

# Summer Village of Silver Sands

## May 2024 Annual Newsletter

Office:

2317 Township Road 545, Lac Ste. Anne County

Mailing:

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## *Mayor's Message*

Spring is in the air! The ice went out on April 28<sup>th</sup> and our lake appears to be below normal level. The runoff has been limited as the melting snow went directly into the water table. The super dry conditions are extremely dangerous. Please observe the fire bans in our Summer Village and throughout Alberta.

A special thank you to Dennis Woolsey and Rick Wagner for their continued work on Emergency Services. They are endeavoring to establish block captains for each of our streets. *(more detailed information can be found on page 7)*

We have set our budget for the year, the increase is 5.6%. Costs are rising in all areas.

Alberta Environment is continuing the five-year program of using a chemical treatment on flowering rush. This will be the third year of the program to spray flowering rush over the entire area of Lake Isle. A three-member team will continue to map the areas of flowering rush on Lake Isle, the Sturgeon River and the west basin of Lac Ste. Anne.

Council is planning and working with the Darwell Lagoon Commission to provide our Summer Village with a low-pressure sewage system. As soon as the tenders are finalized, we will have an open house, hopefully this August, to discuss the possibilities of this initiative. *(more detailed information can be found on page 9)*

Our residents will be returning in greater numbers by the May long weekend. A reminder to all to manage your wastewater. Grey water needs to be contained and hauled away. Help protect our lake for now and for future generations.

Hopefully, the weather will cooperate with our Canada Day fireworks on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Reserve Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for our Annual Family Day activities. *(more detailed information can be found on page 8)*

*Mayor, Bernie Poulin*

# Assessment & Taxation

## Property Assessment

Each year, the Assessor will inspect certain properties within the Municipality. The property assessment is the estimated market value of your property as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior year 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 **Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. 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

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 by the municipality on behalf of the Lac Ste. Anne Senior Foundation which is seeing a 4% increase from last year & the Alberta School Foundation Fund which is seeing a 13.3% increase, which is up \$19,688 from last year. This year, the minimum municipal tax payable has been set at \$1,109.00 per property which is up from \$1,050.00 last year with a 5.6% increase in municipal taxes collected from the prior year. Property taxes are due **Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. The Summer Village has a monthly tax payment plan that runs from January to December, if you are interested in joining the plan, please contact the Summer Village Office.

## Property Tax Payments

### If paying your taxes by mail or in person:

Please make cheque payable to the Summer Village of Silver Sands and mail to Box 8, Alberta Beach, AB, T0E 0A0. If paying in person, the office is located at 2317 Twp Rd 545, Lac Ste. Anne County.

### 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 for an email address and to set up a password.

**Property Taxes are Due Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

## MINIMUM MUNICIPAL TAX

Currently, the Summer Village sets an amount annually referred to as the minimum municipal tax. This amount is established in accordance with the Municipal Government Act and is set annually as a way to collect a base amount of tax revenue to cover the costs of basic municipal services provided that are used by or accessible to all property owners (ie: parks, road maintenance such as snow clearing, sanding, crack filling, pot hole repairs, street lights, council, administration, assessor, auditor, waste removal etc.). Over time, some property owners have consolidated their lots and for various reasons such as buildings straddling property lines, development on the lands, access, and in some cases, to avoid the minimum municipal tax being applied to each lot. Currently, the summer village has 46 consolidated lots. When 2 or 3 lots are consolidated into 1, the property owner is saving money on how much they would otherwise pay because they are only paying 1 minimum municipal tax as opposed to 2 or 3.

The Summer Village will be giving consideration over the next year or so to establishing a separate assessment class and, thereby, a separate mill rate to these consolidated properties to bring them more in line with what the intent of the minimum municipal tax is.

## ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

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 780-786-2416 (ext. 232) or by email at [cpokasamba@mayerthorpe.ca](mailto:cpokasamba@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).

## FEEDING WILDLIFE

A reminder that feeding wildlife can do more harm than good and can often lead to serious issues for many species. Fed wildlife can become dependent on unreliable food sources and suffer nutritionally when given inappropriate foods. Habituated wild animals are also more susceptible to predators and vehicle collisions, as they lose their fear of people and the associated flight response. Wild animals who have been fed regularly can also develop food-seeking aggression and can become hostile towards people and pets. **We have especially seen the effects of feeding wildlife on the deer population in Silver Sands over the past year. As we continue to urge residents to only observe the wildlife and not to feed them, the Summer Village is considering implementing a bylaw for the feeding of wildlife where fines could be issued to offenders.**



# Lake Isle & Lac Ste. Anne Water Quality Management Society

[www.LILSA.ca](http://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!

