

Report from Council

Annual General Meeting, July 22, 2017

This report summarizes key activities that have occurred over the past year and/or activities that are ongoing. Details can be found on our webpage or by direct communication.

Your participation is valuable:

Thank you for participating at this agm; this is your meeting, a meeting of ratepayers, your opportunity to discuss issues and to develop advice to Council. The Council members that I have worked with over the past few years take your advice seriously and take 'considered' action on any required items.

Election year:

It is to everyone's advantage to have you participate in this important democratic process, whether as a candidate for council, someone supporting a nominee, and certainly as someone who votes. Today at noon is the last day for nominations. The election takes place on August 19, 2017. Your participation is valuable, it is essential.

Sesquicentennial celebration:

Thanks to about 150 participants, many volunteers, more than 30 bicycle/walking 'paraders', decorations, prizes and excellent weather, this turned out to be a highly motivating, successful event. It was especially nice to see so many 'young' participants; every child left with a smile on their face. What a great way to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday!!

The new webpage:

This has been made functional and user friendly. Hopefully, many of you are using it; it is our way of keeping you informed of Council deliberations. Occasionally, we have sought, and will be seeking, your feedback on some of the proposals and plans. Your thoughts and comments on any of the webpage content are always welcomed.

East route powerline proposal:

Alberta Powerline LP proposal caused us concern. Council developed a brief opposing the east route on grounds of proximity to the Summer Village, aesthetic (visual) effects and adverse environmental impact. This brief was presented to the Alberta Utilities Commission hearing last September. This spring we heard that the east route was rejected by AUC.

Regional collaboration study:

Although this was a County of Westlock study, the Summer Village developed a submission (November, 2016) on our needs for regional collaboration. In addition to traditional collaboration with snow clearing, waste and sewage disposal and fire protection, we indicated

an interest in collaborating in regional planning efforts and in efforts to protect and conserve the quality and safe use of the lake.

Code of Conduct for elected officials:

This code of conduct is expected to be a mandatory requirement in the near future. We have developed a code of conduct and, in June of this year, put it as 'policy' which is to guide elected officials. Details can be found on our webpage.

Training for elected officials:

This training is being organized by the province; it is for all elected officials. This is also a mandatory requirement and all our newly elected Councilors will be expected to take this training.

Lake water quality sampling:

Sampling of the lake took place in June of this year. Results are not yet available.

Road surfacing:

This work was to have taken place in June; inclement weather has prevented the start of the work. It is expected to start next week.

Firesmart program:

Reserves 3 and 4 have been surveyed and work to clear hazardous trees has taken place. We note that some 'private' tree removal is taking place perhaps as a result of a renewed interest in fire prevention.

Speeding issues:

Speed bumps will be installed after the road surfacing is completed.

Bears and beavers:

These have been an ongoing issue.

Thanks for your support:

On behalf of Council, I thank you for the support you have shown Council members over the past year. Some of you have taken time to tell us what you like, what your needs and interests are, what you dislike and suggestions for future direction. This dialogue is very much appreciated; I hope it can be continued.

Nick Tywoniuk, Mayor

July 22, 2017.