

Summer Village of Larkspur
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Spring 2016 Larkspur Newsletter

We welcome back all the ‘snowbirds’ and all the area residents that are preparing for another season at the cottage. For the information of all those whose travels took them away, this winter, we have had a very mild winter with very little snow. The lack of snow made for an enjoyable season with not too much shoveling required. With the lack of snow the province has already hinted that it could be a dangerous forest fire season, saying that, we may be in for a dangerous forest fire season.

What is the difference between a fire advisory, fire restriction and a fire ban?

The following information was taken off the Alberta Fire Bands Website and explains the levels of fire restrictions. To view fire bans in the province visit albertafirebans.ca.

The three levels that you will see most often are fire advisory (yellow), fire restriction (orange) and fire ban (red):

Fire Advisory – *Generally, this level is meant to inform that there is a high fire danger and that there may be certain types of restrictions on burning. It may be used as a “warning” that a more restrictive fire ban may be coming if the situation does not improve. You may also see a fire advisory for short-term concerns like major wind events.*

Fire Restriction – *This level acts as a higher level or warning before a fire ban. Certain types of burning will be restricted, while certain types will be allowed. It is important to read the details of the fire restriction as they can vary from municipality to municipality depending on the situation.*

Fire Ban – *This level is usually put in place when a municipality has taken steps to restrict or prohibit certain types of fire use within that area. It is important to read the details of the fire ban as they can vary from municipality to municipality depending on the situation.*

**Every municipality in Alberta may have slightly different legislation or bylaws for fire bans. It is important to read the details of each posting carefully and to contact your local municipality if you have any questions or concerns.*

Fort McMurray West 500-kV Transmission

There has not been a decision made regarding the placement of the powerline. Indications indicate the favoured route may be the West one however the East option is still on the table. From the onset the SV has taken a strong stand against the East route as it would come too close to our lake. The impact of having power lines that stood out high above the trees would negatively affect both the ascetics and environment and eventually would likely adversely affect property values. We have expressed our concerns to the planning office at Alberta Powerline, Atco Electric, and registered to be on the list of interveners who could present to the Alberta Utilities Commission should the East route be chosen. A copy of this registration and objection to the East Route proposal will be available in our library.

(over)

Proposed Lake Development

The Council of the Summer Village is opposed to any expansion, whether it be at the campground, or anywhere around the lake. In November the SV sent a letter to Westlock County expressing concern about the long range environmental impact of developments on the lake and asked them to approach the province, jointly with us, to seek their assistance to implement an environmental impact lake study. Correspondence was also sent to the various provincial government agencies requesting they lead us in this study. Various SV ratepayers and county ratepayers addressed this subject with Westlock County at their subsequent council meetings. We all know how busy this lake gets in the summer and with more expansion comes more human activity which can negatively impact the water quality and safety of those using the lake. We recognize that the lake is for the enjoyment of all, however also recognize the lake can only handle just so many users.

AGM

The annual meeting has been set for July 23, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. Please make every effort to attend.

Beaver Issues

Last year there was considerable damage to trees by the beavers on the lake. We are happy to advise the trapper who has a licence for this area has been actively pursuing this matter.

Regatta

Wanted - a group of volunteers to organize a regatta. If you wish to continue on with a regatta you are encouraged to "take the bull by the horns" and come forward to organize this event. The previous group of volunteers feel that 'new blood' should be encouraged to take on the task and come up with some new ideas.

New Library Building

Late last fall Council purchased a bigger building for the library. We still have to do some site preparation and put in some shelves for the books. Library should be in service by May Long Weekend if everything goes as planned.

Break-Ins and Thefts

We have been fortunate that no break-ins have been reported in the Summer Village (SV) over winter however one attempted and one break-in to property was reported near the SV

Minimum Tax Adjustment

Please see attachment

On behalf of the council and administration of the Summer Village we wish all of you a safe and fun summer at the lake.