Spring Newsletter

Spring 2021
www.betulabeach.com

Summer Village of Betula Beach

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EMERGENCY COMPLAINTS
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Message from our Mayor!

Our start to spring certainly seems slower than usual or is it because we are sitting at home (because of COVID) constantly looking out the window waiting for the grass to turn green or for the ice to come off the lake. We all continue to manage our lives for the most part in some foreign way and as a council we must continue to adjust to the changing environment not only from a health perspective but from a political point of view.

This spring is giving us unprecedented dry conditions. We will continue to monitor the Parkland County website and the fire ban status and will adjust the sign at the top of Terrace Street when it is safe to do so. We will also post information on our website and www.albertafirebans.ca. With this in mind we must be very cautious of the fire hazard in the Village. We have a lot of dead fall on undeveloped properties, long dry grasses that are very susceptible to fire so please be cautious with your activities around the Village.

We will open the port-a-potties for the May long weekend as the issue of contact transmission is way down relative to a year ago. Should you have any issues with the Port-a-Potties please contact the Administration Office to advise. We feel that as long as our Village residents continue to social distance, Betula Beach will be a safe place for you and your family.

Alberta Environment and Parks has finally released the Disturbance Standard for Temporary Docks and other Mooring Structures for Personal Recreational Purposes (alberta.ca/mooring-standards-engagement.aspx). Betula Beach's own policy that was developed in consultation with Back Lot owners meshes very well with the new Disturbance Standard and we expect to see little change to our policy and how mooring locations are managed at either Betula Rest or the Meadows. Please see our website for more details.

The 2021 budget has been approved. Our tax base for this year has increased from $22,483,970 to $23,149,170. The Municipal portion of the taxes is up approximately 6.2%. In 2021 we are seeing increased costs to provide fire services through Parkland County and extra policing costs that the Provincial Government is requiring of municipalities under 5,000 in population to now contribute. These costs will continue to increase over the next couple of years, however, Council and Administration are working to keep the overall budget manageable. The Education tax for 2021 is $57,676.41 which is a small increase of $1,073.42. We ended 2020 in a positive financial position again thanks to the hard work of our CAO and the management of our projects.

In 2021 we will continue to work on improving drainage on Spruce Street to try and get better drainage. Also, additional road grading and maintenance will be conducted.

Again, for our new property owners, we encourage you to be aware of the Land Use Bylaw (located at www.betulabeach.ca) and if you should have any questions as it relates to development, please contact the Admin Office – prior to your activities rather than the latter. We have also developed a policy as it relates to Illegal Works on Public Lands. A permit will be required along with a deposit if you propose to do work on Public Lands. This policy and information can be found on our website.

The Village continues to post signs throughout. Please be mindful of these signs as they are there to ensure that all residents and their guests respect our Village. An increasing issue pertains to illegal parking within the village. Please remind your guests not to park in the drainage ditches.

Seba Beach Transfer Station

53128 Range Rd. 61
Range Rd. 61 south of Hwy. 16

Betula Beach residents are entitled to receive a transfer station card that grants them access to nearby transfer stations where they may drop-off acceptable materials free of charge. You must present your waste transfer card to be eligible for no charge disposal. If you require a card, please contact Emily to arrange to have a card printed and mailed to you. If you have misplaced or lost your card Parkland County has a replacement fee of $35.00.

Summer Hours
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Winter Hours
Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Acceptable Materials

- automotive waste
- blue bag recycling
- commercial/construction waste (charges apply)
- electronics recycling
- grass and leaves
- household hazardous waste
- household waste
- metal recycling (charges apply)
- mixed waste (charges apply)
- tree trimmings

The Seba Beach Transfer Station has a fully operational compost site. In the interest of the environment please participate in the composting program for grass and leaves. Clear plastic garbage bags should be used. Place your leaves and grass clippings in the clear bags and transport them to the compost pile.

Please do not store household garbage outdoors unless contained in animal proof receptacles. We do not want to attract animals into our village.

