



Summer Village of Poplar Bay

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Spring 2021 Newsletter

Council Message

Another long winter has passed, and we can all now look forward to a summer enjoying the lake and everything our Summer Village and the lake have to offer. After a long winter of ongoing challenges, many of which have been brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, we are all looking forward to time at the lake where we can unwind and enjoy our properties.

The pandemic has been very frustrating and stressful for everyone, and has created feelings of despair, grief, anger and loneliness for all Canadians. We would encourage all of our Summer Village residents to remember that we are each processing and dealing with the hardships brought on by Covid-19 in our own ways and as a result we will all need to have some compassion and understanding for our neighbors during these stressful times. This might mean simply giving someone a friendly understanding ear to listen to them or possibly lending a hand to help them out with some work, or even just taking a breath or a minute to think through a response to a person's actions which you may not agree with.

This pandemic and all the other issues of today will not last forever, when all is said and done the only thing, we know for sure is we must move forward together.

We all must choose to be strong and supportive of each other, to be kind and caring, to seek to understand, to be compassionate, to be patient, to be generous, and to find the goodness and joy in the things and people who surround us to move forward and to come out of this as a strong vibrant community.

If you need help with anything, please reach out to a neighbor or to your council and we will do whatever we can to help out.

WASTEWATER UPDATE

The Wastewater System continues to operate well. There was one incident with an Air Release Valve that was leaking, but otherwise, a quiet winter.

Our System Operator, THS, will be out this spring and summer completing the remaining connections and landscaping clean up.

There are 173 wastewater producing lots connected to the wastewater system. The final few properties will be completed this summer.

Our system operator THS Septic and Civil Solutions is ready to answer any questions or respond to any concerns you may have. Please contact them as follows:

During Business hours 403-844-2559
After Hours Emergency 403-844-9233
E-mail thskayela@gmail.com

An emergency is a spill or release of wastewater outside the system and must be reported immediately. Other concerns such as high-level alarms can be reported to THS at any time.

Please remember your grinder pump will provide years of service if you follow some simple rules. The only materials permitted to be discharged into the wastewater system are: human waste and toilet paper; greywater from showers, sinks, tubs and dishwashers; conventional food wastes as processed through an in-sink garbage disposal unit and laundry machine washing discharge.

Many items are not allowed to enter toilets or drains. Prohibited items include:

“flushable” baby wipes	dental floss	gravel	socks, rags or cloth
feminine products	pantyhose	bones	paint or paint thinner
diapers	plastics / latex	glass	metal
condoms	grease or cooking oil	sand	cat litter
egg shells	seafood shells	grout	cleaning wipes

Sump pump discharge, rainwater and other surface water are not permitted to enter the wastewater system. In addition, Schedule D-1 and D-2 in the Municipal Wastewater Utility Bylaw #253 set out chemical, oil, flammable materials and other restrictions.

NOTE: The cost of repair to the grinder pump caused by prohibited materials in the tank will be the responsibility of the property owner.

2021 POPLAR BAY MUNICIPAL ELECTION

2021 is an election year for Alberta municipalities. Poplar Bay Nomination Day will be held on Saturday, July 24, 2021 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Summer Villages Office at 605-2nd Avenue, Ma-Me-O Beach, AB.

All three of your current council members have announced their intentions to seek another term on council and will put their names forward on nomination day. We do encourage anyone who interested in running for council to put their nomination papers in and join in helping to ensure the sustainability of our village.

Election Day, if required, will be held on Saturday, August 21, 2021.

ANNUAL INFORMATION MEETING

The 2021 Annual Information meeting is canceled due to Covid. Residents will be mailed the financial summaries and other information that would have been available at the meeting. Should residents have any questions after you receive the material, you can email them to information@svofficepl.com.

NO WAKE ZONE

Residents are asked to respect the “no wake zone” in the lake adjacent to the shoreline. For practical purposes the NO WAKE ZONE IS THE AREA FROM THE Village Buoys to the shoreline. A “no-wake zone” is an area where vessels are expected to travel at slow (idle) speeds to minimize the wake. This zone minimizes the erosion to the shoreline and keeps residents and other watercraft users safe.

YARD WASTE

Please do not dump yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves or branches in the ditches or on reserves. This negatively affects the water drainage and contributes to blockages in culverts and flooding.

LARGE ITEM GARBAGE PICK-UP

The Large Item Pick-Up will be held on July 17, 2021. There will be only one Large Item Pick - Up in 2021.

Residents are reminded that they do have access to the Lakedell Waste Transfer Station; residents should have received a Transfer Station access card last year.

