

Mayor and Council reports - Mayor's Report

I am sorry I cannot be at this year's meeting as I have been called out of the province for work. Nonetheless I tender for your information my report for 2016. I wish you a good informative meeting and invite your participation.

2015 AGM meeting and issues

- One issue that came up at the AGM last year was a complaint that residents were parking on the roadway and this made it dangerous in that emergency vehicles could not get through. Once again we are reminding residents of this issue and as owners of the property you are responsible for that actions of your visitors.

Village highlights and updates.

Lake Stewardship Plan Further to Ken's report and presentations to the County, letters were sent to the County and our MLA Glenn Van Dijken. The purpose of the letters was to curb expansion and maintain the good quality of the lake.

- A proposal to the County was made to jointly approach the province to assist with a lake study.
- In addition a letter was sent to our MLA seeking his assistance. We had received information told an environmental study was done about 20 years ago and the results indicated the lake at that time was then at the maximum use. We sought their assistance to locate a copy of that study as no copy could be located by the SV. In addition we requested the government institute a moratorium on all development and expansion of services affecting the number of users to the lake, specifically no further land development and no expansion of the number of lots in the campground. We have since learned the County has discontinued its application to expand the campsite.

Roads

- The roads were resurfaced 2 years ago and although they are holding up rather well, we need to reseal the surface to keep moisture out. We are obtaining quotes to have this done this year.

Policy for Bylaw 12-3 "Larkspur Land Use Bylaw" surrounding permits required for Accessory Buildings.

- Accessory Buildings include tool sheds, garden sheds, boathouses, pump-out structures, garages, carports and privies. Up to now permits were required for all Accessory Buildings. You are reminded that you need to apply for a permit to construct these buildings. As of June any building less than 100 sq. ft. will not require a permit. Anything over 100 sq. ft. will still require a permit. In other words a building 8x10 does not need a permit however 10 x 10 will need one.
- Part of that policy change disallows storage containers such as seacans to be brought into the Summer Village. This policy was enacted as of June 21, 2016. No seacans brought in after that date will be allowed. Seacans are made for industrial use and do not fit into a village setting.

RV Policy.

- This policy continues to be controversial and not understood by many. The policy regarding RV Use has been in existence since 2009. It states that the fee shall be incorporated into the tax notice. The SV checks for RVs at random during the year. The owner of any lot with one or more RVs on it shall be required to pay the annual authorization fee for each and every RV. One cannot be counted as a residence.
- **The only exception shall be for one that is purely stored and clearly not being used and only if the lot owner has notified the Summer Village of that situation prior to tax notice going out. If a RV that has been declared as being stored is used even one time during the year, the entire authorized fee will become due for that year.**
- If your RV is parked, with the step down, plugged in and the slides out then it is obvious that the RV is not in storage. The reason for this policy is to clear up any misunderstanding that residents would be allowed to use one RV as their residence and avoid the fee.

Surveying - Fire Smart Grant Program.

- The province has a Fire Smart incentive plan. Fires in Fort McMurray and Slave Lake have shown the destruction that can occur quickly. Our reserves have many dead trees that can provide fuel for a fire and also present a danger of falling trees. You have noticed there have been surveyors in the Summer Village and they are marking the walking access paths, property lines and

walkways. Council is applying to access this grant money to ensure our SV is as safe as possible.

- **Why is this being done?**

- There are a lot of dead and dying trees in the reserves that are fuel for fires. We will remove these trees.
- If you walk through the Summer Village, as many do, the growth has taken over some of the designated walkways. This growth has obscured where the walkways are and it is very difficult to distinguish where someone's private land is and where the reserves and walkways are.
- Some of the walkways leading from the drives to the reserves have overgrown over the years and many of them are no longer visible or passable. The reserves are the property of the Summer Village and are there for all residents of the Summer Village and their guests to enjoy.
- We need to identify where the property lines are so that we can go in and remove dead or diseased and dying trees from the Summer Village reserves and not go onto private property.
- The survey will also remind owners where their property lines are as they develop their lots. In some cases, this has become blurred over the years, especially when the lots change hands.

- **What work will be done?**

- All dying or dead trees in the reserves and walkways will be cleared out. Where required, chips from the trees will be used to place on the walkways.
- The access walkways leading from the drives (i.e. Maple Crescent and Meadowlark Crescent) into the reserves will be cleared so that the walkways are clearly identifiable and accessible.

- **What will not be done?**

- Many property owners have taken it upon themselves to clear paths from their yards into the reserves and down to the water. Some have mowed these paths and are keeping the paths neat. There is no reason to interfere with these paths and put chips on them if it is not necessary.

- Trees located on private property will not be touched. It is the owner's responsibility to keep care of their own property.
- **What is the cost** of the survey and removal of the dead trees?
 - We have received two bids for the surveying and have accepted the lower bid of \$5,373.27 from Navland Geomatics Inc.
 - We are applying for the Fire Smart grant that will hopefully cover all or most of the tree removal costs.
- **When will this be done?**
 - All the reserves in the Summer Village will be done in a 3 year period. We started with Reserve 1 & 2 this year with 3 & 4 slotted for next year then the last two reserves, 5 & 6 for the third year. This makes the survey process more financially manageable.
- **Summation:**
 - The purpose is to improve access and use of reserves largely for the benefit of backlot owners, to minimize trespassing, to remove hazardous trees, and to remove wildfire fuel. All this with provincial grant money.

Maintenance work – Grass Mowing.

- This has been a very wet spring and summer and accordingly the grass is growing at an unbelievable rate. Council wishes to thank Tony for keeping the grass well-trimmed. Great job Tony and thank you.

Library – up and running.

- Thanks to Nadia and everyone else that is responsible for volunteering to upkeep it.

Increase of County Fees

- We have not heard anything new from the County regarding an increase for Landfill Fees, Road Maintenance or an increase for fire Services.