THE SUMMER VILLAGE OF

KAPASIWIN

Spring Newsletter

Greetings to all Residents of Kapasiwin!

Spring 2024
www.kapasiwinalberta.com

Administration
780.691.4465
cao@kapasiwinalberta.com
Box 1075,
Onoway, AB, T0E 1V0

Regular Office Hours
Monday to Friday
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Council
Tim Wiles, Mayor
John McIvor, Deputy Mayor
Tim Kirby, Councillor

Administration
Emily House
Chief Administrative Officer
Janet Zaplotinsky
Administrative Assistant
Lynnette Kraley
Administrative Assistant

Public Works
Dave Wiles

Development Officer
Tony Sonnleitner
PO Box 2945
Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1Y4
Phone: **780.718.5479**
pcm1@telusplanet.net

Property Tax Notices
Property Tax Notices will be **mailed by May 24, 2024.**

Property taxes are due on June 30, 2023.

Property Assessments
KCL Consulting – Grant Clark
Phone: **1.888.419.2128**

Message from your Council...

The days are getting longer. The ice came off the lake on April 29th, and snow was in the forecast for April 30th. All signs that lake season is upon us and I'm sure we are all looking forward to a great summer at Kapasiwin. On behalf of Council, I want to share a few things with Villagers that may be of interest.

Village Improvements
As you return to the Village this spring, you will notice some new things that were completed since the fall. A new fence at the tennis court, security camera upgrades, new lot marker signs, the bridge over the creek at the north end on the foot path, speed signs that remind residents if you are going to fast and continued brushing in our nature reserve lands to better FireSmart our Village.

More things are planned for the spring and summer, including upgrading our speed bumps, the fencing at the North end of the nature reserve lands, and improving the water system at the Village hall.

As I've mentioned in previous years, we are fortunate to have strong capital funding from provincial grant programs. So, all these recent improvements have not affected our annual property tax on Villagers. Council carefully considers capital plans to balance projects that enhance our Village infrastructure, add to the safety and security of the Village, and do not add operating cost pressures to our budget.

Some of the rules around provincial capital funding are changing, which reduces the time frames over which we need to spend the provincial capital funding. Council will manage our capital planning accordingly.

Land Use Bylaw
It seems like we have been telling Villagers about this project for a long time. That's because we have. This is an important policy for future development in the Village, so we have taken the time we need to make sure we move forward carefully. The good news is we expect to get the new Land Use Bylaw in place by the end of this summer.

Last summer we held a Public Open House and got some important feedback from Villagers. This has resulted in several key changes to the drafted bylaw. This information is summarized in the "What We Heard" report, prepared by our consultant, which was recently posted on our website. The revised draft bylaw will be posted shortly in advance of the formal Public Hearing in July. More details on dates are later in the newsletter.

Village Events
Our Village events, like the Wine & Cheese in early July, Land and Water Races in early August, fireworks on the Labour Day long weekend, and other events during the summer are key parts of what makes Kapasiwin so special. We are planning to continue these traditions as set out later in the newsletter.

We invite and thank all Villagers who come out to enjoy the fun and fellowship. This helps build our community spirit. And a special thanks to the families that have organized these events for years. You know who you are. Council is forever grateful for your efforts.

Continuing Low Lake Levels

While we may have enjoyed a winter with no snow, the lake did not. As a prairie lake, rain and snow are the main contributors to the lake levels. Transalta is continuing its pumping program to repay the water it used/uses from the lake. Although Transalta's pumping performance is a bit sporadic due to repairs etc., it is bound by an Alberta Environment Order to fully "repay" its water debt to the lake as the plant and mining lands are fully reclaimed sometime in the 2040's.

With the help of some stakeholders, Council has informally raised the idea of continuing the pumping beyond that time to help manage water levels. At this point, there doesn't seem to be much appetite to pursue this idea due to excessive cost and potential complex operating and governance matters.

In light of low water levels encouraging aquatic vegetation growth, let's not add to the problem by using fertilizers, pesticides or herbicides. Vegetation clearing along the shoreline and improper sewage disposal are also big contributors. The Wabamun Watershed Management Council provides useful information on maintaining lake health at **www.wwmc.ca**.

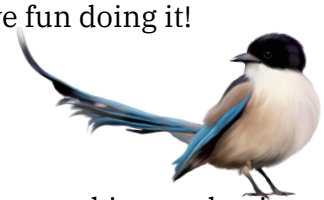
Financials

In spite of healthy capital funding, the Village continues to face operating cost pressures. Inflation is affecting all of us and the Summer Village of Kapasiwin is no exception. In addition, assessed property values around the lake have seen a large increase, which has put more upward pressure on the Education Property Tax Levy and our share of firefighting and provincial policing costs. We have done our best to manage our operating costs but still face a 4% municipal tax increase ($86 per property). More details are in the brochure included with your tax notice and we will discuss this at our Annual Information Meeting in July.

