

Summer Village of Yellowstone

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.summervillageofyellowstone.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:

As part of ongoing efforts to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Summer Village of Yellowstone has **CLOSED ALL PLAYGROUND STRUCTURES** until further notice. At this time, walking paths remain open, provided users practice physical distancing (2 meters or 6 feet of space between persons.)

Due to uncertain economic times Council and Administration has worked together in preparing the budget which has resulted in a zero percent increase for our overall Municipal Property Tax.

Should you need to travel to your cottage, please practice strategies to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

- Physical (social) distancing- (2 meters or 6 feet of space between you and others)
- Bring all necessary food and supplies with you to avoid non-essential trips to local businesses
- Practice appropriate hygiene (frequent hand washing, cough/sneeze in the bend of your arm, avoid touching your face)
- Please stay home if anyone exhibits any symptoms of illness. Have been in close contact with anyone who has travelled out of the country or has been found positive for COVID-19.

To join our mailing list for up-to-date news, please provide us with your email address. You may also call our office (587-873-5765) or email us at administration@wildwillowenterprises.com for updates or with any questions/concerns.

Council would like to thank you for doing your part in fighting the COVID-19 virus. Let's work together to keep our community safe.

Brenda Shewaga, Mayor

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!



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.

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, ATVS, 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

No person shall conduct any burning or light an outdoor fire unless confined within a pit or enclosure no more than 3 feet 6 inches in diameter and no less than 1 foot in height.



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.

Untidy & Unsightly Yards

The Summer Village will be enforcing untidy and unsightly properties – including those with uncut grass. A reminder that if the Summer Village performs any enforcement work on your property, those costs will be charged back to your tax roll. To avoid this, please do your part in helping to keep Yellowstone clean by ensuring your property is free of garbage and debris and that vegetation is tended to. Please note that any additional household waste that does not fit into your waste container will not be picked up by the service provider. Additional waste can be taken to the Regional Landfill Site which is located on Highway 43 just past Ross Haven and conveniently open 6 days per week - Monday through to Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed statutory holidays). The disposal fee at the landfill site is \$57.50 per tonne. There is also a recycle depot which residents are encouraged to use. You can contact the site directly if you require further information at 780-967-3466.

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.

*Reminder to please
clean up your ditches!*

Development and Permits

Prior to any construction, property owners must obtain, when applicable, a development permit from the Development Officer. The Summer Village's Development Officer is Diane Burtnick who can be contacted at **780-284-0410** or by email at development@wildwillowenterprises.com.

Building/Electrical/Gas/Plumbing/Private Sewage Permits

Please contact Superior Safety Codes to obtain building/electrical/gas/plumbing/private sewage permits at 1-866-999-4777.

Waste Bin – Replacement/Repair

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

Animal Control

The Animal Control Bylaw is in place to control and regulate the running at large of dogs and cats, the number of dogs and cats on residential parcels of land (no more than 2 of one kind), to control vicious and dangerous animals and to ensure it is the responsibility of the owner to not allow their dog(s) to bark or howl excessively. Please ensure dogs are on a leash at all times when within the Summer Village boundaries. A reminder to please pick up after your animal!

Off-Highway Vehicle Bylaw

The Off-Highway Vehicle Bylaw is in place to prohibit the operation of Off-Highway Vehicles in parks and on reserve properties. Off-Highway Vehicles are allowed to travel on roadways within the Summer Village between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., travel single file on the extreme right-hand side of the roadways and not exceed 20km per hour. A reminder, limited operation of Off-Highway Vehicles is permitted on Parkland or on a Public Place as follows:

- For the exclusive purpose of transporting Recreational Items to or from Public Lands used for lake access but only where such travel is by the most direct route possible or available in the circumstances;
- For travel to and from a private residence to an otherwise permitted location for the operation of Off-Highway Vehicle where such travel is by the most directly route possible or available in the circumstances.

All machines and operators must also comply with the Traffic Safety Act and any other applicable Alberta regulation(s). Check out our Bylaws online at www.summervillageofyellowstone.com.

