



Summer Village of Golden Days Newsletter Winter 2009

COUNCIL:

Richard Tooke, Mayor
Jerry Korchinski, Deputy Mayor
Gerry Lorente, Councilor
Sylvia Roy, CAO

Summer Village Office
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NEW: Winter Office hours: 9:00-12:00 Monday-Friday (November 2, 2009- March 30, 2010)

Contact Information

Local phone numbers for emergency and routine concerns are not always at hand. We have enclosed a fridge magnet that has some of these helpful numbers on it.

RCMP Presentation

All residents of the 7 summer villages are invited to attend a presentation and information session on Crime Prevention. The session will be held at the Ma-Me-O Beach Community Hall from 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec 7th, 2009. Constable Nathaniel Jungwirth of the Wetaskiwin RCMP Detachment will be presenting at this very informative event.

Minister's Award of Excellence for Smaller Municipalities

At the AUMA Conference held in Calgary the Summer Village office received the Minister's Award of Excellence for Smaller Municipalities. By entering into a joint agreement, the seven Summer Villages established the Joint Services Committee. A number of efficiencies

and improved practices have been gained. This collaborative venture has resulted in shared or common services, bylaws, and policies and processes. Inter-municipal grant opportunities are more easily identified. Recruitment of skilled staff has brought increased knowledge and awareness of relevant legislation and statuses. This example of regional cooperation and development demonstrates how working together fosters sustainable, safe, strong and vibrant communities.

News from the Summer Villages Office

The Summer Villages Offices new website is up and running at www.svofficepl.com. Our new website has links to all 7 Summer Villages. This new site takes you to our Home Page and allows you to access any of the other Summer Villages websites.

In the past year the office has gone through a number of changes including employees. Serving the 7 Summer Villages are:

Sylvia Roy

Marian Barcham
Bev Schneider
Carol Banks
Carolyn Huddleston
Lisa McMurray
Tammy Riviere
Brenda Morneau
Sharon James-Lock

Part-time
Part-time
Part-time
Part-time
Part-time
Part-time

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) &
Development Officer
Assistant CAO & Development Officer
Chief Financial Officer
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant
Administrative Assistant
FCSS Coordinator

Joint Services Committee

The Joint Services Committee (JSC) is comprised of one councilor from each of the seven member villages. Its purpose is to serve as a governance Committee. In this role, there are two subcommittees, one on finance and one on governance.

JSC in conjunction with administration is looking for ways to standardize member bylaws and policies and to provide better service. Our current initiative is to standardize the payment dates for tax collection and the penalties assigned for late payment. The Tax Installment Payment Plan is a result of a JSC initiative.

Snow Plowing

A contract for snow plowing has been awarded and will be carried out as required.

Tax Installment Payment Plan

To participate in the Tax Installment Payment Plan, please ensure you complete an Authorization Form. Attach a void cheque and return with your completed form to the Summer Villages Office before December 15, 2009. The form is available on the Summer Villages website for your convenience, or call the S.V. Office and a form will be mailed to you. The first payment will be automatically debited from your account on January 1, 2010.

Outstanding Taxes

Just a reminder, if you have an outstanding balance in your Property Tax account, please ensure payment is received prior to December 31st. Penalties as per S.V. Bylaw will be applied January 1, 2010 on any outstanding balance.

Property Assessments

The Summer Village Assessor will be in the S.V.'s over the next few months evaluating properties and taking digital photographs. They will be especially visible in the S.V. of Golden Days as it is the first year of the agreement with Capital Region Assessment Services Commission. The Assessor is Grant Clark, A.M.A.A. and may be reached at 1-888-419-2128.

Development Permits

If you are building, renovating, demolishing, or moving buildings, a development permit is required. Development Permits are approving the development only, ensuring that the development complies with the Land Use Bylaws. You may apply for a development permit at the Summer Villages Office or on our web site. Additionally, permits are required for building, demolition, electrical, plumbing and gas. These permits must be obtained from Alberta Permit Pro @ 1-800-282-6145 or @ 403-343-2777 once

your Development Permit has been approved. Beachfront structures require a development and are governed by Alberta Environment.

We have had a very busy and exciting 2009. To date a total of 227 Development Permits have been issued and 73 Notifications for Bylaw violations within the 7 Summer Villages. The increase in volume is due to holding tanks being installed, demolition of cabins, new developments, and renovations, etc. The next few months will also see a rise in applications as deadlines approach for the installation of holding tanks.

Due to the increase in volume, when applying for a Development Permit for the installation of a holding tank, please allow two weeks for approval and processing. The PLPS are patrolling and reporting to the Development Officer any violations regarding Development Permit Placards. Development Permit Placards must be visible at all times. If you are moving a building off your lot please make sure you have all the required permits. Fines are extremely high for any violations.

Home Renovation Tax Credit - Reminder

The Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC) is available to taxpayers for work performed or goods acquired after January 27th, 2009 and before February 1, 2010. This will provide an immediate incentive for Canadians to undertake new renovations or accelerate planned projects. More information on the HRTC is available on the Canada Revenue Agency's website at www.cra.gc.ca.

