Summer Village of Kapasiwin

Spring 2026 Newsletter

Administration

Mailing Address:
Box 1075, Onoway, AB, T0E 1V0
780-691-4465
Office Address:
990 Bauer Avenue, Spring Lake, AB T7Z 2S9
administration@kapasiwinalberta.com
www.kapasiwinalberta.com

Regular Office Hours

Monday to Friday
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Council

Tim Wiles - Mayor
John Mclvor - Deputy Mayor
Tim Kirby - Councillor

Administration

Emily House
Chief Administrative Officer
Janet Zaplotinsky
Administrative Manager
Alex Zaplotinsky
Administrative Assistant
Melissa Mazzei
Administrative Assistant

Property taxes are due on June 30th, 2026

Address Change

Please remember to inform the Village Office if you have an address change and to register your new address with Alberta Land Titles.

Message from Council

After a long winter, I'm sure we are all looking forward to getting back to the lake. On behalf of Council there are several things we want to provide updates on.

Train Whistles

Leo Rodrigue, has been communicating with the County of Parkland about whether train whistles will be discontinued at the railway crossing near us. Parkland has been working with CN on cessation of whistles at many of the crossings in the county. It turns out the crossing near us requires upgrades before CN will discontinue the whistles. Upgrades are cost shared between Parkland and CN along with some federal grant funding. The crossing near us had been identified for an upgrade, but unfortunately it has not been scheduled due to delays in federal funding as well as cost escalation. At this point it is not clear when the upgrade might occur.

Restriction on Fertilizer, Herbicides and Pesticides Bylaw

To help protect the lake and environmentally sensitive areas, Council has passed a bylaw placing a restriction on the use of fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides within the village. Under the bylaw fertilizers can only be used in moderation for gardens, trees, shrubs and new lawns. Herbicides can only be used in moderation for noxious weeds, as defined in legislation (dandelions are not noxious weeds). Pesticides can only be used in moderation for unwanted insects and pests like ants, wasps, hornets, etc. Residents may appeal to Council for requests that don't fall within the above permitted uses.

Wabamun and Area Developments

You may recall a couple of years ago the County of Parkland received federal funding; it was planned to be used for two projects. First was the upgrade to Waterfront Park near the Wabamun pier, which has been completed. Second was to develop a marina on the former plant outlet canal and an inland swimming hole and park area. This second project was controversial due to the scope of dredging and watershed disturbance. The County of Parkland Council has put an indefinite hold on this second project. However, some reclamation work will take place on the former industrial land that would have been part of the project.

There is currently a proposed new RV park development at the former Empire Iron Works site (RR 43 and Lakeshore Road) east of the Wabamun Sailing Club. It would consist of 86 serviced RV lots. It's early days for this proposal as the proponents are seeking zoning change for the land, closing the sale and finding potential lot purchasers.

Village Improvement

We will be doing some culvert cleaning/replacement and drainage work on our culvert network under roads and driveway entrances. You will receive notification when this work is started to help avoid any inconveniences.

We will be replacing our fire warning sign, so it aligns with the County of Parkland's

Continued…

fire hazard warnings. Even though it seems like we had a lot of snow, the ground will dry out quickly. Always check the fire hazard on Parklands website before doing any burning. Just a **reminder** between April 1st and November 30th all outdoor fires must be in an appropriate receptacle, no open fires on the ground.

Financial stuff

Once again, the Village is in a very healthy financial position. We have no debt, an accumulated surplus of just over $150,000 and significant unused provincial grant funding to cover our capital spending needs. Unfortunately, we continue to face pressure on our operating costs. In particular, we see cost increases in policing, fire protection, streetlights, road repair/snow removal, land use enforcement, and inflation effects on administration and maintenance. In 2025, the Village ran a slight deficit due to inflationary pressures and an unexpected expense of about $4,000 for a Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Hearing.The results of these increases are set out in the *property tax brochure*. We look forward to discussing this at the annual information meeting.

Water Level

Even though it seemed like we had a lot of snow, it's looking like the lake level will remain around all time lows. History tells us the lake goes through cycles of high and low levels depending on the amount of rain and snow we have. It would take a few years of above average precipitation to have a significant effect on lake level. TransAlta is obligated to continue its water treatment and pumping program until the Highvale mine is fully reclaimed. Last year they pumped about 2.5 million cubic meters, short of the planned 3.3 million cubic meters. TransAlta is planning for 4.5 million cubic meters this year but is behind their monthly projection at the end of March. While the pumping helps, it's the natural precipitation that really determines lake level. With these low lake levels, just a reminder that vehicles must not be used on the bed and shore under Alberta Environment rules. More information about lake level history can be found on the Wabamun Watershed Management Council website and about pumping at the TransAlta Sundance 6 web page.