Message from the Mayor continued

As stated in the past, the most productive and efficient way to deal with any issues within our Village is to first contact the Administration Office at 780-914-0997 or cao@betulabeach.ca or any one of the three council members. Our CAO will deal with your issues/concerns in a timely manner if they can. If not, the concern or issue will be brought to council's attention to discuss and address. Don't forget, you are more than welcome to attend our council meetings [virtually until further notice], just advise our CAO of your planned attendance.

Regarding the general safety of our village residents, again if you see people you don't recognize, stop and say hi or perhaps take down a license plate of that odd car or truck driving around in our Village. If you should happen to be dealing with people trespassing on your property or conducting themselves in a manner that requires intervention, then please call the RCMP directly in Evansburg at 780-727-3654.

On behalf of our volunteer council, I would like to wish everyone a safe summer with your family. *- Mayor Rob Dickie*

Village Administration

Many thanks to Rob Dickie, Peter Wilkes and Guy Normandeau for their support during the transitions of CAO's. Their commitment and personal time which is given so freely to serve on the many boards and committees required to run the municipality so effectively is greatly appreciated.

The Administration Office is currently only available by appointment only. Please call Emily House at 780-914-0997 or email at cao@betulabeach.cato schedule an appointment.

2021 Property Taxes

PROPERTY TAXES are DUE JULY 31, 2021 by MIDNIGHT.

Penalties will not be applied if the Village receives your payment on or before July 31, 2021 or if the post mark on your envelope is July 31, 2021.

An 18% penalty on your current tax levy will be applied on August 1, 2021. On January 1, 2022, an additional 18% penalty will be applied on the complete outstanding amount (previous and current tax levy and penalties).

If you should have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact Emily at 780-914-0997.

Election 2021

General Election: August 14, 2021
10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Summer Village of Kapasiwin Community Hall

Nominations Close: July 17, 2021

A candidate can file their nomination form in person starting immediately and ending at the close of Nomination Day on July 17, 2021. Nomination forms can be found on the Village's website. Prospective candidates can contact the Returning Officer by phone at 780-914-0997, or email cao@betulabeach.ca to schedule an appointment to submit your nomination form. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure their information is submitted to the Returning Officer by the deadline.

Returning Officer: Emily House
Phone: 780-914-0997
Email: cao@betulabeach.ca

Water Safety

Stay legal. Get your Pleasure Craft Operators License at EYC

Canadian law requires that anyone, regardless of age operating a vessel fitted with a motor, whether the motor is in use or not, must have a valid Pleasure Craft Operators License, commonly called the boat license. There is a $250.00 fine for not being in possession of the card. To get the card you must pass a simple exam after a course instruction, which teaches you the basics of water safety. Become a certified safe boater and save yourself embarrassment and a possible fine. Courses are available at EYC located in Seba Beach. Contact Paul Kantor or mail in an application form available at www.sinbad.ca.

Off Highway Vehicles

A reminder that while operating Off Highway Vehicles (quads, dirt bikes, golf carts, etc.) registration and insurance are required for these vehicles, and valid plates must be displayed. The minimum age for operating an Off Highway Vehicle is 14 years where permitted. Vacant lots are private property and unless the property owner provides written permission and accepts the liability of use in the property, the operator can be charged with trespassing. We encourage OHV fans to use them courteously and lawfully. Please remember most of our residents are at their lake property to escape the hustle and bustle of city life and appreciate the tranquility of their surroundings.

Boat Launching

When launching your pleasure crafts please use the launches located in the Village of Wabamun or at the Wabamun Provincial Park. Betula Rest is NOT officially a boat launch; however, it can be used by **residents only** to launch small watercrafts (seadoos, small sail boats, and small fishing boats). Please do not try and launch larger power boats at Betula Rest or Betula Meadows as they are not designed to be launch sites.

Fire Services

The County of Parkland is in the process of building a new fire hall in Wabamun. Fire services will be transferred from Seba Beach to Wabamun once the hall is complete. We encourage residents to review their insurance policy to ensure that your policy will accommodate this change. We will notify residents when this change comes into effect.

