Summer Village of Kapasiwin

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Spring Newsletter

Spring 2022
www.kapasiwinalberta.com

Message from our Mayor!

Wow, how did it get to be 2022! COVID has seemed to make time pass both slowly and quickly.

The good news is things are starting to seem a bit more normal. Council and all Villagers, I'm sure, are looking forward to a great summer at the lake.

Council continues to monitor all the COVID information from public health officials and other governments. We encourage everyone to continue to be diligent in looking after yourself, your family and friends.

Social Activities

In light of the improving situation, Council is pleased to announce a planned return to our summer social activities. With the help of volunteers from several families we expect to have the wine and cheese party, water and land race weekend, horseshoe tournament and Labour Day fireworks display. Some details are included in the attached social activities calendar. This of course is subject to the COVID situation remaining manageable. Stay tuned.

Public Works

In addition to our normal grass cutting and road maintenance, Council has approved several capital projects. Over the course of the summer, we expect to see new village signage, security camera upgrades, a small parking area with fencing at the Village Hall, and culvert cleaning along with some brushing to improve fire mitigation efforts!

We are very fortunate as a village to have a healthy capital budget due to priors' years provincial grants. Future provincial grants remain uncertain so Council exercises due diligence in considering capital expenditures and the associated impact on operations.

Land Use Bylaw

With the completion of our Municipal Development Plan, as required by the Municipal Government Act, Council has started working on a revised Land Use Bylaw (LUB). The feedback from the LUB survey of Villagers a few years back will be considered in drafting the new LUB. There will be opportunities for further villager input over the summer. Further information is included.

Operating Budget

The Village continues to face cost pressures due to the education property tax levy, inflation, and the Municipal Government Act requirements. Utilities, sanitation, fire protection, emergency management, policing and security all have increased costs. As a result, the municipal property taxes have increased this year to fund our operating budget by approximately $12,000. The majority of the increase is due to the need to renew the fire services agreement with Parkland County, increased utility costs, the Provincial Government requiring more extensive emergency management and additional funding for policing. Some of these cost increases were predicted and some, like utilities, were not. Council and Administration will continue to work hard to try and minimize the impact to residents due to rising costs.

TransAlta - Sundance Plant/Mine Reclamation

In March TransAlta held an open house to provide an update on the Sundance plant operations and mine reclamation. Some highlights were as follows:

- Coal mining operations have ceased and mine reclamation of the Sundance and Keephills mining areas have commenced.
- Mining reclamation is estimated to be completed in the mid 2040's. The reclaimed sites with consist of pit lakes, wetlands, forest, rolling grasslands and some agricultural areas.
- Sundance plant is now operating 2 of its 6 turbines fired on natural gas generating about 1/4 of the power from past generation highs when all 6 turbines were coal fired. At this time there are no plans to increase power generation.
- Under an Alberta Environment order, TransAlta is obligated to pump treated water into the lake annually for lost runoff due to plant/mining operations. The historic "debt" to the lake for years before pumping started has been repaid.
- The water treatment plants that return water to the lake have not been operating for about the last 2 years due to technical issues with the plants. Transalta is hoping to get one plant running again later this year to repay the new "debt" to the lake from when the water treatment plants ceased pumping. - pumping must continue until the mine site is fully reclaimed. The annual requirement, however, will diminish as reclamation occurs.
- TransAlta has no plan to continue pumping water into the lake after the mining reclamation is complete and all water debts have been repaid. Although, the officials at the open house seemed open to the idea of ongoing pumping if all stakeholders could agree on the parameters and cost sharing.
- At a recent meeting of the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance with the Lake Wabamun summer villages, there was some preliminary discussion among the summer villages about the advantages if water could continue to be pumped into the lake after the mine reclamation is complete.

Kapasiwin Transfer Station

3503 Township Rd. 533A
Range Road 35 north 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 operation hours.

Summer Hours
Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00am to 4:00 p.m.

Winter Hours
Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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 reserve.

Please do not store household garbage outdoors unless contained in animal proof receptacles. We do not want to attract animals into our Village.