Closing comments

I want to thank Village residents for making Kapasiwin such a welcoming community, participating in Village events and volunteering to help around the Village.

I also want to thank our groundskeeper Dave Wiles and our Summer Students for keeping the Village grounds so neat and tidy.

Our CAO Emily House and her team do so much looking after all our administrative needs, and always with a smile on their faces. A good example of their hard work is that residents will be able to pay their taxes by e-transfer this year. Thank you!

Finally, I need to thank my fellow Councillors John McIvor and Tim Kirby. They bring their talents and genuine love of the Village to every meeting and decision we make.

2026 Property Assessment and Taxation Notice

Once again this year, the Summer Village of Kapasiwin is sending a Combined Property Assessment and Taxation Notice. The Notice of Assessment Date is May 29, 2026 with the Assessment Appeal Deadline of July 28, 2026. Please note that the **ASSESSED VALUE** for your property is as of **July 1st, 2025.**

PROPERTY TAXES DUE JUNE 30, 2026 by midnight

Avoid Penalties

Penalties will not be applied if the Village Office receives your payment on or before June 30, 2026 or if the post mark on your envelope is June 30, 2026.

A 18% penalty on your current tax levy will be applied on July 1, 2026. On January 1, 2027 an additional 18% penalty will be applied on the complete outstanding amount (previous and current tax levy and penalties).

Payment Options:

Cheque to:
Summer Village of Kapasiwin
PO Box 1075
Onoway, AB T0E 1V0

NEW – e-Transfer to:
cao@kapasiwinalberta.com
No password is required.
Multiple e-Transfers are accepted if the full amount cannot be sent in a single transaction due to daily transfer limits.

Understanding Your Property Taxes: Why Costs Continue to Rise

Each year, Council works to balance the Summer Village of Kapasiwin's budget while continuing to maintain the infrastructure, services, and community standards residents value and rely on.

Like municipalities across Alberta, Kapasiwin continues to experience increasing financial pressures due to inflation, rising operational and infrastructure costs, increased provincial requisitions, and additional responsibilities being placed on municipalities. The cost of materials, equipment, fuel, contractor services, and emergency services has increased significantly in recent years, impacting municipalities of all sizes.

A recent informational series released by Alberta Municipalities, Prop*erty Taxes Reimagined: Fair Funding for Strong Communities*, highlights that municipalities across Alberta are facing reduced provincial funding while still being expected to maintain roads, emergency preparedness, parks, public spaces, and essential infrastructure.

Your Property Tax Bill Includes Two Different Taxes
Your annual property tax bill includes:

- a **municipal property tax** set by Council to fund local services and infrastructure; and
- a **provincial education property tax** requisition set by the Government of Alberta to help fund schools.

The Summer Village is required by legislation to collect the provincial education tax on behalf of the Province and remit those funds directly to the Alberta School Foundation Fund.

For Kapasiwin:

- the 2025 Education Property Tax Requisition was approximately $95,089,
- while the 2026 Education Property Tax Requisition increased to approximately $108,319.

This represents an increase of over $13,000 in provincial education taxes in a single year.

Increasing Emergency Service Costs
Municipal emergency service costs have also increased substantially.

For the Summer Village of Kapasiwin, Fire Services costs have increased from approximately $4,778 in 2021 to approximately $14,730 in 2026. In addition, under the Province's renewed Police Funding Model, preliminary estimates project policing costs increasing from approximately $5,814 in 2026–27 to approximately $9,237 by 2030–31. This cost was $1,800 in 2021.

While these amounts may appear modest in larger centres, they can have a significant impact on smaller municipalities and summer villages with limited tax bases.

Municipal Budgets Must Balance Each Year
Unlike provincial and federal governments, municipalities are legally required under the Municipal Government Act to balance their budgets every year.

As costs continue to rise, municipalities are often faced with difficult decisions, including:

- increasing property taxes or fees,
- delaying infrastructure projects,
- reducing service levels,
- or postponing repairs and improvements.

Council's Commitment

Council and Administration understand that rising costs affect residents and property owners, and every effort is made to carefully manage expenses while continuing to maintain the services and infrastructure that support the community and quality of life in Kapasiwin.

Administration continues to pursue grant opportunities, long-term planning strategies, and operational efficiencies to help minimize impacts wherever possible.

