



Summer Village of Island Lake

May 2020 Newsletter

Mayor's Message

As you know Alberta is going through an unprecedented time with the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important that each of us follow the advice of our health professionals and do our part to reduce the spreading of the virus. The Alberta.ca website is the best source of information as it relates to the current status of Covid-19 in Alberta.

It has been and will continue to be a difficult year financially for many Albertans. Government, Federal and Provincial, have taken many extraordinary measures to help Albertans. As a municipality we have taken additional measures to further reduce costs and will not increase Municipal taxes for this year and have extended the tax payment deadlines.

With the weather warming up, there are many outdoor activities that we can do safely and I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy what the season has to offer while ensuring physical distancing and following all public health orders.

We will be monitoring and following Alberta's relaunch strategy and will follow their guidance and health orders as we review summer programs and events and will keep everyone posted.

Wishing you all the best over the summer!

Mayor Chad Newton, Deputy Mayor Duncan Binder & Councillor Jim Montague

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

July 24 - Assessment Complaint Deadline

September 30 – Taxes Due

October 1 – 6% Penalty Current Year Taxes

November 1 – 6% Penalty Current Year Taxes

December 1 – 6% Penalty Current Year Taxes

January 1 – 18% Total Tax Arrears

Administration Office Contact

Your administration office is located at 4808 - 51 Street, within the Town of Onoway.

MAILING ADDRESS:

Box 8 Alberta Beach, T0E 0A0

PHONE: 780-967-0271

FAX: 780-967-0431

EMAIL: svislandlake@wildwillowenterprises.com

WEBSITE: www.islandlake.ca

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/svislandlake

COUNCIL: Mayor, Chad Newton
Deputy Mayor, Duncan Binder
Councillor, Jim Montague

ADMINISTRATION: CAO, Wendy Wildman

DUE TO COVID-19 THE OFFICE IS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

STAFF ARE WORKING AND YOU CAN PAY TAX PAYMENTS VIA E-TRANSFER, VIA ON-LINE BANKING, VIA MAIL OR THERE IS A SLOT IN THE DOOR FOR PAYMENT DROP OFF.

Correct Mailing Addresses

Has your mailing address changed? It is important that the Summer Village Administration Office has your current mailing address. Without your current information, you will not be getting important notices from the Summer Village.

PAYING TAXES AT THE BANK

Please ensure when you are pay your taxes via electronic funds transfer or via on-line banking that you choose to pay **Island Lake** and **NOT** Island Lake South.

Island Lake South may charge us a fee to forward your tax payment, and we will in turn be forwarding this fee on to you as a property owner.

Please look closely at the names when making your payment.



PROPERTY ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

The assessed value amount that is on your combined tax and assessment 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. This is prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and the collapsed economy and, unfortunately, can't be changed due to Provincial regulations which govern property assessment. The property assessment is the estimated market value of your property which is used to calculate property taxes.

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.

You are encouraged to talk to an assessor if you have any concerns about the assessment as it relates to your property value in July 2019. 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 **July 24, 2020**. 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. Please also keep in mind that the assessor does not set the tax rates in the municipality, and, therefore, can not answer questions about property taxation nor can they answer questions about the amount of services you receive. Prior to completing the assessment complaint form, please contact the assessor to first discuss the matter of your assessment (not your tax dollars) – Municipal Assessment Services Group – Assessor Ray Crews – 780-939-3310.

BUDGET AND TAX UPDATE

In recognition of the extreme circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting potential hardships faced by property owners, Council has approved the 2020 Operating and Capital Budget with a 0% increase in municipal tax dollars collected. As a result of passing a budget with a 0% increase in municipal tax dollars collected, the minimum municipal tax per property to be collected remains at \$600.00. Also in consideration of COVID-19, the tax payment deadline has been moved from July 31st to September 30th and the tax penalty structure for 2020 has been changed from 18% on August 1st to 6% on October 1st, 6% on November 1st, and 6% on December 1st. The 18% penalty on outstanding balances on January 1 remains unchanged.

PROPERTY TAXES – DUE SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

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 on behalf of the Greater North Seniors Foundation and the Alberta School Foundation Fund.

If paying your taxes by mail:

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

If paying your taxes through telephone banking or online banking:

You are required to set the Summer Village of Island Lake up as a "Bill Payment", the account number will be your "tax roll number" as shown on your Combined Tax and Assessment Notice.

If paying your taxes through e-transfer:

Please contact the administration office to set up an email and password at 780-967-0271.

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.

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
- Sanitation Supplies
- Important family document:
- Insurance documents



Municipal Development Plan, Land Use Bylaw & Intermunicipal Development Plan Updates

The Council of the Summer Village has established a new committee to review and provide recommendations to Council with respect to the development of a new Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and proposed revisions to the Land Use Bylaw (LUB).

The following individuals have been selected as members of the committee by Council:

- Terry Kuprowsky (*Member at Large*)
- Harold Walters (*Member at Large*)
- Darren Lamarre (*Member at Large*)
- David Kluthe (*Member at Large*)
- Marc Lachambre (*Member at Large*)
- Morris Nesdole (*on behalf of BAILS*); and
- Deputy Mayor Duncan Binder (*on behalf of Council*).