Thank you, thank you, thank you...!

As always, we need to thank Emily House, our Chief Administrative Officer, and her small team that helps her, for everything they do to keep our Village running smoothly. Managing a municipality, even a small one like us, is a complicated matter. Emily makes it seem easy with her hard work, deep knowledge and broad network to stay connected. Thank you.

Being on Council is sometimes a thankless job. But this is my chance to thank John McIvor and Tim Kirby. The three of us have different skills and backgrounds, but work very well together to do our best for the Summer Village of Kapasiwin, and we even have fun doing it!
Thank you, Gentlemen.



Your Council,
Tim Wiles, John McIvor, and Tim Kirby

Kapasiwin Security Cameras

Over the last several years, Kapasiwin has been working on having our security cameras upgraded within the Summer Village. In February, we had the security company out to install additional cameras and connect electricity. Now that we have these cameras set up, Kapasiwin is now better able to protect our residents and provide useful information to enforcement officials when needed.

NEW! Radar Speed Signs

The Summer Village of Kapasiwin has recently installed four new radar signs. Please note, the Speed Limit inside municipal boundaries is 30 KPH.

Newsletter Contributions

Wabamun Watershed Management Council

Unauthorized Use of Municipal Lands

Just a friendly reminder that unauthorized burning, digging, cutting, and the removal of vegetation from municipal lands is strictly prohibited.

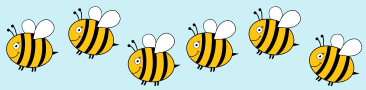
Any persons found to be disturbing or damaging the natural vegetation outside of their properties will be responsible for all costs associated with the clean up and restoration of those lands.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Village Office at **780.691.4465.**

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.



Kapasiwin Transfer Station

3503 Township Rd. 533A
Range Road 35, N of Hwy. 16

Kapasiwin 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. If you require a card, please contact Emily to arrange to have a card printed and mailed to you. All Transfer Stations remain open for their regular operating hours.

Summer hours
(May 1 - September 30)
Tuesday 9 to 5
Thursday 9 to 5
Saturday 10 to 5

Winter Hours
Tuesday 10 to 4
Thursday 10 to 4
Saturday 10 to 4

Acceptable Materials
• automotive waste
• blue bag recycling
• commercial/construction waste (charges apply)
• electronics recycling
• grass and leaves
• household hazardous waste
• household waste
• metal recycling (charges apply)
• mixed waste (charges apply)
• tree trimmings

The Kapasiwin Transfer Station has a fully operational compost site. In the interest of the environment please participate in the composting program for grass and leaves. Clear plastic garbage bags should be used. Place your leaves and grass clippings in the clear bags and transport them to the compost pile. Please do not dump compost in nature reserves. Please do not store household garbage outdoors unless contained in animal-proof receptacles. We do not want to attract animals into our Village.

Developing & Building

Inspections Group is the service provider contracted by the Summer Village to provide the permits, compliance monitoring and inspections to completion of your development. Once the Development Permit has been approved and issued by the Development Officer you can download any permits you may need or if you have any questions, visit the Inspections Group website **www.inspectionsgroup.com.**

Be a Responsible Pet Owner

We would like to applaud the residents who respect their neighbors and Community by keeping the pet noise to an acceptable level and cleaning up after them.

Please pick up after your pet, even if it's in your own yard! A single gram of dog feces contains 23 million fecal coliform bacteria and viruses. Dog feces can pollute the environment and filter its way into water supplies. Not just your personal cistern, well or eventually the groundwater land lake... But eventually everyones. Dog feces left behind creates an unattractive and unhealthy environment.

Dogs are not allowed to run freely in the Village. Please keep them on a leash or contained in your yards to respect your neighbors and the Village. We love the atmosphere of our Village and would like to emphasize keeping it clean and safe for our continued and future use and enjoyment.

Yellowhead Regional Library

The Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL) operates a number of libraries in the Parkland area and beyond. The Summer Village of Seba Beach is a member of the YRL and contributes to the Wabamun Library. We encourage residents to become members and enjoy a wide range of services that they provide. For additional information, please visit **yrl.ab.ca** or **kapasiwinalberta.com**.

WWMC - Calling for NEW Members

Your Wabamun Watershed Management Council continues to work to protect our precious lake, but we need help! Many of our board members are past our 'best before date' and need to be replaced.

Special thanks to Seba resident, Sheila Smith for answering our call and stepping up to join our board. Her passion for the lake is obvious and we know she will be an excellent addition to the WWMC. Welcome aboard Sheila!

We desperately need others like Sheila to continue our water sampling programs and engage with the many lake stakeholders to promote the long-term vitality of the lake and watershed communities. The work is very rewarding, meeting new people, learning about the lake, its history and what factors contribute to its health. Our only tool is education, and we do that with workshops, displays, school outings and meetings with representatives including Parkland County, the Summer Villages, TransAlta, First Nations and watershed residents. The work can be as much or as little as you want, we try to meet, (usually virtually), once per month and of course work outside those meetings to do water sampling and make presentations at various outings.

