



# Summer Village of Island Lake

May 2021 Newsletter

## Mayor's Message

Another winter is over, the ice is gone, and spring is officially here!! Let us all hope that it will be a good one leading into what will be a great summer as we move into overcoming COVID and its' impact upon our Community and the world in general.

This year we plan on performing paving upgrades on Highway Avenue, Lakeshore Drive North near the bridge, Elk Avenue and Trout Street. We also will be continuing general maintenance around the Village.

We hope to have our kids' summer programs running this year for the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year; but will need to see what Government of Alberta restrictions are in place. We are hopeful we can continue this program again this year. Once more information is available, we will make it available on our website.

I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy what the season has to offer.

On behalf of Council and Staff, I would like to wish everyone a very safe and enjoyable spring and summer season! I know the last number of months have been exceedingly difficult and trying on everybody. So, to all – Hold Fast – we are all in this together and together we will surely get through it.

## 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.



## 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](mailto:svislandlake@wildwillowenterprises.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.islandlake.ca](http://www.islandlake.ca)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/svislandlake](http://www.facebook.com/svislandlake)

**COUNCIL:** Mayor, Chad Newton

Deputy Mayor, Duncan Binder

Councillor, Jim Montague

### **ADMINISTRATION:**

CAO, Wendy Wildman

Admin Asst., Diane Wannamaker

## 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 to the RCMP as soon as possible.

## Correct Mailing Addresses

Are you new to the Summer Village? It is important that the Summer Village Administration Office has your current mailing address. Without your current mailing address, your tax notice may not be properly delivered and that could lead to delays & penalties.

## PAYING AT BANK

Please ensure when you pay your taxes via electronic funds transfer that you choose

**Island Lake** and **NOT** Island Lake South.

***If Island Lake South charges us a fee to forward your tax payment, 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 at the bank.***



## IMPORTANT DATES!!!

**September 30<sup>th</sup>** – Taxes Due

**October 1<sup>st</sup>** – 6% Penalty Current Year Taxes

**Assessment Complaint Deadline** – July 24<sup>th</sup>

**November 1<sup>st</sup>** – 6% Penalty Current Yr. Taxes

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** – 6% Current Year Taxes

**January 1<sup>st</sup>** – 18% Penalty Total Outstanding Taxes!!

## ELECTION YEAR!!!



### 2021 Summer Village Elections for the Office of Councillor – 3 Positions

In Alberta, Summer Village's hold municipal elections in July or August. If you are considering running for a Council position, please visit the website: [www.svislandlake.ca](http://www.svislandlake.ca) for additional information.

**NOMINATION DAY:** Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**ADVANCE VOTE:** Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**ELECTION DAY:** Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**ALL HELD AT THE GROS MONT HALL**

## Property Taxes – Due September 30, 2021

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.**

In recognition of the ongoing COVID situation, the tax penalty structure for 2021 remains the same as 2020; 6% on the first day of October, 6% on the first day of November, 6% on the first day of December. Any taxes which are not paid on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December of the current year is subject to a penalty of 18% on the first day of January. Council approved the 2021 Operating and Capital Budget with a 2.1% increase in municipal tax dollars collected from the previous year. Every \$2,500 increase in expenses results in a one percent increase in taxes. The amount downloaded from the Province for policing costs this year amounts to \$6,708. This is a significant portion of the municipal tax increase. The minimum municipal tax per property to be collected remains at \$600.00.

**Assessment:** Property Assessment services are contracted to Municipal Assessment Services Group.

**What is a Property Assessment?** Each year, the Assessor will inspect certain properties within the Municipality. The Assessment is the estimated market value your property which is used to calculate property taxes as of May 25<sup>th</sup>. The market determines the value of your property; and that value is the basis for the assessment. It is then used to calculate your property taxes. Assessors are bound by strict guidelines for assessment and will be ensuring everything possible is taken into consideration for the future.