Annual Information Meeting

The Summer Village of Kapaswin will be holding the 2022 Annual Information Meeting on Saturday, July 16, 2022 at 10:30am at the Kapasiwin Community Hall. We hope to see you there!

continued Mayor's Message

Sad News
As many of you have already heard, Tyke Drever passed away this past winter. Council passes its deepest sympathies on to the Drever family. Tyke happily spent many, many hours making Kapasiwin a better place by organizing our social activities, running the summer student program, fixing things that needed to be fixed and always having a smile and friendly word for all of us. Tyke will be missed! The Drever family is planning a celebration of Tyke's life for this summer.

Keeping Kapasiwin Beautiful
We just want to remind everyone to please help keep the village a clean, happy, and respectful place. Take your garbage, yard waste and ashes to the transfer station, not across the road. When off your own property leash and clean up after your dogs. Be mindful of your neighbors by keeping noise down especially late at night and use the path responsibly.

Thank you!
I want to thank my fellow councillors John McIvor and Tim Kirby for their personal commitment to the Village by agreeing to serve a second term on Council. The Village is fortunate to have smart and good people step up to help navigate the "interesting" issues we face as a municipality.

Finally on behalf of Council I want to thank the people who really make our Village work so well. Emily House, our Chief Administrative Officer, Tony Sonnleitner, our Development Officer, and Dave Wiles, the Village Groundskeeper and all the Villagers who volunteer with social events, work bees, etc. Together they all do a lot of things big and small that help keep Kapasiwin such a special place!

Here's to a great summer!!!!

-Tim Wiles

2022 Property Taxes

PROPERTY TAXES are DUE June 30, 2022, by MIDNIGHT.
Penalties will not be applied if the Village receives your payment on or before June 30, 2022, or if the post mark on your envelope is June 30, 2022 or earlier.

An 18% penalty on your current tax levy will be applied on July 1, 2022. On January 1, 2023, an additional 18% penalty will be applied on the complete outstanding amount (previous and current tax levy and penalties).

If you should have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact Emily at 780-914-0997.

Fire Smart

Remember to Fire Smart your yard!! By managing the vegetation around your house and buildings, you will limit the risk of a ground fire climbing up into the trees and potentially jumping to your home, especially if you live near a forested area.

We encourage all residents to ensure all fuel is stored properly. We will continue to monitor the Parkland County website and the fire ban status and will adjust the sign on Gibbons Avenue.

We will also post information on our website and www.albertafirebans.ca. We must be very cautious of the fire hazard in the Village. We have a lot of dead falls on undeveloped properties and long dry grasses that are very susceptible to fire so please be cautious with your activities around the Village.

Kapasiwin Capital Projects

Projects that we ae looking at within The Summer Village of Kapasiwin

1. New bulletin board
2. Permanent signage for the tennis courts
3. Rail fencing around the park
4. Small Hall parking area for the hall
5. Refurbished Kapasiwin sign
6. Refurbished horseshoe pits
7. Brushing along Gibbons and Railway Avenue

Village Website

We hope that residents find the website easy to navigate and find information. Administration will continue to be focused on updating our website and to ensure the information provided is relevant and current. Please check our website on a regular basis as new information is constantly added.

If you have any suggestions, please email Emily at emily@milestonemunicipalservices.ca.

Yellowhead Regional Library

As residents of a member municipality, you are entitled to the full benefits of the YRL service. The Summer Village of Kapasiwin designated library is Wabamun Library and library cards are free. For details on library business hours and library card costs please contact the library directly at 780-892-2713.

Warning Buoys

We have replaced the buoys this year that will be again in place in Kapasiwin Bay as a demarcation line for users of watercraft in the bay. We ask residents and guests that when using motorized watercraft, please leave your boat launch or dock and head straight out past the buoys before engaging in your activities. The area from the beach to the buoy demarcation line is reserved for swimmers, canoeing and paddleboats, tubers and rowboats giving them a safe place to enjoy the lake environment.

Wabamun Watershed Management Council-Update April 2022

Let's Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear

The following is a brief synopsis of what the Wabamun Watershed Management Council (WWMC) has been doing over the last few months and an open invitation to get involved.