If residents have concerns regarding provincial funding, education property taxes, policing costs, or broader municipal funding models in Alberta, residents are encouraged to contact their local MLA to share their feedback and concerns.

Household Water Saving Tips

Bathroom

- Shorten Showers.
- Install low flow showerheads and faucets.
- Turn off water while soaping or shampooing.
- Upgrade to low flow or dual flush toilets.

Kitchen & Laundry

- Run dishwashers and washing machines only with full loa
- Skip pre-rinsing dishes scrape instead.
- Use eco or short cycles when available.
- Upgrade to high efficiency appliances when possible.

Outdoor Water Use

- Use rain barrels to collect water for gardens and landscaping.
- Water early morning or evening to reduce evaporation.
- Use drip irrigation or soaker hoses.
- Mulch garden beds to retain moisture.

Saving water at home is important for protecting the environment and helping ensure clean water is available for future generations. Fresh water is a limited resource, and conserving it helps reduce the strain on natural water sources such as lakes, rivers, wetlands, and groundwater systems. When households use less water, it means less water needs to be withdrawn from these ecosystems, helping protect wildlife, fish habitats, and plant life that rely on healthy water levels to survive.

Water conservation also helps reduce the amount of energy required to pump, treat, heat, and deliver water to homes and businesses. Using less water means water treatment facilities and pumping systems do not have to work as hard, which helps lower energy consumption, pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. Simple actions such as fixing leaks, taking shorter showers, turning off taps when not in use, and using water-efficient appliances can make a significant difference over time.

Conserving water can also help communities during dry seasons, drought conditions, or periods of high demand. By using water responsibly, residents help maintain stable water supplies and reduce pressure on local infrastructure. Every small effort contributes to protecting the environment, preserving natural resources, and ensuring there is enough clean, safe water available for everyone now and in the future.

Dock & Mooring Structures

There are now mooring disturbance standards in place for placing docks and other mooring structures within the lake. These standards are intended to help protect the shoreline, lakebed, and surrounding aquatic environment while ensuring safe and responsible use of the water. Residents and visitors planning to install, move, maintain docks, boat lifts, or other mooring structures should review these requirements to ensure they are in compliance. Following these guidelines helps reduce environmental impact and preserves the lake for future generations. For more detailed information on the standards and permitting requirements, please visit www.alberta.com.

Fire Safety During the Spring/Summer

As spring and summer approach, residents are reminded to practice safe fire habits to help protect our community. Warmer weather and dry conditions can increase the risk of grass and brush fires. Always check for any current fire bans or restrictions before starting a fire and only burn in approved fire pits. Keep fires small, never leave them unattended, and ensure they are fully extinguished before leaving the area. Properly dispose of cigarettes and avoid burning on windy days. By following these simple precautions, we can all help keep our community safe during the warmer months.

Property Assessments

KCL Consulting Grant Clark
Phone: 1-888-419-2128

Development Officer

Tony Sonnleitner
PO Box 2945
Stony Plain, AB T7Z 1Y4
Phone: 780-718-5479
pcm1@telusplanet.net

The Inspections Group

300 West, 14310 - 111 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5M 3Z7 Phone:
(780) 454-5048
www.inspectionsgroup.com
questions@inspectionsgroup.com

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.

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.

Alberta Fire Bans

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.

FireSmart™ Canada

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.

Kapasiwin Transfer Station

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

Summer Hours

Tuesday 9:00 - 5:00
Thursday 9:00 - 5:00
Saturday 9:00 - 5:00

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.

Street Lights

If you notice a streetlight in the Village that has burnt out, please contact Fortis at 780-310-WIRE (9173) and provide them with the number on the pole (if available) and the municipal address closest to the pole.

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 everyone's. 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 future use & enjoyment.

Garbage & Recycling Within the Summer Village

Garbage Disposal Information for Kapasiwin Residents

The Summer Village of Kapasiwin does not provide weekly or monthly garbage collection services. As such, it is the responsibility of residents to properly dispose of their waste to help maintain the cleanliness and beauty of our community.

To assist with waste management, residents of Kapasiwin are eligible to receive a waste transfer card for access to Parkland County dump facilities. These facilities provide a convenient option for disposing of household waste and other items responsibly. If the Kapasiwin Transfer Station temporarily eases to accept brush due to a fire ban, the Stony Plain Station will still take it since it mulches (not burns) the brush.

Important Information About Waste Transfer Cards

- Dump cards are issued **only to individuals listed on the property title**.
- Each card is unique to the property owner and can be used at any Parkland County dump.
- Proper use of the dump card ensures waste is managed in an environmentally friendly manner.

