

**Summer Village of Larkspur**  
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**Larkspur Fall Newsletter- 2015**

Another summer is over and fall is here. The hummingbirds have already left and soon the snow birds will be joining them in warmer places.

At the annual general meeting in July several issues were raised. For those unable to attend the meeting we have included the minutes with this newsletter. The minutes are also posted on the "Summer Village of Larkspur" website. Some of the issues raised, and the responses by council and administration are itemized below.

- **Little Free Library.** The library has outgrown its walls and more space is required to house all the books. A request was made for council to look at the feasibility to acquire something bigger. A new bigger library will soon arrive and will be ready for springtime. The library has been a very popular pastime for children and adults of all ages. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time to make this worthwhile community project work.
  
- **Parking in ditches and on the roadway.** A request was made to include in this newsletter a reminder to residents that they are responsible for visitors parking. Please instruct visitors **NOT** to park their vehicles and RVs in the ditches and on the roadway. The roadway must be kept clear to allow emergency vehicles access. Parking in the ditches produces ruts and makes grass cutting very difficult. Violators may be ticketed and towed.
  
- **Landfill fees etc.** The County of Westlock announced they would be substantially increasing the fees for waste disposal, fire services and road snow clearing. Discussions are continuing between council and administration and with the county administration to negotiate a fair and equitable fee for their use.
  
- **ATCO – Fort McMurray West 500kv Transmission Power line.** A power line is proposed to be installed in fairly close proximity to the summer village. Council will be voicing its strong opposition to construction of this power line so close to the summer village.

Some additional items have been dealt with by council and administration at recent meetings and are noted below:

(over)

- **Dead Trees** - If there are dead trees on reserves that are dangerous or pose a potential hazard to property or people, please contact the administration so the trees may be removed. Council/Administration will have them removed if they are deemed to be dangerous. If the trees are on your property, you are responsible for culling them.
- **Taxation** - Council is reviewing the overall taxation. Information was collected from 15 other similar villages and at present our village tax on undeveloped property is far below what other summer villages collect. Our review will include a look at whether or not the developed-properties tax revenue is subsidizing the operating costs of undeveloped properties and whether or not adjustments need to be made. We will advise you of the results of this effort in a future newsletter.
- **Drainage** - Some trenching work was recently done to help drain some of the low spots along Larkspur Drive. The low areas were essentially 'mosquito havens' for most of the spring and start of summer and they were not accessible for grass cutting. Hopefully everything will drain better for next spring.
- **Road Repairs** - If you come to the village this fall you will notice road repairs are underway. The repairs involved using paving oil, which is sticky until cured so please slow down to avoid getting oil on your vehicles. Pothole repair material has been ordered for the larger potholes that have developed.
- **Busy Beavers** - a number of residents have noted that beavers are removing or damaging their trees. It seems that to deter this, the trees can be wrapped with chicken wire. A three foot height should work; this wire should be stapled to the tree as the beavers have figured out that the wire mesh can be slid upwards if not secured.
- **Items in the Water** – Please note that there are to be no permanent fixtures in the water. At this point, all piers, docks etc. are suppose to be taken out for the winter according to provincial legislation. These regulations can be found on the village website. Look on the home page, click on [Central Alberta Recreational Lake Science and Regulations 101](#) and pay particular attention to the section on Boat lifts, swimming rafts, docks and piers. Beware that these regulations could be more heavily enforced in the future.

Have a great autumn season.