Assessor will inspect certain properties within the Municipality. This is prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and the collapsed economy and, unfortunately, can't be changed due to Provincial regulations which govern property assessment. The property assessment is the estimated market value of your property which is used to calculate property taxes.

At this point it is unknown how the loss of employment, the closing of businesses, and/or other economic factors will affect real estate market values and, therefore, future assessed values. Assessors are bound by strict guidelines for assessment and will be ensuring everything possible is taken into consideration for the future.

You are encouraged to talk to an assessor if you have any concerns about the assessment as it relates to your property value in July 2019. 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 **July 24, 2020**. 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. Please also keep in mind that the assessor does not set the tax rates in the municipality, and, therefore, can not answer questions about property taxation nor can they answer questions about the amount of services you receive. 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, 2020

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 and the Alberta School Foundation 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 password at administration@wildwillowenterprises.com.

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).

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

Attention

There will be a \$500 reward to the person leading to the charging of the individual(s) who vandalized the Summer Village's speed indicator sign.

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 applied 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.

Lac Ste Anne County, the Summer Villages of West Cove, South View and Silver Sands, Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation and LILSA applied for and received a 3-year \$200,000 grant to collaborate and address the flowering rush issue. This is our second year of operation. We will continue with our 3-person team to mitigate the spread of this invasive plant on the east end of Lake Isle. We are also working with MLA, Getson, and Alberta Environment on a chemical treatment for flowering rush at the west end of Lake Isle. This team will also check and map for infestation from the Sturgeon River to the western end of Lac Ste Anne.
ACP Chair, Bernie Poulin

Lake Isle & Lac Ste. Anne Water Quality Management Society



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!

HELP LILSA

Covid-19 requirements restrict LILSA from conducting our AGM. We will host a virtual ZOOM AGM teleconference on Saturday, August 15 at 9:30 am. Please check the LILSA website www.lisawaterquality.com for details about joining us online.

AGM Agenda will include election of Directors, financials, flowering rush update and our guest speaker will address the newly released Sturgeon River Watershed Management Plan.

We ask residents to renew or buy the annual \$20 membership online.

This can be done by e-transfer to lilswaterquality@gmail.com.

The second ask is to then send an e-mail to the same e-mail address above confirming that you have paid, also providing name, address, phone number and e-mail address for our records.

Chair, Bernie Poulin

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 (4935-50 Ave)

Lac Ste Anne County Building (56521 Rge Rd 65)

Oneway Town Office (4812-51 St)

www.LILSA.ca

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
 - Coolers
 - Livewells,
 - Ballast
 - Internal compartments
 - 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



DON'T MOVE A MUSSEL!
Quagga/zebra mussels
 ruin boats and destroy waters
DON'T LET THEM RIDE WITH YOU!

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, campfire, 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).



FireSmart Canada and its partners are committed to safety from wildfire, but we're also concerned about your personal, family and community health and safety.

To ensure the best outcomes, we encourage the 2020 recipients of \$500 awards for Wildfire Community Preparedness Day activities to monitor information from government and health and safety experts and hold events only when it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, FireSmart Canada, NFPA, The Co-operators and the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction encourage communities to conduct activities from home that raise awareness of wildfire safety, such as posting and sharing Facebook and Twitter messages.

Award recipients – communities, fire departments and other organizations – may recommend to their audiences via web or social media, the following do-at-home activities:

- Downloading the FireSmart Begins at Home app and undertaking a structure ignition-zone assessment.
- Raking and removing pine needles and dry leaves within a minimum of 1.5 metres of a home's foundation. As time permits, continue up to a 10-metre distance around the home. Dispose of collected debris in appropriate trash receptacles.
- Cleaning pine needles from roof and gutters.
- Getting out your measuring tape and seeing how close wood piles are located to the home. If closer than 10 metres, relocating and moving the pile at least 10 metres from structures.
- Sweeping porches and decks to clear them of leaves and pine needles. Raking under decks, porches, sheds and play structures.
- Mowing grass to a height of 10 centimetres or less.
- Removing items stored under decks and porches and relocating them to a storage shed, garage, or basement. Gasoline cans and portable propane tanks should never be stored indoors and should be located away from the home.

As we navigate the evolving situation with COVID-19, FireSmart Canada, NFPA, The Co-operators and ICLR remain committed to supporting you with the resources you need to minimize risk from wildfire. For additional information, visit www.firesmartcanada.ca



VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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 packs)

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

*Reminder to break down 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

Postponed until further notice.

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- ✓ Metal including stoves, washers & dryers
- ✓ Clean wood
- ✓ Mixed household waste (includes stained, treated or painted wood)
- ✓ White metal (washer/dryers)
- ✓ Mattress - chargeable item \$23.10 each

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED:

- Fridges, freezers, watercoolers, air conditioning units
 - Tires, shingles, TVs, microwave
 - Pain, 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.*

Waste Bin - Replacement/Repair

Please contact the Summer Village Administration Office if you require a waste bin repair or replacement at 587-873-5765 or by email at administration@wildwillowenterprises.com.

Tree Removal

Trees that are dead or appear dangerous will be removed throughout the Summer Village. A reminder that trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owner.

Development Permits

All development within the Summer Village requires permits. For any questions or concerns on Development, please contact the Development Officer, Tony Sonnleitner @ 780-718-5479 or by email at pcm1@telusplanet.net.

Dock Permits

Provincial Requirements - There are new requirements in place for placing a dock in the lake. Please refer to the website for the dock permit application & the "user guide for dock permits." It outlines the requirements and process for an individual to obtain an authorization to place a temporary, seasonal dock, floating platform, pier, hoist and boat launch for personal recreational use in Alberta's water bodies.



SUMMER VILLAGE CONTACT INFO

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 587-772-1513 bpoulin@xplornet.com
Deputy Mayor: Liz Turnbull 780-991-4052 lizturnbull@telusmail.net
Councillor: Graeme Horne 780-797-3883 graemehome@mail.com

Administration

Office: Wendy Wildman/Heather Luhtala 587-873-5765
Public Works: Dan Golka 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:

RCMP Non-Emergency Line (Evansburg Detachment): 1-844-786-4650
Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance: 780-727-4446
9-1-1

Public Notification and Important Information

The Summer Village would like to get information out to our citizens quickly and efficiently in case of emergency, road closure, garbage pickup disruption, snow removal, tax payment deadlines, election dates, information meetings etc. See separate insert.



COMMUNITY WATCH

Please be aware of suspicious activity throughout the summer village. If you see something out of the ordinary that could be a potential crime, record any details and report the situation to the RCMP as soon as possible.

Let's work together to keep our community safe!



Emergency Preparedness: It is important to have an emergency kit with 72 hours of supplies as well as an escape plan for your family. Having the essentials and an emergency plan prepared can keep you and your family comfortable and safe.

For more information on emergency preparedness:
<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/be-prepared-build-your-emergency-kit>

If you are pressed for time, here are some basic items to consider for your emergency kit:



- Three-day supply of water (4 L per person per day)
- Non-perishable food for all family members and pets (three-day supply)
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, and cash
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- Prescriptions or special medications
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight, Battery-powered radio & extra batteries
- Sanitation Supplies
- Important family documents and contact number
- Insurance documents