



Summer Village of Island Lake **NEWSLETTER**

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Island Lake Days

Another Great Island Lake Days has come and gone! Golf, Baseball, Fishing, Canoe Races, Parade, Kids Games, Ice Cream, and BBQ to name just a few of the great goings on.

Council would like to thank all of our event organizers including Scot Reid, Shannon Taylor, Bob Taylor, Todd Dale, Willow McIntosh, LeeAnna Binder and Darren Lamarre as well as the volunteers including Ron Thompson, Robbie McIntosh, Madison Hook and many others. Thanks Chad Newton for helping out with hot dogs and ice cream. Without everyone's time - it wouldn't have been possible!

Already looking forward to next year!

Survey Results

We asked for your input, and we got it. Thank you to all of you who responded. This has enabled council to craft an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan with specific capital goals for the future.

Lake Access

A common theme that came through in the Survey was the need for lake access for back lot property owners. With this in mind, council has begun the clean-up and improvement of several access points around the village and a floating dock has been installed at two locations. The users of these docks are responsible to help with the installation in the spring and removal in the fall. Bylaw 209-05 controls the permitted activities in these locations. Your cooperation is appreciated in keeping these community areas clean and functional for the enjoyment of all.

Land Use Bylaw

The new Land Use Bylaw 03-2012 is now in place. Council expresses a big thank you to the Committee for their input and recommendations.



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Landscaping & Beautification Projects

The Summer Village believes trees have a real environmental function that is important. It is the goal of the Summer Village to replace and add trees to areas to increase the enjoyment of the lake for all residents. This is done by providing noise reduction through Shelter Belt installation, trees in Park and baseball diamond for enjoyment and replace trees as required. In addition we have added a new walking trail and trees around the park area to provide residents with a safe place to walk and exercise thereby promoting good health, as well as environmental appreciation. As part of our long term planning we hope to continue this environmental plan and process throughout the village and welcome any ideas or suggestions.

Road Upgrades

Since our last General Meeting last year, council had the corner of Highway Ave. and Beaver fixed and widened to remedy a hazardous corner. Pike Ave, Beaver and Lakeshore South were upgraded and drainage issues were dealt with in preparation of paving this year. These roads are scheduled to be paved the week of July 16/12, weather permitting. Spruce Ave was paved last year and we have a few repairs to make; some caused by heavy equipment from construction.

Going forward Lakeshore North is scheduled to be widened and upgraded late this fall including drainage and cutting back trees and vegetation in the road allowance.

Firesmart moneys were used to thin out reserve on Highway Ave north of the store in case of a wildfire. We have more work of this type to do on village reserves- cleaning dangerous trees and deadfall.

Wastewater/Sewer Inspections

The deadline for having a pump out wastewater/sewer tank was December 31, 2011. All properties must have a tank in place. Any non-compliant properties are subject to fines and penalties as indicated in 03-2008 Sewer Bylaw. We are now re-inspecting to ensure compliance and will continue to be vigilant in enforcing this important bylaw. Thank you for your cooperation in this process. The future quality of the water in our lake is better for your efforts.

Emergency Response, Preparedness & Evacuation

Council was recently advised by the Athabasca Fire Prevention Department that a connecting road should be put through from Lakeshore Drive South to Lakeshore Drive North. The concern is the lack of access for emergency vehicles and emergency evacuation.

Additionally this year there have been a number of emergency situations where the ambulance took the wrong turn and ended up going all the way back around to reach the patient. This cost precious minutes and could have been prevented. Council is aware that this idea is controversial however; as responsible, elected officials we need to look at the situation and do what is best for everyone. We will keep you informed well ahead of time, of any studies or plans regarding this situation.



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In June a shed caught fire and burned to the ground. Fortunately neighbors were able to use garden hoses to keep the fire contained until the Fire Department arrived. Thank you to those who stepped up!

Unfortunately we did not have the phone numbers of the homeowner or adjoining neighbors. We will be sending out a request for Emergency Contact Information for every property within the village. Your number and information will be kept confidential and only used when reaching you is absolutely necessary.

Shoreline Work

All shoreline development work must meet local, provincial and federal guidelines. The federal department of Fisheries is located in Edmonton. They have levied heavy fines and required remedial work at Lake Isle and Pigeon Lake for shoreline work that was completed without permits. All shoreline work requires a permit from Alberta Environment. Please contact the village office for further information.

Development Permits

The Summer Village requires development permits for **all** construction projects. Development permits **must** be posted on the property and be visible from the road. The province of Alberta requires that any construction be completed in accordance with the Safety Codes Act. Any damage to the roads caused by construction will be billed to the developer.