SUMMER VILLAGE OPERATIONS

The 2021 operating budget was approved by Council on March 12, 2021. This budget included a 2 % Municipal Tax increase after three (3) years of 0.00 % increases. The 2021 Property Assessment saw a slight increase of 0.5% over the 2020 assessment. As you are aware, your annual property tax notice also includes provincial educational requisitions which are a mandatory school tax by the Government of Alberta. The Municipality must tax and collect these requisition amounts and remit quarterly to the Provincial Government. In summary, your property tax bill this year will have a small increase compared to last year, depending on your property assessment value.

MUNICIPAL RESERVES

Poplar Bay is very fortunate to have numerous registered municipal and environmental reserves throughout the entire village. These protected areas are in place to help protect the habitat of birds and small animals as well as to provide a public space for residents and visitors to enjoy the lake.

POPLAR BAY BYLAW #244 – MUNICIPAL PROPERTY BYLAW

This Bylaw restricts the uses on Reserve properties in the Summer Village. An excerpt of the Bylaw is as follows:

No person shall construct, install, erect or maintain any Development on Reserve without the express written approval of Council. Without restricting the generality of the foregoing, no Development in the nature of playgrounds, recreational facilities for volleyball, basketball, horseshoes or other recreational pursuits, structures, buildings, pathways, stairways, barbeques or other outdoor cooking facilities, shall be allowed without the express written approval of Council.

For more information on Poplar Bay Bylaw #244, please go to the Poplar Bay website, www.poplarbay.ca.

We do ask everyone to please respect these areas and to help us keep the reserves clean and safe for our neighbors. We can do this by picking up any garbage or refuse we see on village property, by not encroaching on or dumping branches and yard waste on the reserves.

We encourage residents to remove deadfall from the reserves and take it to their residents to use as firewood. If residents see any hazardous or standing dead tree's they should notify JUDY at summer village office to have it dealt with.

Cutting or removal of any live trees or vegetation is strictly prohibited and can result in a fine or charges, so we encourage you to call office with any concerns.

Council would like to organize a few volunteer work bees to clean up reserves and so we would ask that if anyone would like to volunteer to “adopt” a reserve close to them and could enlist a few neighbors one of your councilors will come and help out which would allow for on the spot decisions on tree removal based on observed situation. If you are willing please contact one of councilors and we will coordinate timing.

MUNICIPAL RESERVES – STORAGE

This is a reminder that storage of any material on reserves is not allowed unless items are clearly identified by lot number and then only in designated areas. Further, all such items must be removed by **June 30 each year**. Unidentified items may be removed and/or destroyed, so if you have unidentified items stored on reserves, either remove or identify them at your earliest convenience.

MOORING DISTURBANCE STANDARD

Alberta Environment and Parks created a new Mooring Disturbance Standard for temporary seasonal docks and other mooring structures. The engagement has now completed, and a new disturbance standard will come into effect on April 19, 2021. You can learn more by visiting <https://www.alberta.ca/mooring-standards-engagement.aspx>

Please remember this is an Alberta Government standard and not a Village municipal standard, our municipal responsibility in this is the work with residence to help ensure compliance. The summer Village will not be “policing” or auditing compliance to standard at this time that will be a Provincial responsibility.

Council encourages all residents who have a dock, lift or platform in the lake to go online and ensure familiarize themselves with the new standard, and then it is each residence responsibility to comply with the standard as it applies to their situation.

For residence whose property does not border the lake (backlot owners), who have typically placed docks off municipal reserves, approval and a permit from AEP will still be required. This permit (TFA) can be received by applying to AEP, part of the requirement is that the applicant must have the written consent of the frontage landowner (Summer Village). Council has decided that we will grant this consent and will provide written notice on request of residents. If there is a situation where numerous applicants request consent for same access preference will be given to historic user of access however it is hoped neighbors can find a way to share access and meet the standard as laid out in the standard.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Fraser Hubbard.

Shoreline Ice Damage and Restoration

The past winter was one that can be characterized as having lower than normal snow cover in conjunction with larger than normal temperature fluctuations and high-water levels at freeze up (2020 water level was approx. 8” higher than average since 1955 and 17” higher than 2019 levels). As a result of these conditions ice ridges had a significant impact on much of the shoreline around the entire lake.

Residents who have experienced shoreline damage as a result of the ice heaves are advised to be cautious about restorations plans. Most work done on shoreline including restoration work requires approval from Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) as well as a development permit from the Summer Village.

AEP has provided guidance documents for obtaining necessary permits etc. on their website.