Great Canadian Shore-Line Clean-up

This fall 98 volunteers dedicated 173.5 hours to the TD Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up at Pigeon Lake. This effort is a national program where the shores of Canadian waters are cleaned of garbage and debris. Results are also forwarded to the International Ocean Conservancy. Human impact is measured by documenting 40 different items. This year 2859 pounds/1750.6 kilograms of debris was removed from approximately 18.6 miles/ 29.98 km of shoreline.

Herbicide Ban

Alberta is banning the sale of lawn-care products that combine herbicide and fertilizer. The ban will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2010.

Dangerous Tree Removal

Residents are strongly encouraged to ensure that trees on their property are not posing a potential hazard during high winds and heavy snowfalls. We suggest that residents regularly check their trees for disease and remove them before they damage their

buildings, power lines or neighboring property. The village is regularly checking trees in parks and reserve areas and removing trees as required. If you notice trees in parks or reserve land that pose a hazard please advise our office so appropriate action can be arranged.

Pigeon Lake Public Library

The Pigeon Lake Public Library, located in Ma-Me-O Beach next door to the Summer Village Office, continues to improve their new site. The Summer Village of Crystal Springs supports this library and encourages you to use these services. Do stop by and see the wonderful work that has been accomplished by the hard work of so many volunteers in our community.

Pigeon Lake Protective Service (PLPS)

Ron Smith, the Senior Constable for the Pigeon Lake area has retired. We would like to congratulate Officer Marty McKinney on his appointment to the Senior Constable position.

Officers of the PLPS are actively enforcing our bylaws and the Traffic Safety Act so please ensure that your ATV's and off highway vehicles and operators are properly registered and insured. Also remember that ATVs are not permitted on municipal reserves and trails throughout the villages except for lake access for maintenance of piers, etc. and ice fishing

Council Meetings

Council Meetings are held on a regular basis, generally every six weeks. Council meetings are posted in the window of the Summer Villages Office and on the website. However, it is sometimes necessary to change these dates due to other obligations of our Council. Please call the office to verify dates. Members of the general public wishing to make a presentation (limited to 10 minutes), shall advise the CAO in writing or electronically not less than 7 business days before the scheduled meeting.

House Numbers

With the use of the 911 Emergency call program, it is more important than ever that you display your municipal address in a prominent place. Please ensure that you have your municipal address posted in a place visible from the road. If you are unsure of your municipal number, please feel free to call the Summer Village Office at 780-586-2494 for confirmation.

MMO Weekly Market

This year the Ma-Me-O Beach market was a huge success. Thank you to all residents who supported the market. New vendors, especially those who sell fresh vegetables & fruit may contact the Betty @780-789-3992.

Moving??...Change of Address

Please notify the office if you are changing your address. Keeping us up-to-date with your address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses is very important. Phone numbers are required. If your cabin is broken into, and police have to notify you. You can notify us by e-mail at Information@svofficepl.com with any changes.

Fire Fighting/Flood Control

CHECK YOUR INSURANCE POLICY! We remind new residents that the annual fee the Village pays for fire protection only supports the maintenance of the fire department. If the volunteer fire department is called out to fight your fire, you will be billed for their services. Also check your insurance for **flood control** because the Summer Village cannot accept any responsibility for storm damage.

Family and Community Support Services

Effective October 8th, Sharon James-Lock joined the Summer Villages office as part-time FCSS Coordinator. Sharon comes to us with 23 years experience as an FCSS Coordinator and will be working out of an office in the Community Hall for the privacy and convenience of our seniors. Sharon will be available each Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The contact phone number for Sharon is 780-586-2523.

The Summer Villages of Crystal Springs, Grandview, Ma-Me-O Beach, Norris Beach, Poplar Bay and Golden Days offer subsidized services to senior village residents who demonstrate financial needs living permanently in the summer villages.

The homemaker services include:

- help with housework (light housekeeping duties), and respite care.
- seasonal cleaning (windows, walls, moving furniture...)
- meal preparation – for those recovering from a hospital visit

Please contact the Summer Villages Office at (780) 586-2494 for more information on obtaining these services or if you are interested in providing Homemaker duties.

Notice to Ratepayers (Water Leaks)

Please ensure that when you are not at the lake to turn off the power to your wells (pressure system). We have had some reports of lines leaking under ratepayers homes.

Garbage Removal

BI-WEEKLY pick-up occurs on **MONDAYS** during winter months. Please phone Skip Kerr at MCL Waste Systems @780-352-2625 for concerns regarding garbage pickup. The 12

month Collection Schedule for 2010 is attached.

Please ensure your containers are adjacent to the side of the road so when the roads are ploughed in the winter months the containers won't get damaged.

Residents of Golden Days will have access to the Sunnybrook Transfer Station in 2010. Access cards will be issued from the Summer Villages Office in the new year. Please contact the office or check the web site for updates.

The calendar below is for your reference for the month of December 2009.

Dec-09						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season!
Richard, Gerry, & Jerry

Encl:
Garbage Collection Schedule
Pigeon Lake Watershed
Fridge Magnet
Diana McQueen Letter