Winter Newsletter

SUMMER VILLAGE OF BETULA BEACH

Winter 2021
www.betulabeach.ca

Summer Village of Betula Beach
Site 1, Box 157, RR1
Onoway, AB T0E 1V0

Phone: 780.914-0997
Email: cao@betulabeach.ca

Office Hours:
Mon – Fri 8:30am -4:30pm
By appointment only, please contact the office.

Mayor
Rob Dickie

Deputy Mayor
Monty Wood

Councillors
Peter Wilkes

Chief Administrative Officer
Emily House

Administrative Assistant
Karen Provence

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Season's Greetings to all the Residents and Visitors of the Summer Village of Betula Beach from your Council

We finish this year kind of where we ended up last year with this dang Virus dictating aspects of our daily life. Hopefully, each and, everyone can enjoy this holiday season as a family instead of on a ZOOM call or doing FACE TIME!

Council would like to thank Guy Normandeau for his time on Council. Guy did not seek another term on Council in 2021 but we welcome Monty Wood to Council and look forward to Monty's insight given his background having volunteered in minor hockey and in his home community in Edmonton!!

Throughout 2021 we continued to see a lot of activity in the Village, be it residents enjoying the lake or property owners building or improving their lots. In the end this is very positive for the Village. We have also had one full year of the gate operation with only a few minor hiccups.

Public Works activities during 2021 included significant drainage work along Spruce Street to the east of Terrace. It is difficult to get proper drainage to the east due to the limited grade that the contractor must work with. We remind residents that there is no parking in these ditches as it damages them significantly. The roads within the Village were also graveled and graded, and perhaps with the activation of the gate we are seeing less traffic and our roads lasting slightly longer before they need to be regraded.

We would like to remind long term property owners and new property owners that you must be cognizant of trees on Village Property. You must contact the Village Office and get written approval to cut down trees located on Village Property. In some cases, these trees and underlying vegetation are critical to slope stability – especially on the western parts of Spruce Street.

Council would once again like to thank Bert Eshpeter and Monty Wood for managing Betula Meadows and Betula Rest properties, respectively as it relates to the mooring issues for our back lot residents. As most of you are aware, Betula Rest has a waiting list to gain a moorage spot as the area has been fully allocated as per the terms of Alberta Environment and Parks Moorage Policy and the Villages' Policy.

Throughout 2021, Bert Eshpeter again kept all our public lands well groomed. Thank you to everyone for keeping trash and debris out of the ditches – which makes Bert's job a little bit easier.

Please be mindful of traffic on our roads – be it cars, trucks, ski-doos, or quads. Please obey all signs to keep everyone safe. A **three-way stop** will be installed at the bottom of Terrace Avenue and Spruce Street to slow traffic down in this area. Also remember if you are accessing the lake at either Betula Rest or the Meadows, to secure / lock the gates when you are leaving the lake for the day.

On behalf of the Council and Administration, we wish you a very safe holiday season and we look forward to seeing you and your family in 2022.

Christmas isn't just a day, it's a frame of mind. By Kris Kringle, Miracle on 34 Street. (Quote: from Disney Movie)

Christmas Office Hours

We will be checking phones messages and emails during the Christmas Season. Please leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

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 the Village Office 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.

Winter Hours

Tuesday 10:00am to 4:00pm
Saturday 10:00am to 4:00pm

Acceptable Material

- Bagged household waste
- Ashes (cold only)
- Appliances
- Oil, Oil filters, oil containers (where available)
- Small furniture
- Tires
- Cardboard/Paper

What's changed with recycling at Parkland County Transfer station? No longer allowed in Blue Bag Recycling.

- Plastic bags, film & wrap
- To-go cups
- Glass, Including jars
- Tetra paks without deposit
- Styrofoam
- Small Metal items
- Single use plastic items
- Plastic packaging from toys, food and household items
- Soft/Flexible platics
- Single use plastic cups

How Candidates are Elected within a Summer Village

During this past election, although Council was elected by acclamation, there seemed to be questions regarding how the Mayor is elected. Due to the size of our community, it is not required to vote for specific positions as all elected candidates become members of Council.