**What if I Disagree with My Assessment?** You are encouraged to talk to an assessor if you have concerns about the assessment as it relates to your property value. Remember, you can only make a complaint against your **assessed** value, not your tax dollars or rates, and you **MUST** have grounds for your complaint. Please also keep in mind that the assessor does not set the rates in the municipality, and therefore, cannot answer questions about property taxation, nor can they answer questions about the amount of services you receive. New legislation allows you 60 days from the date of your assessment notice to make an assessment complaint. **The assessment complaint deadline is July 24<sup>th</sup>.** There is a fee of \$50.00 that must accompany a completed assessment complaint form, which is available on the website or by contacting the office at (780)967-0271. Prior to completing the assessment complaint form, please contact the Assessor to first discuss the matter of your assessment (not your tax dollars), Ray Crews (780)939-3310.

## **Dock Permits – NEW!!!**

Provincial Requirements – there are requirements in place for placing a seasonal dock/boat lift in the lake. The regulations have changed in April, 2021 and the new “Disturbance Standard for Temporary Seasonal Docks & Other Mooring Structures for Personal Recreational Purposes” was created to set the maximum acceptable footprint for temporary seasonal docks, temporary seasonal boat lifts and associated mooring structures for personal recreational purposes on the beds and shores of Alberta’s recreational lakes and rivers that are public land owned by the Crown. The disturbance standard creates a general permission for most waterfront, semi-waterfront and municipal dock owners and eliminates the need for residents to apply for an authorization to the Province **IF** they abide by the standards. **PLEASE NOTE** that notification for approval still must be made to the Municipality if the seasonal dock/boat lift is off of municipal property. Please refer to the following website for further information:

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/user-guide-for-dock-permits>

## **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).

Quagga and zebra mussels move from lake to lake by attaching themselves to boats and other recreational equipment. Quagga mussels are found in various parts of North America, such as in the Colorado River system in the US, a popular destination for Alberta snowbirds. Zebra mussels were discovered in Lake Winnipeg, Manitoba in October 2013.

Here’s how to keep Alberta waters free of aquatic invasive species, and keep your boat and recreational equipment in ship-shape.

### **Boaters**

### **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
- Ballasts
- Bilges
- Coolers
- Internal compartments
- Livewells, etc

#### **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

Remove any vegetation or clumps of mud or debris from the vehicle and thoroughly clean the underside of vehicles, tires and parts before moving to another area.



**DO NOT WASH VEHICLES, ATV'S BOATS ETC. IN THE LAKE!!!**

**HELP KEEP OUR AQUATIC ANIMALS AND PLANTS HEALTY!!!**

## 2021 projects:

1. Back Alley Realignment Elk Ave./Tranquille Drive (ongoing)
2. Seal Coat Moose Ave (new)
3. Culvert Install Creek @ Robert Environmental Reserve (new)
4. Elk Ave. to Int. of Trout, prep, base gravel and cold mix application (new)
5. Connector Road – Lakeshore South to Lakeshore North on north side of bridge, prep, base gravel and cold mix application (new)
6. Hwy Ave from Pike Str. to Beaver Ave., prep, base gravel and cold mix application (new)

[NOTE] these projects will be done this spring as soon as weather permits.

Jim Montague  
Public Works



## 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](mailto:pcm1@telusplanet.net).

## Canada Day Celebration!!

Check our website and our Facebook page for further information on this year's Canada Day Celebration.

Thank you to the Department of Canadian Heritage for helping to fund the event.

Funded by the Government of Canada

| **Canada**

## Annual Island Lake Days

*With the ongoing COVID pandemic restrictions, we are not certain this will move forward in 2021.*

*(Updates will be posted to the website)*



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 be limited to visibility, road conditions, weather, blind corners, pedestrians, trailer towing and many other conditions.

