

# Summer Village of Silver Sands

## May 2025 Annual Newsletter

Office:

2317 Township Road 545, Lac Ste. Anne County

Mailing:

Box 8, Alberta Beach, AB T0E 0A0

Ph: 587-873-5765 Fax: 780-967-0431

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## *Mayor's Message*

### Mayor's Message 2025

Our lake appears to be at an average level over the past several years. Runoff has been minimal. The ice fishing this past winter was exceptional.

Administration and Council have been very busy over the past months. Regarding the safety and security of our residents, we have contracted Lac Ste. Anne County for peace officer and bylaw enforcement services for the next 2 years. We also contracted RCMP services from the Evansburg detachment to provide additional weekend support over the summer months.

The budget is set. We have approved a 5.65% increase in municipal tax dollars collected.

Regarding the recycling program, we are pleased to have signed a contract with Circular Materials. This is a Federal program that the province approved this past year, enabling municipalities with recycling services to offset its costs.

We have decided to delay the possibility of changing our status of a Summer Village to potentially a Village. As a Summer Village we are limited to 40% of available grants.

You will be receiving, under separate mail out, information regarding the Darwell Lagoon Commission. The Commission, which we have been a member of over the past 15 years, is providing all Lac Ste. Anne County subdivisions and the Summer Villages of South View and Silver Sands with a low-pressure sewage system.

Family Day will be on Saturday, July 19, 2025. Please join us in a fun day of activities.

This is an election year for our Summer Village. Saturday, July 26, 2025 is the election date. Please consider running for a position on Council.

Go Oilers Go!

*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 **Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**. 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 5.1% increase from last year & the Alberta School Foundation Fund which is seeing a 16.5% increase, which is up \$27,727 from last year. This year, the minimum municipal tax payable has been set at \$1,172.00 per property which is up from \$1,109.00 last year with a 5.65% increase in municipal taxes collected from the prior year. Property taxes are due **Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. 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 (note new email address for e-transfer payments):**

E-transfer email is: [payments@wildwillowenterprises.com](mailto:payments@wildwillowenterprises.com) (auto-deposit is enabled – be sure to note your tax roll number in the reference line).

## **Property Taxes are Due Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**With the potential of a Canada Post strike, taxes will still be due on Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – please take this into consideration when making your payment arrangements.**

## 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.).

## ENFORCEMENT SERVICES – NEW PROVIDER

The Summer Village will be contracting Peace Officer/Bylaw Enforcement/Animal Control services through a joint agreement with Lac Ste. Anne County. Residents can contact this office directly at 780-785-3630 with complaints. A new initiative this year, is the Summer Village of Silver Sands and South View are combining to contract Enhanced Police Service from the RCMP. This initiative will see additional RCMP patrols take place in both Summer Villages during the summer months monitoring speeding, impaired driving, safety, etc. 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. We continue to urge residents to only observe the wildlife and not to feed them, the Summer Village has implemented a bylaw for the feeding of wildlife where fines could be issued to offenders.**

## 2025 is a Municipal ELECTION YEAR

Running for Council is a great way to get more involved in your community! Councillors are key community builders who are an integral part of summer village planning. If you have a vision of what you believe the Summer Village of Silver Sands could look like in the next 5, 10, 15 years, this is your chance to help set the direction. While it takes some effort, serving on Council is rewarding and a great way to learn and give back to the community.

The Summer Village of Silver Sands has 3 Councillors, and they elect a Mayor from among themselves – all three positions are up for election/re-election. To be eligible to run in the election you must be a resident, property owner, or spouse of a property owner in Silver Sands. For those interested in running for Council, there will be an optional **Candidate Information Session on May 24 at the Darwell Interlake Golden Age Club**

**(Seniors Center)** from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. More information can be found on the summer village website, and through direct mailouts (Notice of Nomination has already been mailed out to all property owners).



**NOMINATION DAY** has been set for **Saturday June 28, 2025 from 10 a.m. until 12 noon** at the Fallis Hall, 53303 RR 52, Parkland County. However, completed nomination packages can be dropped off at the Summer Village Office June 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

# 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 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 and blue-bag recycling guidelines are available on the Summer Village's website.

The following clean items with no food soil can be put into the Blue bags.

### Metal & Plastic Containers:

- ✓ Foil trays, pet food cans, sardine cans, soup cans, pie trays, formula tins, foil, sweet tins, condiment bottles, peanut butter jars, cooking oil jugs, detergent bottles, shampoo bottles, yogurt cups, salad containers, take out trays

### Paper & Cardboard:

- ✓ Magazines, soup cartons, cereal boxes, egg trays, sugar bags, take out boxes, boxes, toilet roll tubes

A reminder to break down all cardboard boxes into manageable sizes. Some items that are not accepted are styrofoam, straws, plastic utensils, plastic bags & hazardous waste. Bags containing unaccepted items will be stickered and will not be picked up.