The follow steps are recommended:

1. Assess: it is important to assess the situation and determine what restoration is required, wait till all ice has melted and pushed up soil has settled as ice melt may create unsafe voids in soil.
2. Evaluate options for restoration recontouring with existing materials “soft landscaping” is preferred option which may include vegetation like willows and natural scrubs. Generally, repairs that can be done “by hand”, minor recontouring and planting of vegetation will not require AEP approval, but it is a good idea to contact AEP field rep to confirm.
3. If your restoration plans are a bit more extensive but are still deemed as recontouring and minor a Temporary Field Authorization (TFA) from AEP may be required as determined by AEP field officer. A TFA can be processed quite quickly and the field officer can help guide you through it.

If work is more extensive or significant and deemed major by the Field Officer an AEP License of Occupation (DLO) maybe required, the process to obtain a DLO is quite extensive and requires a much longer process.

For more information and advice regarding your restoration plans and AEP permit requirements, Contact cody.nahirniak@gov.ab.ca

TFA application form:

<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-environment-and-parks-land-forms.aspx>

Summer Village Development Permit:

Judy.mccardia@svofficepl.com

ANNEXATION of Pt. of NW-28-46-1-W5 into the SUMMER VILLAGE OF POPLAR BAY

Residents will receive a notice for an online public meeting to be held on May 20, 2021 via Zoom.

Roads & Drainage

Roads:

The Summer Village 2021 Capital Budget included amounts for road repairs and resurfacing. We are looking at all options to provide road improvements which will allow us to repair and resurface the most affected areas with the most cost effective, long term alternative, funded from Provincial Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI) Capital Grants.

Drainage and Culverts:

Currently we are evaluating drainage and culverts with the assistance of our Engineering Consultants, with the plan to repair and/or replace some culverts within the Summer Village. Again, this project will be funded from our MSI Capital Grants. If a resident has information on this topic in their local area and wanted to provide specific locations and concerns, please email to the Administration Office at information@svofficepl.com.

REMINDER

As an important reminder, residents MUST NOT allow their property to drain onto another resident’s property. Please ensure that your lot drainage is properly addressed so as not to negatively affect another property.

INSURANCE FOR FIRE, FLOOD AND STORM DAMAGE

Residents are reminded that the annual fee the Summer Village pays for fire protection supports the maintenance of the fire department. Check your insurance for fire, flood and storm damage because the Summer Village is not responsible for any charges from the Fire department to respond to or to provide any services associated with their response.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED TO ELIMINATE NOXIOUS WEEDS – COMMON TANSY

This noxious weed can easily be recognized as a shrub with yellow, bud-like flowers. It is rapidly taking over the shoreline in many places and displacing native vegetation. We are asking all residents to help remove this plant. Small plants can be hand pulled. Larger plants may require a pry bar. Another variety of tansy, called Tansy Ragwort, is classified as a prohibited noxious weed. This means it must be removed. This plant has small yellow flowers with petals. Information on how to identify and eliminate these weeds can be found on the Poplar Bay website, www.poplarbay.ca. Let's make our Summer Village free of these and other noxious weeds.

MOUNTAIN PINE BEETLE

The Mountain Pine Beetle has been identified in south Pigeon Lake Summer Villages and the County of Wetaskiwin. The Mountain Pine Beetle is a small, black beetle about the size of a grain of rice. Mountain pine beetles attack and kill all pine trees, usually mature ones aged 80 to 120 years old. All species of pine are vulnerable and they do not attack aspen, spruce or fir trees. For more information on the Mountain Pine Beetle, go to the website at www.poplarbay.ca.

DORIS MCALLISTER - BYLAW OFFICER

Doris McAllister is on board to assist Poplar Bay residents with bylaw questions and concerns, including parking, noise, animal control, use of fertilizer and herbicides, etc. Doris can be reached at 1-780-719-6447.

PIGEON LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

In spite of the challenges facing us with the COVID-19 concerns, the valuable work of the PLWA will be continuing throughout the year with the goal of improving our watershed and protecting our lake.

Funding for the work of the PLWA is an ongoing challenge. If you appreciate the organization's considerable efforts to sustain the health of your lake, please help them out with a tax-deductible donation. Details can be found at www.plwa.ca

COVID-19

To ensure that all residents are receiving consistent, up-to-date information, Council recommends that you frequently visit the Government of Alberta website:

www.alberta.ca/covid-19

Government of Canada website:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

Please remain vigilant, and focus on following health guidance and responsibly enjoy another summer at the lake. We wish everyone a safe and fantastic summer.

POPLAR BAY COUNCIL:

Mayor Fraser Hubbard
403-612-5272

Deputy Mayor Brian Meaney
780-242-8172

Councilor Gary Carew
780-910-7310