**You can never control the consequences if you speed.**



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



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

**DID YOU KNOW** that *in certain circumstances*, the cost of fire suppression by the fire department is payable by the property owner?? In Island Lake, the fire department is funded jointly by the six Summer Villages around Baptiste and Island Lake. Annually, each municipality is invoiced for their share of fire protection based on the previous years' expenditures. The cost of fire suppression charges are forwarded to the residents' insurance company for cost recovery. With regard to wildland fires, if a fire originates on an individuals' property in the Summer Village, and spreads to adjacent property outside of the Summer Village, there is a strong likelihood that cost recovery will be pursued either by Ag and Forestry or Athabasca County. 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. In addition to inquiring about your home structure fire insurance, it is recommended that you inquire about wildland insurance.



## **HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR 2021 CENSUS PACKAGE??**

We encourage all residents to complete their census questionnaire (online option: [www.census.gc.ca](http://www.census.gc.ca)). Accurate & complete census data supports programs and services that benefit **our Community!!**



## **Forest & Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA)**

In the fall of 2020, the Summer Village of Island Lake applied for and was approved for a FireSmart grant in the amount of \$38,500 under the Vegetation/Fuel Management discipline. This project included non-commercial vegetation management in high potential fuel type areas in the Summer Village. All areas targeted were recommended as a high priority area in the Athabasca Wildfire Mitigation Plan. The objective of these treatments was to reduce fire behaviour potential in close proximity to the residents. These treatments are intended to keep the wildfire on the forest floor to improve suppression capability and reduce ember transplant onto adjacent homes. There were 5 areas treated for a total of 4.16 hectares or 10.3 acres.

### **Advice from FireSmart Canada – WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR RISK:**

- Download the FireSmart Begins at Home app & undertake a structure ignition-zone assessment
- Raking and removing pine needles & dry leaves within a minimum of 1.5 meters of a home's foundation. As time permits, continue up to a 10 meter distance around the home. Dispose of collected debris in appropriate trash receptacles
- Cleaning pine needles from roofs and gutters
- Getting out your measuring tape and seeing how close wood piles are located to the home. If closed than 10 meters, relocating and moving the pile at least 10 meters from structures
- Mowing grass to a height of 10 centimeters 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.

**For additional information, visit**  
**[www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca)**



## NEW CHANGES TO ALBERTA'S DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Alberta Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) is intended to fund uninsurable losses incurred due to a disaster event. Typically, this covers damage from overland flooding or wildfire. Details of the changes include:

- 90:10 cost-sharing arrangement with local governments and private-sector applicants, which include homeowners, residential tenants, small business owners, landlords, agriculture operations, condominium associations and not for profit organizations and cooperatives
- This arrangement means the province will provide assistance for 90% of eligible disaster costs and the impacted municipality and private sector applicants are responsible for the remaining 10% of their respective costs. For homeowners, the assistance will be capped at \$500,000, however this is a ONE-TIME limit on disaster financial assistance per property; it is not cumulative. This means that if a property owner makes a DRP claim for \$100,000, that is the ONLY payout available on that property. Properties that have claimed a payout under the DRP will be listed on a government website so that prospective home buyers will be able to determine the status before a purchase. If a property has received disaster financial assistance under the Disaster Recovery Program in 2021 and beyond, that property will NOT be eligible for subsequent Disaster Recovery Program assistance in the future.
- A reduction in direct emergency living expense payments to \$625 for adults and \$300 for minors

Municipalities must now consider developing a reserve fund to offset the costs in the event of a disaster, however these changes also come at a time when the Province has reduced the Municipal Sustainability Initiative allotment by 25%. Municipalities must already make difficult financial choices and it may not be feasible to consider a reserve fund at this time. Another download by the Province!!



### **Brush & Tree Disposal**

Athabasca County, in cooperation with the Athabasca Regional Waste Management Services Commission (ARWMSC); is proposing a FireSmart project around the May long weekend (May 21<sup>st</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>) to help property owners with their FireSmart spring cleanup. The program will be advertised in the newspaper and on the website.

The project will include the "Free Hazardous Fuel Disposal Weekend"; all waste transfer sites will waive the fees to ratepayers for disposal of waste brush and trees.

This program has been a very cost-effective way of encouraging FireSmart practices. Please check out exact dates at: [arwmisc@mcsnet.ca](mailto:arwmisc@mcsnet.ca)