Spring Newsletter

Spring 2022

www.betulabeach.com

Summer Village of Betula Beach

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Message from our Mayor!

As I was writing this message, it was snowing at the Lake – so the thoughts of getting my pier in soon disappeared!! After a long slippery winter with all the rain and icy roads it nice to see the open water on the Lake! The best information we have is that the ice came out on April 27, 2022. Water levels continue to be down, with the last water level reported of 724.455 m (April 27) which is 0.1 m below the weir elevation at the east end of the Lake. In discussions with TransAlta they are hoping to have the water treatment plant up and operating in the 4th quarter of 2022 – a similar statement that we got last year from them (4th quarter of 2021). With that being said, our piers will be out further but for new residents be careful of shallow spots especially around Fallis Point on the north side of the Lake.

We have now been advised by the County of Parkland that the fire hall at Seba Beach has been permanently closed. As such you should reach out to your insurance company and advise them that the closest fire hall is now Tomahawk. The next closest hall will be at Wabamun.

As you walk/drive around the Village you will see that we have had the south side of Spruce Street surveyed as well as the Park Lots to get a better handle on property boundaries and those trees which are owned by the Village. As a reminder, you must apply to the Village for permission to cut trees and shrubs on Village property. Please refer to our Policy No. 2020-01 and application, which are both available on the Village's website.

For 2022 we have redevelopment projects planned for both Betula Rest and the Meadows. As part of this project, we have purchased some new aluminum dock for the Meadows, given the demand for access to the Lake from our back-lot rate payers, as well, we are working with our contractor to develop plans for both Betula Rest and the Meadows. Betula Beach has been selected for a Forest Management Assessment of our public lands. From this we will take some direction as how best to manage our public lands as it relates to managing the trees and some of the risks associated with them. As we move into the summer season, we will require the back lot owners that have slips on the community piers to sign mooring and access agreements. These documents will be sent out electronically by our CAO based on information provided by the Pier Managers Bert Eshpeter and Monty Wood.

The Port-a-Potties will be open for the May long weekend. Should you have any issues with the Port-a-Potties please contact the Administration Office to advise.

As we return to "normal" **please** ensure that you and your guests respect the Summer Village's noise, pets, fire, and traffic by-laws.

The 2022 budget has been approved. Our tax base for this year has increased from $23,149,170 to $23,904,700. The municipal portion of the taxes is up approximately $10,000. In 2022 we continue to see increased costs to provide emergency management and fire services which contribute to 65% of the municipal tax increase this year. We expect these costs to continue to increase over the next several of years, as the County of Parkland works with us and others in managing these services. Utility costs have also contributed to the tax increase; however, Council and Administration are exploring avenues to hopefully reduce these costs. The Education Tax for 2022 is $61,660.85 which is an increase of $3,984.44 over last year. We ended 2021 in a positive financial position again thanks to the hard work of our CAO and the management of our projects.

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, tree clearing, please contact the Administration Office – *prior to your activities rather than the latter*.

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.

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

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.

Vegetation on Municipal Lands

The Summer Village of Betula Beach wants to send a friendly reminder to residents that removing vegetation, including trees and brush, from Village property is prohibited unless authorized. The Unauthorized Works on Municipal Lands Policy and Application can be found on Betula Beach's website. To access this please visit our website www.betulabeach.ca.

Delay in Land Title Notifications

The Land Title Office is currently experiencing a substantial increase in real estate transactions, which has created a backlog.

Therefore, if you know of a new resident that has recently purchased a property in the Summer Village of Betula Beach (in the past 3 months), we may not have received notification and ask that let them know to contact the Administration Office as soon as possible to provide new owner and address details.

2022 Property Taxes

PROPERTY TAXES are DUE JULY 31, 2022, by MIDNIGHT.
Penalties will not be applied if the Village receives your payment on or before July 31, 2022, or if the post mark on your envelope is July 31, 2022.

An 18% penalty on your current tax levy will be applied on August 1, 2022. On January 1, 2023, 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.

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.

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.

Village Website

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.

Fire Services

We received notification that the Seba Beach Fire Hall has been permanently closed. Fire Services for the Summer Village of Betula Beach will now come from the Tomahawk Fire Hall with secondary service coming from the Wabamun Fire Hall. We encourage all residents to update this information with the home insurance provider.

The approximate distance from each to the properties in Betula Beach are as follows:

- Tomahawk Fire Hall – 20.3 kms
- Wabamun Fire Hall – 28 kms

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 Year's 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

Wabamun Watershed Management Update

Let's Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear

The following is a brief synopsis of what the Wabamun Watershed Management Council (WWMC) has been doing over the last few months and an open invitation to get involved.

In the 1st quarter of 2022, the WWMC board has been immersed in work concerning two overarching themes, namely board governance and implementation of the Wabamun Watershed Management Plan (WWMP).

WWMC board governance efforts include formalizing a 3-year strategic plan, advancing by-law revision, and completing an application to register as a charity.