Use of Municipal Reserves

The Summer Village of Yellowstone currently allows residents winter storage (September 1st to May 31st) of boat lift, boat hoist and pier section items on the Summer Village's Community Reserve Park/Municipal Reserve areas, however, these items **MUST** be removed by May 31st of each calendar year. All other storage and uses are considered unapproved encroachments onto Municipal Property and Public Lands. The Summer Village of Yellowstone is currently promoting the education of its residents to resolve the problem of encroachment. Encroachment happens when residents expand their yards and personal property onto public property. This can be done in many ways, including; planting trees, hedges, landscaping, gardens, fire pits, storage of RV's, boat lifts, firewood, composters, grass cuttings, tree branches, installation of fences, building sheds, dumping garbage, etc. These items are not permitted on any public property, including municipal reserves, leased land, parks, utility right of ways, streets or any other property owned by the Summer Village unless strictly allowed by the Municipality.

**All items that are not removed from the Community Reserve Areas by
May 31st, 2020 will be ticketed and towed!**

PROPERTY TAXES

The Summer Village collects taxes annually to meet the projected costs of providing services to the community. These revenues are received through grants, a special tax, and the municipal portion of the 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 by mail:

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

If paying online:

You are required to set the Summer Village of Yellowstone 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

You are now able to send an e-transfer to the Summer Village for payment of property taxes. Please contact the administration office to set up an email and password.

Reminder: Property taxes are due August 10, 2020

2020 Budget and Taxes

Council has set the 2020 budget at a 0% increase in municipal tax dollars collected from the previous year. 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.

ASSESSMENT

Property assessment services are contracted to Municipal Assessment Services Group.

What is a Property Assessment?

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. The property assessment is the estimated market value of your property which is used to calculate property taxes. The market determines the value of your property and that value is the basis for the assessment and is then used to calculate your property taxes. This is prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and the collapsed economy and, unfortunately, there cannot be changes due to Provincial regulations which govern property assessment.

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.

What If I Disagree with My Assessment?

You are encouraged to talk to an assessor if you have concerns about the assessment as it relates to your property value in July of 2019. Remember, you can only make a complaint against your assessed value, not your tax dollars or rates and you must have grounds for your complaint. Please also keep in mind that the assessor does not set the tax rates in the municipality, and, therefore, can not answer questions about your property taxation nor can they answer questions about the amount of services you receive. New legislation allows you 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 website www.summervillageofyellowstone.com or by contacting the office at 587-873-5765. Prior to completing the assessment complaint form, please contact the assessor to first discuss the matter of your assessment (not your tax dollars) – Dan Kanuka – 780-939-3310.



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 Rus 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.

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!

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 lilsawaterquality@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)
Onoway Town Office (4812-51 St)

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

SUMMER VILLAGE CONTACT INFO

General Contact Information

Mailing Address 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.summervillageofyellowstone.com

Council Members

Councilor	Russ Purdy	780-967-2847	russforyellowstone@yahoo.com
Mayor	Brenda Shewaga	780-298-6201	brenda.yellowstone@gmail.com
Deputy Mayor	Don Bauer	780-863-5149	don.svyellowstone@gmail.com

Administration

CAO/General Administration	Wendy Wildman/Heather Luhtala	587-873-5765
Assessor	Dan Kanuka	780-939-3310
Development Officer	Diane Burtnick	780-284-0410

Email - development@wildwillowenterprises.com

Building/Plumbing/Gas/Electrical/Private Sewage Permits

Superior Safety Codes	1-866-999-4777
Click or Call Before You Dig	www.albertaonecall.com 1-800-242-3447

Peace Officer/Animal Control/Bylaw Enforcement

1-844-786-4650

Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance

9-1-1

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

North 43 Lagoon (sewer line) Joe Duplessie

780-284-3270

Waste Cart/Organic Cart Repair/Replacement

587-873-5765

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- July 24 – Assessment Complaint Deadline
- August 10 – Tax Payment Deadline
- August 11 – 18% Penalty Current Year Taxes
- January 1 – 18% Penalty Total Outstanding Taxes