The project consultant, Municipal Planning Services (MPS), will facilitate committee meetings, prepare draft documents for the committee to review and assist in development and delivery of the project engagement program. The role of the Committee will be to provide recommendation to Council to help achieve the following project objectives:

- Ensure that the new MDP and LUB are consistent with the requirements in Part 17 of the Municipal Government Act and recent amendments thereto;
- Ensure that MDP and LUB policies and regulations reflect the existing character of the community and take into consideration the values of community members; and
- Incorporate watershed planning best practices into the MDP and LUB to help ensure that redevelopment and new development within the Summer Village is designed to minimize negative impacts on lake water quality and the watershed.

The initial start-up meeting for the committee has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic but we are hoping to hold our first meeting in the near future. To ensure that the community is provided with regular updates about the project the project consultant is preparing a project website to host information and updates. The project webpage (www.planislandlake.ca) is currently under development and should be up and running by the end of May. Please visit the link provided for project updates. The website will also provide information about the Island Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan project which has just begun and is a joint land use planning initiative between the Summer Villages of Island Lake & Island Lake South and Athabasca County.



Just a reminder for residents and their guests that maximum speed in the Summer Village of Island Lake in ideal conditions is 30km/h and 20km/h in alleys. Non ideal conditions would include but not limited to visibility, road conditions, weather, blind corners, pedestrians, trailer towing and many other conditions.

You can never control the consequences if you speed.

Do you have a pet?

Please ensure your pet is on a leash at all times & take responsibility for your pet's waste and pick it up.



Athabasca Regional Multiplex Pool – Working with our Neighbours!

The Summer Village of Island Lake will be contributing \$10,000.00/year for 10 years to the Athabasca Regional Multiplex Campaign in support of their new pool – visit their Facebook page for more information

[http://www.facebook.com/AthabascaRegionalCa
mpaign/](http://www.facebook.com/AthabascaRegionalCampaign/).

The \$17M community pool project is funded 60/40 with the County of Athabasca and the Town of Athabasca. We look forward to further regional collaboration in the future to bring projects like this to our community. For further information on the pool project visit the following website: [http://www.athabascacounty.com/pool-
project/](http://www.athabascacounty.com/pool-project/).

“Healthy Families give us Healthy Communities; Healthy Communities support Healthy Families”

GIVE AWAY DRAW

Congratulation to the 2020 winners!

Glenn M
Erin D
Jeannette J
Dan C
Kyle G

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
- Coolers
- Livewells
- Ballast
- Internal compartments
- 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.



Please help keep our aquatic animals and plants. DO NOT wash vehicles, ATV's or boats in the lake!

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!



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

1-800-242-3447



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.

FireSmart Home Hazard Assessments

Free home hazard assessments are available!

<https://athabascacounty.com/firesmart-2/>



Fires can happen! **ARE YOU COVERED??**



Did you know that:

If the Fire Department has to respond to a wild land fire (grass/brush) that was started because of irresponsible intentional burning, you will be charged. If a fire occurs on the property because of an act of nature (lightning) or cannot be directly linked to actions of the homeowner, then charges will not be imposed.

Will your insurance cover these costs? What does your policy say?

Be sure you look at your home insurance policy or talk to your insurance agent. Some insurance companies do not insure for fire equipment in the case of a fire, and some include up to two thousand dollars with an option for you to increase that coverage for a very reasonable additional cost. Ask your provider what your policy covers.

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



Development Permits

All development within the Summer Village requires permits. For any questions or concerns on Development, please contact the Development Officer, **Tony Sonnleitner** @ 780-718-5479 or by email at pcm1@telusplanet.net.

Dock Permits

Provincial Requirements - There are new requirements in place for placing a dock in the lake. Please refer to the website for the dock permit application & the "user guide for dock permits." It outlines the requirements and process for an individual to obtain an authorization to place a temporary, seasonal dock for personal recreational use in Alberta's water bodies.

Island Lake Historical Society

Who we are: We are a volunteer group made up of 7 long-term "Lakers." The group was originally formed in 2002 with its main purpose to preserve the history of the lake. Some of the original members are no longer with us, but their legacy lives on through their visions, dreams, and completed work.

What we have accomplished:

1. The 2005 publication of the book "Island Lake; Ripples and Reflections." A favorite summer read of most cabin owners! Unfortunately, all copies of the book have been sold.
2. The building of the Gazebo during the fall of 2014 at the memorial park (located near the baseball diamond).
3. The ordering and hanging of memorial tags of former "Lakers" who have passed on. To date we have 59 memorial tags hanging in the Gazebo. Memorial tags can be ordered at a cost of \$35.25 each. For ordering information please contact: Irene Hrechuk – ihrechuk@gmail.com or Sharon Pidsadowski – pspidsadowski@mcsnet.ca
4. The successful application of a Community Enrichment Program Grant (August 2019) for the purpose of redevelopment of the old playground equipment has been ordered and hopefully it will be installed this coming summer. A big thank you to Jennifer Jborgen for taking the lead on this.

Why we exist: *All members of the Historical Society are united by their passion and love for the lake.*

Historical Society Members: Dale DeMartin, Irene Hrechuk, Sharon Livingstone, Darlene McIntosh, Maureen Mohs, Sharon Pidsadowski, Eric Schickle