Current WWMP implementation efforts are centered on collaborative initiatives related to the priority WWMP focus areas including, but not limited to, planning summer education events on aquatic invasive species, riparian restoration, and advocating for municipal bylaws/policies alignment with protection of the lake and watershed. For a review of the WWMP priority focus areas, see 'page 5 of the WWMP.

Winter Water Sampling

A robust water quality monitoring program is one of the WWMP priority focus areas. The Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) has been running the Lake Keepers Winter Water Sampling program at 22 Alberta lakes for the past three winter seasons to document trends in water quality.

WWMC volunteers completed 4 Lake Keepers water sampling events this winter season (one in each month from December to March). The water samples were taken from three Wabamun Lake offshore sites – Water's Edge, Seba Beach and Rich's Point. Water temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels were recorded at several depths and a number of water samples were taken at each site and then delivered to ALMS for analysis. Following analysis, ALMS staff will produce a report containing their findings. Past reports can be found on wwmc.ca (see Studies and Reports).

Boat Launch Update

Parkland County has informed the WWMC that crews will begin clearing land in the very near future (with accommodation to bird nesting and fish spawning season) for the approved boat launch site on the Wabamun Lake south shore near the Sundance power plant. This will be the beginning of Phase 1 of the project, constructing the new launch. Phase 2 will involve closure or restricting access to the informal launch sites around the lake. These efforts will go a long way to helping protect the lake's fragile ecosystem while allowing easier access to the lake for most users. More information about the launch can be found on Parkland County's website (parklandcounty.com), search for Wabamun Lake Boat Access.

Get Involved to 'Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear'

Keeping Wabamun Lake "Clean and Clear" requires each one of us to be engaged in the protection of the lake and watershed. There are many aspects, many areas to get involved in. It can be overwhelming to know where to begin. Importantly, it does not matter where you begin to get involved, just PICK ONE aspect to delve in to, to participate in (and many of the readers of this piece have already done so). The motto of WWMC is 'Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear'; this is in fact a **collective responsibility** - Let's Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear. Now more than ever we must have a strong collective voice and bold action to protect the lake and watershed. Visit WWMC.ca for information on the watershed and ideas to get involved. Connect with us to share your involvement in protecting the lake and watershed or your interest in getting involved. info@wwmc.ca.

Village Property Boundary Survey

As many of you may have noticed, the Summer Village of Betula Beach recently had the south side of Spruce Street along with the property boundaries for Betula Meadows and Betula Rest surveyed. As a result, we have noticed that some property owners may have inadvertently removed trees and brush that were located on Village property. The Village has upgraded the drainage along Spruce Street over the last few years and removal of vegetation outside your property lines can result in destabilization of the banks and ditches and may affect the drainage in this area. We ask that those property owners that may have removed vegetation from Village property to please contact Village Administration as soon as possible with an update on your plans to restore the municipal lands that have been affected by brush and tree removal.

We thank all residents for their continued diligence in keeping Betula Beach a safe and beautiful community.

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 harbor 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 or Superior Safety Codes 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 at www.inspectionsgroup.com or www.superiorsafetycodes.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.

Black Knot

It is a fungus that infects different types of fruit trees and shrubs in the rose family. It is spread via spores; birds, insects, wind, and rain are also contributors to the distribution of these spores. The spores are usually in the spring, in summer infected trees will develop green swellings at the tip of the branches or at the fruit spurs. In time, the green swellings will turn black and enlarge. This can take two to three years. If not controlled, the tree will die. Mature galls release a vast amount of spores during the blooming period, resulting in rapid growth of infections of other trees.

Control of Black Knot

Removal of the black knot is a must. Prune out all knot bearing branches during late fall, winter, or very early spring when plants are dormant. Remove branches at least 15-20cm (6-8 inches) below the knot. It is ideal to prune at the start of the branch rather than leaving a stump. Try not to have the diseased branch land on the ground, as it can drop spores to infect again. Cutting tools should be disinfected after pruning, especially if cuts have been made through infected material. Ideally, cutting tools should be disinfected between each cut of a diseased branch. Ideal cleaning solution is ½ cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water or use fungicide cleaner such as Physan 20. If knots are growing on the trunk of a tree, cut away the diseased bark down to good wood and at least 1cm (1/2 inch) beyond the edge of the knot. Failure to remove branches beyond the internal growth, re-growth of the fungus will result. **DISEASED WOOD MUST BE DESTROYED IMMEDIATELY** by burning, burying or complete removal from the area. If not disposed of appropriately, the diseased knots will continue to release spores for up to four months after removal. **DO NOT COMPOST THE DISEASED BRANCHES**.
For more in-depth information check out the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry website.

Plant Species Affected by Black Knot

Amur Cherry, Apricot, Black Cherry, Chokecherry, Dropmore Cherry, Flowering Almond, Flowering Plum, Japanese Plum, Korean Cherry, Mayday Tree, Mongolian Cherry, Nanking Cherry, Pin Cherry, Cultivated Plum, Wild Plum, Prunus Hybrids, Sand Cherry, and Sour Cherry.

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	**2022- April 27**	