## 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 – 1 Day ONLY

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 is intended for Summer Village of Silver Sands residents only:

**Large Bin Clean Up Day - Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 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.*



## **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"**

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!**

Last year we established a volunteer Block Captain program (see website for details) where we were seeking at least one person per block to represent their street as their Block Captain. We continue to need more volunteers especially in the west side of our Summer Village. For residents who are available/interested, please contact Dennis Woolsey, Director of Emergency Management, at [dww0421@gmail.com](mailto:dww0421@gmail.com) or the Summer Village office at [administration@wildwillowenterprises.com](mailto:administration@wildwillowenterprises.com).

## **FIRESMART ACTIVITIES**

Please stay aware of FireSmart Activities and the FireSmart Program. 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!

FireSmart information is available for those who 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 Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

### 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!

## 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.

[www.summervillageofsilversands.com/silver-sands-connect.html](http://www.summervillageofsilversands.com/silver-sands-connect.html)



## SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

Darwell Lagoon Commission, Lac Ste. Anne County (LSAC), Summer Village of Silver Sands (SVSS) and Government of Alberta are continuing to work together on a forced sewer main to collect sewage from SVSS septic tanks and have this piped back to the Darwell Sewage Lagoon and then on to a final disposal outlet.

As with any project of this size, with several parties involved, there have been some delays, however, the initial work on this project is continuing. Test holes were drilled last year for engineering purposes and the next step starting in June and July of this year will involve an inspection of all septic tanks within the SVSS – (letter to follow by mail). The tanks will be emptied, and a visual internal inspection will take place at no cost to SVSS or residents. This inspection is required to ensure compatibility with the forced main system and confirm pricing for grants and the Darwell Lagoon Commission.

This total project has not been approved by Council and is only in the planning stage to establish costs. Public input will be gathered from upcoming public hearings and open houses as per the below schedule from LSAC.

### TIMELINES

Q3 2025 Tank inspections

Q4 2025 Finalize design and costing

Q3 2026 Host open houses and public engagement

Q4 2026 Begin construction

Q3 2027 Resident connection to new wastewater system

I would like to point out that eventually this type of sewer disposal system may become mandatory in my opinion. Right now, Alberta government grants will cover 90% for these costs and the Darwell Lagoon Commission will cover the remaining 10% of transmission lines. There will be some costs to the Summer Village that will be established before the public hearing and residents will be responsible for the individual hookup costs.

Councillor Graeme Horne, Darwell Lagoon Commission Rep – Phone: 780-484-3719

## 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 2024 the Summer Village engaged resident feedback on this matter through a survey. Further discussion on potential next steps in this review and assessment will take place after elections and once the new Council is in place. Please watch for further information on this and endeavor to get involved and have your voice heard in this very important decision moving forward.

# 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)



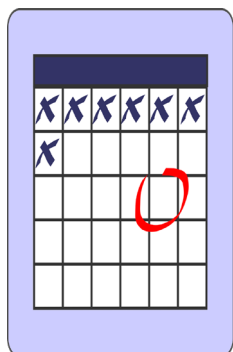
## Council Members

<b>Mayor:</b>	Bernie Poulin	780-938-1197	<a href="mailto:bernie@summervillageofsilversands.com">bernie@summervillageofsilversands.com</a>
<b>Deputy Mayor:</b>	Liz Turnbull	780-991-4052	<a href="mailto:liz@summervillageofsilversands.com">liz@summervillageofsilversands.com</a>
<b>Councillor:</b>	Graeme Horne	780-484-3719	<a href="mailto:graeme@summervillageofsilversands.com">graeme@summervillageofsilversands.com</a>

## Administration

<b>CAO/General Office:</b> Wendy Wildman/Heather Luhtala	587-873-5765
<b>Public Works:</b> Dustin Uhlman	780-797-2207
<b>Assessment:</b> Tanmar Consulting	780-417-5191
<b>Development Officer/Development Permits:</b> 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:	780-785-3630
RCMP Non-Emergency Line (Evansburg Detachment):	780-727-4446
Emergency Fire/Police/Ambulance:	9-1-1

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



May 9<sup>th</sup> – Assessment & Tax Notices mailed  
June 28<sup>th</sup> – Nomination ends noon Fallis Hall  
June 30<sup>th</sup> – Property taxes due  
July 1<sup>st</sup> – Canada Day Celebration  
July 1<sup>st</sup> – 2% Penalty on unpaid current taxes  
July 19<sup>th</sup> – Family Day Picnic  
July 21<sup>st</sup> – Advance Vote (if required) 4-7 Fallis Hall  
July 21<sup>st</sup> – Assessment Complaint Deadline  
July 26<sup>th</sup> – Election Day (if required) 10-7 Fallis Hall  
August 1<sup>st</sup> – 4% Penalty on current taxes  
August 16<sup>th</sup> – Large Bin Cleanup (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)  
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 and via Zoom.  
(Council meetings are not scheduled in May or December). Be sure to check the website for any updates.