You must have permits for all gas, plumbing, heating, electrical and building construction. You also need a permit for any demolition project or any clearing that may affect the contour of the land. A safety codes officer will **NOT** give you a permit unless they have permission from the municipality. Please contact the village office for a development permit application.

Local Authorities Election Act

What makes a Summer Village unique is that you, the property owners, despite not being full-time residents, can run your own municipal government including the election of your own council, creation of your own bylaws, control property development and establish your level of taxation. Right now you have a say in what goes on in your Summer Village government and directly affects your property and way of life. The Alberta Government is reviewing the Municipal Government Act and specifically looking at the Local Authorities Elections Act. They have asked for the public's input via an online survey at <http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/1774.cfm>.

We believe that the four questions that could impact Summer Village voting are misleading to the average Albertan who is not aware of Summer Villages and could skew the results against the voting rights we presently enjoy.

If the Act is changed so as to not allow you to vote in your Summer Village unless you are a full time resident, your voice and the Summer Village form of Government will necessarily disappear. The options will be to become a village where only full time residents can vote or hold office; or be taken over by the County.



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What can **YOU** do about it?

1. Go online to Municipal Affairs website before July 31, 2012 at <http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/1774.cfm> and answer the survey.
The relevant questions are 8 to 11. The others do not affect Summer Villages directly and you can answer or ignore them, as you choose.
2. Call, write or send an email to your MLA and express your concern!
3. Spread the word!

Thanks for your help in preserving our way of life at the lake.

For your information questions 8-11 are listed below. Best, suggested, responses are indicated in bold.

Q8.: The current Act establishes rules to determine a person's place of residence for the purposes of voting. Are the rules of residence clear enough to determine who is eligible to vote in an election? [Section 47 and 48]

Yes No No opinion

Q9.: Currently, the Act allows a person to vote in only one local jurisdiction, except for summer village property owners, who can vote in multiple jurisdictions. Should the Act be amended to adopt a standard approach for all Albertans? [Section 12, 47 and 48]

Yes **No** No opinion

Q10.: If a standard approach for all Albertans is adopted, should a person be allowed to vote in more than one local jurisdiction if they are a resident or own property in each local jurisdiction?

Yes No No opinion

Q11.: If a standard approach for all Albertans is adopted that allows a person to vote in only one local jurisdiction, should the person be allowed to choose which local jurisdiction they wish to vote in if they are a resident or own property in multiple local jurisdictions?

Yes No No opinion



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Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Vicki Stafford as our Bylaw Officer for the Summer Village of Island Lake. The bylaw enforcement process is similar to the Animal Control process. It is complaint driven resulting in an investigation and a determination on the validity of the complaint. Subsequent action including warning letters, fines or legal consequence follows if necessary. You can find the Complaint Form on the village website.

Animal Control & Bylaw Officer- by Vicki Stafford

I thought I would take a moment and introduce myself to you all. I'm Vicki Stafford, the new Bylaw/Animal Control Officer in your area. I bring to you a great deal of experience in dog handling, behavior, issues, public relations, and conflict resolution. Currently I run a boarding kennel/training/grooming facility and assist the County of Athabasca, Town of Athabasca, and RCMP with housing for stray dogs and helping them find their owners. I have been in the animal industry for 18 years dealing with either livestock or small companion animals. I like to keep enhancing my education by taking courses and workshops related to the two and four legged kind!

GOALS

Our goal as a village is to ensure the safety of not only our families but of our pets as well. The best way to achieve this is through public education. The more informed our residents and their guests can be regarding the dog bylaw and what responsibilities pet owners have the happier and healthier our community will be. Because we all learn differently education will come in many different forms. It may be a handout I email to you, articles in the village newsletter, resources I can provide to help you seek the information you need, or it may be a visit to your door step. In whatever form it comes in, you can be assured that I am here to help make our community better so that we all have a fantastic summer.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

Now a days everything has to go through a "process" and animal control is no different. If you have a concern that is covered under the bylaws you can visit the website and download a Complaint Form. Once that form has been filled out and submitted to me, it will be determined if my attendance is necessary. The first call usually results in a written and verbal warning. For further infractions, fines and possibly impound fines may follow. Incidents after that result in legal consequences. As we all know, "processes" can take time, but I do attempt to follow up as soon as the information that I require to respond has been submitted. Some cases have a very quick turn around and others may take some time to resolve.

Should you have any questions or concerns in regards to the bylaws /animal control please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 780-689-0245 from 9 AM to 8 PM daily or by email to petboarding@mcsnet.ca. I am looking forward to working with your community and thank you all for this opportunity.

Vicki Stafford