Once voting has closed and candidates have been voted onto the Village Council, an organizational meeting is held with the elected officials to discuss positions within the Village Council. Nominations are put forth for Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Councillor are decided amongst the Village Council.

2022 Property Assessments

Property Assessment Notices will be mailed out separately from Property Tax Notices again in 2022. Assessment Notices will be mailed out in February of 2022 with Property Tax Notices being mailed out in May or June 2022.

Please note that once you have received your Property Tax Notice it is too late to have your property assessment changed as assessments cannot be adjusted after the appeal deadline which is 60 days after the Assessment Notices are mailed. We highly recommend each resident to closely examine their Property Assessment Notice and speak with the assessor regarding it.

Ice Safety

Winter allows for lots of ways to get outside and be active, but ice can often be unpredictable. Check the conditions and know what to watch for when heading out for festive fun!

Top Ice Safety Tips from the Lifesaving Society:

1. Measure ice thickness in several locations. Local conditions such as currents and water depts can affect ice thickness. White ice has air or snow within it and should be considered suspect for recreational use. Recommendations for ice thickness are based on clear, blue, or green ice.
   3'(7cm) or less- STAY OFF!
   4'(10cm) -ice fishing, walking, cross country skiing
   5-7'(13-18com)- one snowmobile or ATV
   8-12'(20-30cm)- group of people
   12-15'(30-38cm)- one medium truck (pickup or van)
2. Avoid travelling on ice at night. At night it is very difficult to see open holes in the ice. This is a frequent cause of drownings.
3. Never go onto ice alone. A buddy may be able to rescue you or go for help if you get into difficulty. Before you leave shore, tell someone where you are going and expected time of return.
   For more tips on water and ice safety, visit www.lifesaving,org

Wabamun Watershed Plan

The purpose of The Wabamun Watershed Management Plan is to provide guidance to, and a road map for all lake stakeholders on actions required to preserve and protect the long-term health of Wabamun Lake. Afterall, the health of Wabamun has a direct impact on both our enjoyment of the lake and the value of the properties that surround the lake.

Blue-Green Algae (Cyanobacteria) The Science around the blooms is very complicated and there is no silver bullet to eliminate them. Cyanobacteria occur naturally in most water on earth and have done so for over 3 billion years. However, given the right conditions (e.g. Light, temperature, nutrients, etc.) their numbers can explode with many types producing toxins as they die off. This is a world problem and is getting worse.

What can lake residents do to help minimize these blooms? Never use lawn fertilizer near the lake. It will run off into the lake and cyanobacteria love the stuff. Ensure that your sewage system is operating properly. Best is a holding tank for all black & grey water, and please get rid of any old remaining out houses. Naturalize your property and, especially, the lakefront. Plant native trees, bushes & grasses. At the very least stop mowing right down to the water's edge.

Driveway Approach Application and Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish a consistent policy for all approach installations in the Summer Village of Betula Beach as well as provide an application for all new approach installations. More information can be found on www.betulabeach.ca but below are the general guidelines whare are at the discretion and direction of the Summer Village of Betula Beach.

- Approach location must have a minimum of 300' (91.44 m) sight distance each way.
- Finished road top must be 8.0 meters (26') in width and flared to the Summer Village Road.
- When culverts are required, they must be C.S.P culverts and be the following diameters: - Residential – 400mm (16') minimum and must be a maximum length of 10 meters (32') - Culvert must be installed one (1) foot from property line on the road allowance.
- The approach must have a reasonable slope, not exceeding 5% for a distance of 15 meters (50') away from the Summer Village Road into the parcel.
- Approach must be graveled with a minimum of ten cubic yards of 20mm (3/4") crushed gravel.
- Approach application must be submitted and approved by the Summer Village of Betula Beach.
- Only one approach for each parcel of land will be allowed unless prior authorization is granted by the Summer Village of Betula Beach