In the 1st quarter of 2022, the WWMC board has been immersed in work concerning two overarching themes, namely board governance and implementation of the Wabamun Watershed Management Plan (WWMP).

WWMC board governance efforts include formalizing a 3-year strategic plan, advancing by-law revision, and completing an application to register as a charity.

Current WWMP implementation efforts are centered on collaborative initiatives related to the priority WWMP focus areas including, but not limited to, planning summer education events on aquatic invasive species, riparian restoration, and advocating for municipal bylaws/policies alignment with protection of the lake and watershed. For a review of the WWMP priority focus areas, see 'page 5 of the WWMP'.

Winter Water Sampling

A robust water quality monitoring program is one of the WWMP priority focus areas. The Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) has been running the Lake Keepers Winter Water Sampling program at 22 Alberta lakes for the past three winter seasons to document trends in water quality.

WWMC volunteers completed 4 Lake Keepers water sampling events this winter season (one in each month from December to March). The water samples were taken from three Wabamun Lake offshore sites – Water's Edge, Seba Beach and Rich's Point. Water temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels were recorded at several depths and a number of water samples were taken at each site and then delivered to ALMS for analysis. Following analysis, ALMS staff will produce a report containing their findings. Past reports can be found on wwmc.ca (see Studies and Reports).

Boat Launch Update

Parkland County has informed the WWMC that crews will begin clearing land in the very near future (with accommodation to bird nesting and fish spawning season) for the approved boat launch site on the Wabamun Lake south shore near the Sundance power plant. This will be the beginning of Phase 1 of the project, constructing the new launch. Phase 2 will involve closure or restricting access to the informal launch sites around the lake. These efforts will go a long way to helping protect the lake's fragile ecosystem while allowing easier access to the lake for most users. More information about the launch can be found on Parkland County's website (parklandcounty.com), search for Wabamun Lake Boat Access.

Get Involved to 'Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear'

Keeping Wabamun Lake "Clean and Clear" requires each one of us to be engaged in the protection of the lake and watershed. There are many aspects, many areas to get involved in. It can be overwhelming to know where to begin. Importantly, it does not matter where you begin to get involved, just PICK ONE aspect to delve in to, to participate in (and many of the readers of this piece have already done so). The motto of WWMC is 'Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear'; this is in fact a **collective responsibility** - **Let's Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear.** Now more than ever we must have a strong collective voice and bold action to protect the lake and watershed. Visit WWMC.ca for information on the watershed and ideas to get involved. Connect with us to share your involvement in protecting the lake and watershed or your interest in getting involved. info@wwmc.ca

Disaster Recovery Program

Overview: The Disaster Recovery Program (DRP) provides financial assistance to qualifying applicants to help restore uninsurable property lost or damaged by a disaster to its basic, pre-disaster functional condition. DRP's provide financial assistance as a last resort to assist those affected by a disaster.

Program Changes: For DRP's that occur in 2021, the Government of Alberta has set homeowner funding limits and implemented cost-sharing mechanisms between the government and program applicants.

Homeowner- funding limits: The province is implementing a homeowner funding limit of up to $500,000 per application for eligible costs and a limit of one-time assistance per property, regardless of the transfer of ownership.

Purchasing Insurance: It is important for Albertans to become educated about their disaster risks and ensure they are adequately insured. There are more insurance options on the market now than ever before.

Learn how you can prepare for emergencies and disasters by visiting at www.alberta.ca/emergency-prepardness.aspx.
Also visit for further information on Alberta Disaster Assistance Guidelines online at www.alberta.ca/drp

Be a Responsible Neighbor and Pet Owner

We would like to applaud the residents who respect their neighbors and community and keep noise to an acceptable level and clean up after their pets.

Please Pick Up After Your Pet

A single gram of dog feces contains 23 million fecal coliform bacteria that harbour many more dangerous bacteria and viruses. Dog feces kills plants and grass. Dog feces can pollute the environment and filter its way into water supplies. Dog feces left behind create an unattractive environment.