Fire Permits are required for the discharge of fireworks. Family Fireworks (low hazard- do it yourself) are only allowed to be discharged with a permit at the following times:

- New Years 8:00pm December 31st – 1:00am January 1st
- Canada Day 8:00pm – 11:59pm July 1st
- Labour Day 8:00pm – 11:59pm on the first Monday of September

High hazard fireworks also need a permit. Anyone wishing to discharge high hazard fireworks needs to have a qualified pyrotechnics contractor apply for a permit.

Remember to Fire Smart Your Yard!!
By managing the vegetation around your house and buildings, you will limit the risk of a ground fire climbing up into the trees and potentially jumping to your home, especially if you live near a forested area. We encourage all residents to ensure all fuel is stored properly.

Disaster Recovery Program

Overview: The Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) provides financial assistance to qualifying applicants to help restore uninsurable property lost or damaged by a disaster to its basic, pre-disaster functional condition. DRP's provide financial assistance as a last resort to assist those affected by a disaster.

Program Changes: For DRP's that occur in 2021, the Government of Alberta has set homeowner funding limits and implemented cost-sharing mechanisms between the government and program applicants.

Homeowner- funding limits: The province is implementing a homeowner funding limit of up to $500,000 per application for eligible costs and a limit of one-time assistance per property, regardless of the transfer of ownership.

Purchasing Insurance: It is important for Albertans to become educated about their disaster risks and ensure they are adequately insured. There are more insurance options on the market now than ever before.

Learn how you can prepare for emergencies and disasters by visiting at www.alberta.ca/emergency-prepardness.aspx.

Also visit for further information on Alberta Disaster Assistance Guidelines online at www.alberta.ca/drp

Village Website

Our website has a new look. We are hoping that residents will find it easy to navigate and find information. Administration will be focused on updating our website and to ensure the information provided is relevant and current. Please check our website on a regular basis as new information is being added. If you have any suggestions, please email Emily at cao@betulabeach.ca.

Be a Responsible Neighbor and Pet Owner

We would like to applaud the residents who respect their neighbors and community and keep noise to an acceptable level and clean up after their pets.

Please Pick Up After Your Pet
A single gram of dog feces contains 23 million fecal coliform bacteria that harbour many more dangerous bacteria and viruses. Dog feces kills plants and grass. Dog feces can pollute the environment and filter its way into water supplies. Dog feces left behind create an unattractive environment.

Dogs are not Allowed At-Large
Please keep pets on leash and respect other people's property. Please clean up after your animals. We do want an attractive village and clean walking areas.

We love the atmosphere of our Village and the comradery amongst neighbors and want everyone to enjoy their time at the lake.

Developing and Building

A Development Permit must be applied for before obtaining any Safety Code Permits necessary for new construction, additions, decks, demolition, and excavation (HOLDING TANKS & CISTERNS). This permit is to ensure that your project or home occupation conforms to the Village's Land Use Bylaw, including proper setbacks from property lines, etc.

Our Development Officer, Tony Sonnleitner, can be reached at 780-718-5479. A site plan, showing the location of existing buildings and the proposed development must be submitted when applying. Application fees must accompany all Development Applications.

Safety Code Permits including electrical, plumbing, building, etc. must be obtained from Inspections Group before beginning your project. You must apply for these permits to ensure that your project is safe and conforms to safety code regulations and must be obtained before commencing work. Permit forms can be found on the Village's website or at www.inspectionsgroup.com.

Alberta 1 Call: 1-800-242-3447

Whether you are involved in large excavation job or simply installing a fence or planting a tree - don't gamble on the unknown. Remember there are underground gas, electrical and telephone lines. It is a free service, so call before you dig. 1st Call suggests you call at least two working days before you plan to dig.

Betula Beach Memorabilia

Remember When …

The Dates the Ice Went Off Lake Wabamun

1999 – April 24	2000 – April 27	2001 – April 28	2002 – May 15	2003 – May 2
2004 – April 20	2005 – April 19	2006 – April 22	2007 – April 28	2008 – May 7
2009 – May 1	2010 – April 14	2011 – May 9	2012 – May 7	2013 – May 7
2014 – May 2	2015 – April 20	2016 – April 9	2017 – May 11	2018 – May 9
2019 – April 24	2020 – May 3	**2021 – April 30**		

Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the World.
By Albert Einstein (1879-1955)