Visit their website for more information on becoming a LILSA Member today!



Flowering Rush

## Use of Municipal Reserve Areas & Enforcement

The municipal reserve areas throughout the Summer Village are intended to provide active or passive park and recreation areas and are intended to provide walking trails and enjoyment of the natural plant and wildlife for residents and their guests.

The reserve areas are **not** to be “annexed” into properties adjacent to them, are not to be cleared unless Council determines that areas need to be cleared of dangerous undergrowth or decay, 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 and are not to be camped on nor to have camp fires on.

The Summer Village has erected boundary signage throughout the municipal reserve areas and will continue tagging and removing any items that are encroaching onto these areas. Please move or remove any items you may have on the Summer Village municipal reserve areas to your own property. Everyone’s cooperation in this matter is essential to the preservation of these precious lands.

**NEW** - There is a Summer Village Policy in place for anyone wanting to store their boat lifts or boat docks on the municipal reserve areas over the winter months. A request must be made in writing to the Summer Village to obtain a tag and written permission. Please note that all requests may not be able to be accommodated. A copy of this Policy document can be found on the Summer Village’s website.



# Waste Collection, Blue-Bag Recycling & Compost Site

## Waste Collection & Blue-Bag Pickup

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. The waste collection calendar is available on the Summer Village's website.

### 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)

### Reminders

- Please break down your cardboard boxes!
- Styrofoam, straws or plastic utensils, plastic bags, hazardous waste are NOT allowed in the blue bags!

## Compost Site

The Summer Village Compost site is located at the Public Works Quonset at 1 Centennial Way. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The site currently accepts leaves, grass clippings & lake weeds. Items that are NOT accepted are trees, brush & branches. Compost soil for gardens is available at no charge when there is a supply. Please contact the Public Works Supervisor to inquire 780-797-2207.

## Regional Landfill Site (located on Hwy 43 and RR 35)

All items other than household waste can be taken to the Regional Landfill Site located on Highway 43 and RR35. The disposal fee at the landfill site is currently \$60.00 per tonne. You can contact the regional site directly if you require further information at 780-967-3466.

## Large Bin Cleanup

Large bins will be available this year at the Summer Village Quonset. This is a good opportunity to help clean up the Summer Village by getting rid of items you no longer have use for that are laying around your lot or cluttering up your space!

The cleanup will take place over two days:

- Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### 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)
- ✓ Fridges, freezers, watercoolers, air conditioning units

### ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- × Tires, shingles, TVs, microwave
- × Paint, stain, antifreeze, oil, dangerous goods, chemicals
- × Trees / brush / branches
- × Hot Tubs
- × Concrete

**NOT ACCEPTED**

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

**The Large Bin Cleanup is for Summer Village of Silver Sands residents only.**

## **FIRES 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). 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**

#### **A reminder that all 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 cm (1/2”).



## **FIRE BANS**

The Summer Village of Silver Sands will put fire bans in place when appropriate to control the way fires are maintained and to protect the Summer Village and the residents. Always check for fire ban signs at the entrances to the Summer Village, the Alberta Fire Ban website and ensure you are enrolled in Silver Sands Connect to get notice via email and text.

### **When a Full Fire Ban is in Effect:**

A Full Fire Ban means no fires within fire pits, no warming/cooking/pleasure fires, no open fires & no fireworks. Propane-fueled appliances may be allowed, this will be determined at the time of the fire ban. Please also note that the Summer Village will be under a Full Fire Ban when there is a Provincial Fire Ban in place.

### **When a Fire Ban is NOT in Effect:**

Even when a Full Fire Ban is NOT in place, open fires are NOT allowed, only small warming, cooking & pleasure fires within fire pits are permissible.

Please continue to ensure you take care and caution when having a fire and be sure your fire is completely out when unattended. 'Soak It. Stir It. Soak It Again'. Let the fire burn down before you plan on putting it out. Spread the embers within the fire pit, then add water or loose dirt, and stir. Expose any material still burning. Add more water and stir again until you can no longer see smoke or steam.

