



Summer Village of Island Lake

May 2023 Newsletter

Mayor's Message

Another winter has come and gone and the summer is now upon us!

We all can look forward to another summer at Island Lake and enjoying time with friends and family.

We have a few projects on the schedule for this year, including paving of Tranquille Drive and we also hope to receive final approvals to complete improvements on the boat launches.

We had great success with our kids summer programs over the last 4 years and will be continuing this program again this year, more information and scheduling will be made available shortly.

From myself, Deputy Mayor Fisher and Councillor Wasmuth, we thank you for the privilege of serving on Council, and all the best over the summer!!

Mayor Chad Newton

Administration Office Contact

Your administration office is located at 4924 51Ave., Bruderheim, AB.

MAILING ADDRESS:

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Chad.newton@islandlake.ca

Deputy Mayor, Alan Fisher

Alan.fisher@islandlake.ca

Councillor, John Wasmuth

John.wasmuth@islandlake.ca

ADMINISTRATION:

CAO, Phyllis Forsyth CLGM

Admin Asst., Les Forsyth

Development Officer, Matthew Ferris

Email: PDsummervillage@outlook.com

***NEW!! Welcome Matt!!**

Development Permits

All development within the Summer Village requires permits. For any questions or concerns on Development, please contact the Development Officer, **Matthew Ferris** by email at PDsummervillage@outlook.com

Correct Mailing Address

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 30th – Taxes Due

October 1st – 6% Penalty Current Year Taxes

Assessment Complaint Deadline – July 24

November 1st – 6% Penalty Current Yr. Taxes

December 1st – 6% Penalty Current Year Taxes

January 1st – 18% Penalty Total Outstanding Taxes!!

Annual Information Meeting

Details of the 2023 Summer Village AIM will be posted on the website as plans firm up.

www.islandlake.ca

Free Yard Debris Disposal Program

From May 20th to May 30th, fees for disposing of yard debris including grass, leaves, branches & wood will be waived at all Athabasca Regional Transfer Stations during normal summer hours!!

Join your neighbors & take advantage of this opportunity to clean up your yard and make your Community FIRESMART!!

Property Taxes – Due September 30, 2023

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.***

The tax penalty structure for 2023 remains the same as 2022; 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 31st day of December of the current year is subject to a penalty of 18% on the first day of January. Council approved the 2023 Operating and Capital Budget with a 5.3% increase collected from the previous year. Every \$2,555 increase in expenses results in a one percent increase in taxes. The amount downloaded from the Province for policing costs this year amounts to \$14,309, which is \$4,241 higher than last year. This accounts for a 1.7% of the tax increase in 2023. The minimum municipal tax per property to be collected is set at \$740.00.

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 of your property from the prior year, which is used to calculate your property taxes for the current year. 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 24th, 2023.** 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), Justin Goudreau (780)939-3310.

Dock Permits – Check Island Lake Website for Further Details

Provincial Requirements – there are requirements in place for placing a seasonal dock/boat lift in the lake. The regulations 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>

Summer Village of Island Lake

Public Works - Spring Update

It is great to see the ice off the lake and the trees starting to leaf out. The following outlines a few of the public works projects that have been completed, as well as a few notes on projects that are scheduled for the upcoming summer:

Projects:

- Last summer we completed the paving of Elk Avenue and Cul de Sac. We also completed subgrade prep for the resident access off of Tranquil Drive. Paving of this road is scheduled to be completed this summer.
- The Village implemented some of the recommendations brought forward in the WSP Transportation Study – this included the installation of two radar speed monitoring signs and painting the center line on Spruce Drive.
- Some temporary work was also completed on the north and south boat launches – we are hoping to receive final approval from provincial and federal governments to complete more improvements this summer.

Maintenance:

- Mowing of the ditches and reserves was completed throughout the summer last year and is scheduled to be completed again this year.
- Snow plowing and sanding was completed throughout the winter – there was less snow to manage this year, however we did have a number of freezing rain events that proved to be challenging. Many thanks to our committed contractors for helping on short notice.
- As suggested at the annual meeting last year, we organized a spring cleanup for the Village. This helped get the parks, ball diamond, boat launches and reserves in good shape for the start of the summer season.
- We are planning to install speed bumps again this summer – they are scheduled to be installed on Lakeshore Drive South (2), Lakeshore Drive North (1), Beaver Ave (1) in similar locations to last year.