2020 Municipal Indicator Results

Beginning in 2017, Alberta Municipal Affairs started reporting on a new performance measure, which identified the percentage of municipalities that were deemed to be "not at risk" based on financial and governance risk indicators. This performance measure was developed in consultation with stakeholders and is used as a benchmark for measuring the ministry's efforts to ensure Albertans live in viable municipalities and communities with responsible, collaborative, and accountable local governments. Each of the thirteen indicators has a defined benchmark, and a municipality will be deemed "not at risk" as long as it does not trigger a critical indicator or three or more non-critical indicators. Below is an overview of the results for Betula Beach.

Summer Village of Betula Beach
2020

AUDIT OUTCOME	No Concern
MINISTRY INTERVENTION	No
TAX BASE BALANCE	N/A
TAX COLLECTION RATE	100.00%
POPULATION CHANGE	N/A
CURRENT RATIO	1.59
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/DEFICIT	$149,297
ON-TIME FINANCIAL REPORTING	Yes
DEBT TO REVENUE PERCENTAGE	0.00%
DEBT SERVICE TO REVENUE PERCENT	0.00%
INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE	2.36
INFRASTRUCTURE AGE	60.55%
INTEREST IN MUNICIPAL OFFICE	N/A

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.

The History of Christmas Carols

The tradition of Christmas Carols dates back as far as the thirteenth century, although carols were originally communal songs sung during celebrations like harvest time, as well as, Christmas. It was only later that carols began to be sung in church, and to be specifically associated with Christmas. Traditionally, carols have often been based on medieval chord patterns, and it is this that gives them their uniquely characteristic musical sound. Some carols can be traced directly back to the middle ages and are among the oldest musical compositions still regularly sung. If you desire some additional Christmas carols, please visit our website www.betulabeach.ca

Fire Services & Permits

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 but Parkland is projecting an opening date of February with Fire Services moving from Seba Beach to Wabamun around this time.

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- 1:00am
December 31st –January 1st

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.

Snow Removal

If you have any questions or concerns with respect to the snow removal in the municipality, please contact the administration office at 780-914-0997 or cao@betulabeach.ca .

If you wish to have your driveway cleared, please call the Village Office, and will arrange for a private contractor to assist you for a fee.

Address Change

Please remember that it is YOUR responsibility to let the Village Office know if you have a change in mailing address.

Administration

Would like to welcome our Council Members for the Summer Village of Betula Beach

Mayor – Rob Dickie

Deputy Mayor- Monty Wood

Councillor- Peter Wilkes

Again, we would like to thank Bert Eshpeter for his attention to our public lands in the Village and a great job he did in 2021 on maintaining the grass.

Council Meetings

Regular Council Meetings are scheduled during the previous Council Meeting with the date and time of the upcoming Council Meeting being published on the Village's website.

If you wish to address Council, please contact the Village Office for confirmation and to discuss the item you would like to speak to Council about so it can be placed on the agenda. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Law Enforcement

If you are aware of suspicious behavior or vehicles in or around the Village, if possible, record the license plate number and notify the RCMP Evansburg Detachment.

Emergency Contact numbers are as follows:
Emergency Complaints:
780-727-4446
RCMP Administration:
780-727-3654

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 Real Property Report, showing the location of existing buildings and the proposed development must be submitted when applying. Application fees must accompany all Development Applications.

Alberta First Call

Call before you dig –
1-800-242-3447

You must give at least two or three working days' notice and have your legal land description available when you call.

Lightcatch App

Use Lightcatch to track suspicious activity in your area. It's a free phone app to help prevent crime in your area, it's like a block watch program that is for your phone. This app will keep you connected with what could be happening in your area. You can also post information notifying others of any suspicious activity. The Village recommends this app.