## **GET PREPARED & GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS!**

Emergencies can happen at any time and without warning. Be ready. With a little preparation, you can respond quickly to help yourself and others. Understand the risks in your area, create a household emergency plan and build an emergency kit. [www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-en.aspx](http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-en.aspx)

Residents are encouraged to touch base with their neighbors, exchange phone numbers and get to know them. Maybe find out if they have any special needs or would require help in an evacuation.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT “REMINDERS”**

The recent fire threats have put us all on notice that we need to be prepared to act and act quickly in the case of an emergency. A couple of reminders: have a 72-hour kit prepared and easy to get to in the event of an emergency. Included should be some water (electrolytes), snacks (granola bars, etc.), medication, personal documents (passports, ID, contact lists, medical records, prescriptions), first aid kit, some cash, books (entertainment), and, if you have a pet, pet supplies. A more detailed list for your 72-hour kits and sheltering at home (14-day kits) are available on the Silver Sands website. Also remember that in case of an emergency, **the Silver Sands Quonset is our local Muster Point** to check in at to get more information on the event and to register so that we have a list of where everyone is and/or where they are going to ensure we know that “everyone” is safe. If the Quonset is not accessible, **our back-up Muster Point is the Fallis Hall**. You can go to the Summer Village website to see our detailed Emergency Plans including our Evacuation Plan and Emergency Social Services Plan.

## **BLOCK CAPTAINS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Residents, please note that our Emergency Planning function continues to develop. We have established a volunteer Block Captain program (see website for details) whereby we are seeking at least one resident on each of our 17 streets to be a conduit for information-sharing, especially should a Summer Village emergency arise. At present, we have volunteers for only about 1/2 of our streets. For residents who are available/interested, please contact Dennis Woolsey, Director of Emergency Management, at [dww0421@gmail.com](mailto:dww0421@gmail.com) or Liz Turnbull, Deputy Mayor, and representative to the multiple-community Emergency Management Partnership at [liz@summervillageofsilversands.com](mailto:liz@summervillageofsilversands.com) and either will help you get involved in this volunteer program.

## **FIRESMART ACTIVITIES**

To support FireSmart activities, Silver Sands recently received a grant through Firesmart Canada and will be holding an **event** this summer. We hope to do some underbrush cleanup in the municipal reserve areas – but to do this, volunteers are needed. Please consider volunteering your time to this event as it will certainly take a “Village” to get this job done!

There will be more information to come as we work out the details of the day. As well, there will be FireSmart information for those that wish to follow up on additional activities to protect their own property. A good start is to download the FireSmart app from <https://firesmartcanada.ca> and work through their home assessment tool to help you learn FireSmart principles designed to mitigate a home's vulnerability to wildfire. You could also check out the FireSmart Alberta website for valuable information on how to be more FireSmart <https://firesmartalberta.ca>.



# ANNUAL EVENTS SCHEDULE

## Canada Day Celebration

Join us on Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 10:30 p.m. at the boat launch area to enjoy a Canada Day Fireworks show. Funding for this event has been made possible by the Government of Canada Canadian Heritage Celebrate Canada Grant.

## Family Day Picnic

Join us at the Annual Family Day Picnic on Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



### Planned Events

7:00 a.m. – Toonie Breakfast

8:00 a.m. – Golfing

2:00 p.m. – Horseshoes / Children's Games

6:00 p.m. – Supper \$5.00/person or \$20.00/family  
*(bring a dessert or salad to share with everyone!)*

10:30 p.m. – Fireworks show at the boat launch site



We hope to see you there!

## WORKING WELL WORKSHOP

*Hosted by the Summer Villages of Silver Sands, South View & West Cove*



Clean water.  
Well protected.

### FREE Working Well Workshop

Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Starting at 6:30 pm

At the Darwell Seniors Hall

The key to a safe, secure water supply is proper well management. Learn how at the free in-person workshop.

Use QR Code to register



<https://shorturl.at/agzSX>

Visit the Summer Village website for more detailed information:  
[www.summervillageofsilversands.com/water-well-workshop.html](http://www.summervillageofsilversands.com/water-well-workshop.html)

## SILVER SANDS CONNECT

A reminder to all residents to ensure you register for Silver Sands Connect. Get important notifications and messages from the Summer Village via email and text. Go to the Summer Village's website and follow the registration steps.



# SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

(prepared by Darwell Lagoon Commission Rep, Councillor Graeme Horne)

The Darwell Lagoon Commission, the County of Lac Ste. Anne (LSAC) and the Summer Village of Silver Sands (SVSS) are currently working on a forced main sewer system to collect sewage from SVSS septic tanks and have it piped to the Darwell lagoon. This project will take sewage pumped from resident's tanks into an underground collection system and transport it under 70 psi pressure via pipeline to a lift station near RR52 and Hwy 625 then on to the Darwell lagoon. This is part of a larger project that will combine lagoons throughout LSAC taking the treated sewage to a common discharge point. Engineering has been ongoing for about 1 year with drainage routing, surveys and test holes being completed. To date there has been no cost to SVSS. SVSS will be responsible for several collection lines within the Summer Village. Residents will be responsible for individual connections to the system. Firm pricing is expected by the end of May with public open houses to follow. Engineers and contractors will attend this meeting as well as Council for questions and feedback. It is Council's opinion that this is a good project to look at as Government grants are subsidizing the bulk of the project.

## CHANGING STATUS – SUMMER VILLAGE TO VILLAGE, COULD THIS BENEFIT SILVER SANDS?

Alberta is one of the few remaining provincial jurisdictions in Canada to provide for a "Summer Village" as part of its catalogue of authorized local authorities (municipalities). The Municipal Government Act (MGA), which regulates the formation, operation and oversight of local authorities in Alberta, has evolved in regard to Summer Villages over the past several decades. Recent changes to the regulations, as well as core funding framework formulas, such as the new Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF), have reignited the perennial debate on what it means to be a Summer Village in Alberta, and indeed whether it remains a viable option to keep this special designation.

While Alberta continues to protect the status of existing Summer Villages under the Act, and Summer Villages remain a strong and vibrant class of local authority in the province, several significant shifts in the status quo require local Councils to reflect on the best path forward for the communities they represent, and the Summer Village of Silver Sands is in this same boat. In considering the options before them, Councils need to balance the pros of retaining the "Summer Village" status – including special protections in the legislation, especially those under the Municipal Government Act and Local Authorities Election Act – with the very real drawbacks – chiefly the new LGFF formula which is seen to be unduly discriminatory to the disadvantage of Summer Villages.

In the coming months, residents will be provided with more detailed information on what it could mean to change status from a Summer Village to a Village and will be asked to provide feedback. Please watch closely for this and endeavor to get involved and have your voice heard as your feedback will be very important to the decision making of determining whether to move forward with this process or not.

# SUMMER VILLAGE CONTACT INFORMATION

## General Contact Information

**Mailing:** Box 8, Alberta Beach AB T0E 0A0  
**Office Location:** 2317 Twp Rd 545, Lac Ste. Anne County, AB, T0E 1V0  
**General Office Phone:** 587-873-5765  
**Fax:** 780-967-0431  
**Email:** [administration@wildwillowenterprises.com](mailto:administration@wildwillowenterprises.com)  
**Website:** [www.summervillageofsilversands.com](http://www.summervillageofsilversands.com)



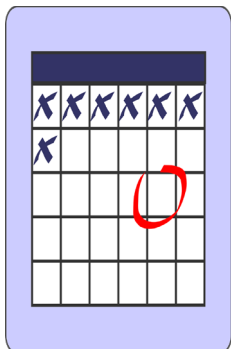
## Council Members **(NOTE NEW COUNCIL EMAIL ADDRESSES)**

**Mayor:** Bernie Poulin 780-938-1197 [bernie@summervillageofsilversands.com](mailto:bernie@summervillageofsilversands.com)  
**Deputy Mayor:** Liz Turnbull 780-991-4052 [liz@summervillageofsilversands.com](mailto:liz@summervillageofsilversands.com)  
**Councillor:** Graeme Horne 780-484-3719 [graeme@summervillageofsilversands.com](mailto:graeme@summervillageofsilversands.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 is  
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: 780-786-2416 (ext. 232)  
RCMP Non-Emergency Line (Evansburg Detachment): 780-727-4446  
Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance: 9-1-1

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



May 17<sup>th</sup> – Assessment & Tax Notices mailed  
June 4<sup>th</sup> - Working Well Workshop (must register)  
June 30<sup>th</sup> – Property taxes due  
July 1<sup>st</sup> – Canada Day Celebration  
July 1<sup>st</sup> – 2% Penalty on current taxes  
July 20<sup>th</sup> – Family Day Picnic  
July 24<sup>th</sup> – Assessment Complaint Deadline  
August 1<sup>st</sup> – 4% Penalty on current taxes  
August 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> – Large Bin Cleanup  
September 1<sup>st</sup> – 6% Penalty on current taxes  
October 1<sup>st</sup> – 6% Penalty on current taxes  
January 1<sup>st</sup> – 18% Penalty on outstanding taxes



Council Meetings are generally held on the last Friday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at Fallis Hall in person and via Zoom (*Council meetings are not scheduled in May or December*). Be sure to check the website for any updates.