Dogs are not Allowed At-Large

Please keep pets on leash and respect other people's property. Please clean up after your animals. We do want an attractive village and clean walking areas.

We love the atmosphere of our Village and the comradery amongst neighbors and want everyone to enjoy their time at the lake.

Developing and Building

A Development Permit must be applied for before obtaining any Safety Code Permits necessary for new construction, additions, decks, demolition, and excavation (HOLDING TANKS & CISTERNS). This permit is to ensure that your project or home occupation conforms to the Village's Land Use Bylaw, including proper setbacks from property lines, etc.

Our Development Officer, Tony Sonnleitner, can be reached at 780-718-5479. A site plan, showing the location of existing buildings and the proposed development must be submitted when applying. Application fees must accompany all Development Applications.

Safety Code Permits including electrical, plumbing, building, etc. must be obtained from Inspections Group before beginning your project. You must apply for these permits to ensure that your project is safe and conforms to safety code regulations and must be obtained before commencing work. Permit forms can be found on the Village's website or at www.inspectionsgroup.com.

Alberta 1 Call: 1-800-242-3447

Whether you are involved in large excavation job or simply installing a fence or planting a tree - don't gamble on the unknown. Remember there are underground gas, electrical and telephone lines. It is a free service, so call before you dig. 1st Call suggests you call at least two working days before you plan to dig.

Black Knot Awareness

It is a fungus that infects different types of fruit trees and shrubs in the rose family. It is spread via spores; birds, insects, wind, and rain are also contributors to the distribution of these spores. The spores are usually in the spring, in summer infected trees will develop green swellings at the tip of the branches or at the fruit spurs. In time, the green swellings will turn black and enlarge. This can take two to three years. If not controlled, the tree will die. Mature galls release a vast number of spores during the blooming period, resulting in rapid growth of infections of other trees.

Control of Black Knot

Removal of the black knot is a must. Prune out all knot bearing branches during late fall, winter, or very early spring when plants are dormant. Remove branches at least 15-20cm (6-8 inches) **below** the knot. It is ideal to prune at the start of the branch rather than leaving a stump. Try not to have the diseased branch land on the ground, as it can drop spores to infect again. Cutting tools should be disinfected after pruning, especially if cuts have been made through infected material. Ideally, cutting tools should be disinfected between each cut of a diseased branch. Ideal cleaning solution is ½ cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water or use fungicide cleaner such as Physan 20. If knots are growing on the trunk of a tree, cut away the diseased bark down to good wood and at least 1cm (1/2 inch) beyond the edge of the knot. Failure to remove branches beyond the internal growth, re-growth of the fungus will result. **DISEASED WOOD MUST BE DESTROYED IMMEDIATELY** by burning, burying or complete removal from the area. If not disposed of appropriately, the diseased knots will continue to release spores for up to four months after removal. **DO NOT COMPOST THE DISEASED BRANCHES**. For more in-depth information check out the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry website.

Plant Species Affected by Black Knot

Amur Cherry, Apricot, Black Cherry, Chokecherry, Dropmore Cherry, Flowering Almond, Flowering Plum, Japanese Plum, Korean Cherry, Mayday Tree, Mongolian Cherry, Nanking Cherry, Pin Cherry, Cultivated Plum, Wild Plum, Prunus Hybrids, Sand Cherry, and Sour Cherry.

2022 Summer Social Events

- Wine and Cheese Social – July 2nd
- Games Weekend – July 30th to August 1
- Horseshoe Tournament – August 13th and 14th
- Fireworks Display – Labour Day Weekend

Kapasiwin Memorabilia

The Dates the Ice Went Off Lake Wabamun

1999 – April 24	2000 – April 27	2001 – April 28	2002 – May 15	2003 – May 2
2004 – April 20	2005 – April 19	2006 – April 22	2007 – April 28	2008 – May 7
2009 – May 1	2010 – April 14	2011 – May 9	2012 – May 7	2013 – May 7
2014 – May 2	2015 – April 20	2016 – April 9	2017 – May 11	2018 – May 9
2019 – April 24	2020 – May 3	2021 – April 30	**2022- May 2**	