Our next engagement session will take place on Saturday May 11th, 2024, during which we will give participants the skills to restore and protect shorelines using willow staking. This day will be the second phase of our bulrush restoration project from last year. To learn more about this workshop and all things WWMC related, you can visit our website at wwmc.ca or send us a note to **info@wwmc.ca** to learn more about how you can become involved. Maybe you can start by attending one of our meetings or joining us while we water sample to see if there may be a fit for you.

FireSmart Neighborhood Awareness Video

Residents attended the FREE FireSmart Neighborhood Awareness Workshop. Watch the recording here!

https://youtu.be/kM61ibL3jrg

As 2023's warm and dry weather conditions have persisted in Alberta, the risk of wildfire devastating our municipality and surrounding communities is extremely high this year as well. We are taking action to prepare ourselves and our residents before it's too late.

Watch this video to learn how your home and property are affected when a wildfire comes through your area. You will be given resources and practical steps that you can take as a resident or property owner, to lessen those effects on your home and the community around you.

We are looking for Neighborhood Superheroes to help pave the way for a safer 2024 wildfire season and beyond. Help protect your property and community by becoming FireSmart!

Fire Services Reminder

West Central fire hall (WCFH), located in Wabamun, is Parkland County's brand new, fully staffed Emergency Services facility. With the opening of the WCFH, fire response times have improved significantly.

Did you know? Wild Fires can start during the most innocent of activities.

- Bagging up dry vegetation and leaving it in the sun
- ATV's in the fields, woods and forests
- Broken glass and litter glinting in the sunlight
- Lighters and accelerants left in a hot car
- Fireworks being set off

Alberta Wildfire

Stay current on Alberta's wildfire situation. See where wildfires are burning in Alberta and how they impact you.

View all current fire restrictions and bans in place across the province at **albertafirebans.ca**.

Regardless of where you are in Alberta, the Alberta Fire Bans Application will help you find the most current and reliable information on all active fire advisories, fire restrictions, fire bans, and OHV restrictions in Alberta.

FireSmart™ Canada App

FireSmart Canada is a national program that helps Canadians increase neighborhood resilience to wildfire and minimize its negative impacts. It was founded over 20 years ago to address common concerns about wildfire in the wildland urban interface.

Everyone can be FireSmart. We all have a part to play when it comes to preventing wildfire and reducing risk. FireSmart Canada has developed practical, effective, and science-based programs that provide you with tools to be better prepared when wildfire occurs.

Report a Wildfire

If you see a wildfire in a forested area, Call: 310.FIRE (3473)

Memorabilia Dates the Ice Went Off Lake Wabamun

2006 – April 22	2011 – May 9	2016 – April 9	2021 – April 30
2007 – April 28	2012 – May 7	2017 – May 11	2022 – April 27
2008 – May 7	2013 – May 7	2018 – May 9	2023 – May 3
2009 – May 1	2014 – May 2	2019 – April 24	2024 – April 29
2010 – April 14	2015 – April 20	2020 – May 3	

The nearest on-call fire hall is:
West Central: 780-968-8888
10 min (8.6 km) via Range Rd 40

FireSmart MYTHS - FREE Home Assessments

Many residents are opting out of the FireSmart Home Assessments. Here are some common misconceptions we'd like to clear up!

FireSmart MYTHS:

Cost - Many residents think that the FREE FireSmart Home Assessment will be expensive in the end. It's not! You will be given recommendations and steps you can take to FireSmart your Property, but just how much you do is completely up to you. Should you wish to have an assessment done, you may request a second assessment be done to "check your work" and find out if there is anything left for you to do.

Privacy - Many residents think that once they have a FireSmart Home Assessment completed, the Fire Department will share your information with outside organizations, such as insurance companies, or your Municipal Office. This is false information. Your personal information will be kept safe and private.

Time-Intensive - Many Residents think Home Assessments take a long time. In fact, they are only about 30 minutes long!

Removing Trees - FireSmarting your home does NOT mean removing everything flammable from your property.

Visit Parkland County for more information on your FREE FireSmart Home Assessments
www.parklandcounty.com/en/home-property-and-utilities/fire-smart.aspx

Watch this FireSmart Video!
https://youtu.be/Whrc-CEvPgU?si=FlmYPOLCzsSi3Ot5

The Summer Village of Kapasiwin

Summer Events

Wine and Cheese
June 29th

Bocce Ball
July 13th

Annual Information Meeting
July 20th

Land and Water Games
August 3rd & 4th

Horseshoe Tournament
August 17th

Labour Day Fireworks
September 1st

We look forward to seeing you this Summer!

Contact the Village Office for more information!

780.691.4465 cao@kapasiwinalberta.com
Box 1075,Onoway, AB, T0E 1V0