I hope you have a great summer and get plenty of time to enjoy the lake!!

Al Fisher

Deputy Mayor / Public Works

Message from Councillor Wasmuth

With grass turning green, leaves popping out and new calves being born, I think spring has finally arrived. It is that time of year when we all start itching for spending time outdoors at the lake.

It has been a busy winter for Council and Administration. We have a new Development Officer (DO), Matthew Ferris, who can be reached at PDsummervillage@outlook.com. Per Land Use Bylaw 08-2021 (LUB) essentially all developments within the Summer Village require a Development Permit. For complete information, please reference the LUB under the "Information – Bylaws & Policies" tab of the www.islandlake.ca website. Application forms are also available under the "Bylaws & Forms" tab of the www.islandlake.ca website. For anyone planning a development, I encourage you to communicate with the DO, submit an Application and have a Development Permit in hand before commencing any construction within the Summer Village.

The Summer Village completed the acquisition of small areas of land along Lakeshore Drive North to accommodate existing roadway development. We thank all of those involved in these acquisitions..

The Summer Village has also entered into a contract with Athabasca County to provide Community Peace Officer (CPO) services to SVIL on a part time – as requested basis. The CPO can be reached at cpo@athabascacounty.com or by calling (780)675-2273. The "Complaint Line" is (587)746-0647.

Budget deliberations extended over four months and resulted in a 5.3% increase in expenses from 2022, basically due to price inflation of goods and services required for the needs of the Summer Village. The rate of inflation, based on the Alberta CPI, was 6.4% over the last year.

After a relatively long and busy winter, we can all look forward to some rest and relaxation at the lake this summer!!

John Wasmuth
SVIL Councillor

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.



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

(Updates will be posted to facebook and 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.

Please follow speed limits and use respect when operating **ALL** vehicles within the Village.

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.



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

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

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, to be cleared unless Council determines that areas need to be cleared of dangerous undergrowth or decay, 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, to be used for the storage of boat lifts or boat docks and are not for camping or recreational fires of any kind.

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.

WAKE ZONE, MOTOR NOISE & OTHER WATER ISSUES

The Summer Village of Island Lake boasts a beautiful lake for residents and visitors to enjoy. Treating it with care means it will be there for future generations to enjoy. There are many things you can do to reduce your recreational impacts to the lake.

Did you know that when you disturb the bottom of a lake with wake from your boat or sea-doo, it can lead to growth of blue-green algae?

Transport Canada regulations include provisions for operators to reduce their speed to under 10km/h within **30 meters** of the shoreline. When slowing down for no-wake zones, throttle back to idle for about 10 seconds. Wait for the bow to drop and your boat or watercraft to level out before proceeding at the regulated speed. Keep an eye on your wake until clear of the no-wake zone.

Transport Canada's proposed Wakesurfing Vessel Operating Restrictions Regulations *provide Municipalities with a process for restricting boating activities in certain or all parts of a body of water.* We all love watersports and boating, but some activities like wakesurfing need to be restricted in certain areas. Amended regulations will enable Municipalities across Canada to protect specific areas from the impacts of excessive wakes without restricting other tow sports. More on this to come!!

Regulations on excessive boat motor noise are coming: Transport Canada has made it clear that they are actively engaged in creating decibel regulations for both watercraft manufactures and operators. Regulations are expected to come into force by 2025. In the meantime, the Decibel Coalition is meeting with law enforcement agencies across Canada and the U.S. to learn and share best practices for enforcement of new decibel regulations. Stay tuned!!

The Summer Village of Island Lake is on a beautiful lake for all to enjoy. Keeping the ecosystems that support them healthy is a role we can all play. Treating it with care each time you visit means that it will be there for future generations to enjoy.

Be courteous to others and consider what effect your wake, watercraft noise levels, wakeboarding etc. is having.

PLEASE REMEMBER!!!

When parking your vehicles and storing your belonging, keep everything entirely on your private property and not on the municipal reserves, right-of-ways or the Village roads. Please refer to Bylaw 01-2022, Section 4.1.