How to Apply for a Waste Transfer Card:

To apply for a dump card, please contact the office. Staff will be happy to assist you with the application process, provide any necessary forms, and answer any questions you may have. Having a valid dump card ensures proper access to waste disposal facilities it also helps maintain efficient and responsible waste management within the community. Lost cards are subject to a $35.00 replacement fee from Parkland County.

Dates the Ice Went Off Lake Wabamun

1999- April 24	2006- April 9	2013- May 7	2020- May 3
2000- April 27	2007- April 28	2014- May 2	2021- April 30
2001- April 28	2008- May 7	2015- April 20	2022- April 27
2002- May 15	2009- May 1	2016- April 9	2023- May 3
2003- May 2	2010- April 14	2017- May 11	2024- April 29
2004- April 20	2011- May 9	2018- May 9	2025- May 2
2005- April 19	2012- May 7	2019- April 24	2026- May 6

Invasive Species

Residents are encouraged to keep an eye out for invasive species in local waterways. Invasive species are non-native plants, fish, or organisms that can spread quickly and disrupt the natural balance of the ecosystem. They can harm native wildlife, impact water quality, and create long-term environmental challenges if not properly managed.

When spending time on or near the water, watch for anything unusual such as unfamiliar plants, algae, or fish species. It's also important to help prevent the spread by cleaning, draining, and drying boats, trailers, and water equipment before moving between water bodies. Even small actions can make a big difference in protecting our lakes and waterways.

If you believe you have found an invasive species, please report it to the appropriate authorities and avoid disturbing or transporting it. By staying aware and taking simple preventative steps, residents can help preserve the health and beauty of our local water systems for future generations.

Yellowhead Regional Library

The Summer Village of Kapasiwin is proudly served by the Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL) system, connecting residents to a wide range of library services and resources. Just minutes away, the Wabamun Library offers a welcoming space for readers of all ages. Enjoy access to books, audiobooks, DVDs, eBooks, free Wi-Fi, printing services, and more. The library also hosts programs for children, youth, and adults throughout the year.

Get your library memberships and visit the Wabamun Library or explore more online through Yellowhead Regional Library at www.yrl.ab.ca.

Gardening

Spring and summer are the perfect seasons to enjoy gardening! Add colour and life to your yard! As the weather warms up, residents are encouraged to plant flowers, vegetables, and shrubs to help create beautiful outdoor spaces throughout the community. Gardening not only enhances the appearance of your property but also supports local pollinators such as bees and butterflies. To help your plants grow strong and healthy, there are a few simple tips to keep in mind. Make sure your plants receive the right amount of sunlight for there type, water them regularly, especially during hot and dry periods. Adding compost or quality soil can provide important nutrients that help plants thrive. Mulching around plants can also help retain moisture and reduce weeds. Regularly removing weeds and trimming dead leaves or flowers will encourage healthier growth throughout the season.

Many insects can also play an important role in a healthy garden. Pollinators such as bees & butterflies help plants produce fruits and vegetables, while beneficial insects like ladybugs help control pest's by feeding on harmful bugs such as aphids. Planting a variety of flowers

and avoiding harsh pesticides can help attract these helpful insects as well as create a more balanced garden environment. With a little care and attention, gardens can flourish throughout the spring and summer months, making the Village an even more vibrant and enjoyable place for everyone.

WWMC

The Wabamun Watershed Management Council is a local, community-driven organization dedicated to protecting and improving the health of the Wabamun Lake watershed. Working alongside residents, municipalities, and environmental partners, the Council focuses on water quality, habitat preservation, and sustainable land use practices that benefit both the environment and the community.

Through education, monitoring programs, and collaborative initiatives, the Council helps raise awareness about important environmental issues such as invasive species, shoreline health, and responsible water use. Their efforts play a key role in maintaining the long-term health and enjoyment of the watershed for residents and visitors alike.

Community involvement is an important part of their work, and residents are encouraged to stay informed, participate in local initiatives, and support ongoing conservation efforts. By working together, we can help ensure the continued protection of our watershed for future generations.

Upcoming Events this Summer

Wine & Cheese — **June 27th**, 2026 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Annual Information Meeting — **July 11th**, 2026 at 10:30 AM

Bocce Ball — **July 12th**, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Horseshoe Tournament — **July 25th**, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Land & Water Races — **August 1st – 3rd**, 2026 at 2:00 PM

Labour Day Fireworks — **September 5th – 7th**, 2026