Summer Village of Kapasiwin

Site 1, Box 157, RR 1
Onoway, AB T0E 1V0

Phone:
780.914.0997

Email:
emily@milestonemunicipalservices.ca

Mayor
Tim Wiles

Deputy Mayor
John McIvor

Councillor
Tim Kirby

Chief Administrative Officer
Emily House

Public Works
Dave Wiles

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

Assessment
KCL Consulting – Grant Clark
Phone:1.888.419.2128
grant@kcl-consulting.com

Newsletter Contents

Message from the Mayor 1
Kapasiwin Transfer Station 2
2020 Assessment and Taxes 3
Responsible Pet Ownership 4
Warning Buoys 4
Healthy Lake Tips 4
Developing and Building 4

Spring Newsletter

Spring 2020
www.kapasiwinalberta.com

Message from our Mayor!

On behalf of Council I would like to update you on a few things as we get ready for a long-awaited summer.

COVID 19
First, we hope everyone is managing as well as possible through the COVID 19 pandemic. It is truly something that touches everyone. Council encourages Villagers to continue to follow all the guidance and directions from our public health officials and the provincial and federal governments. We all need to do our part to help get through this.

The Village is also taking actions. We will be posting signs at the playground and tennis court advising the areas are not cleaned regularly so wash your hands before and after using and maintain social distancing. Access to the Village Hall will be limited as long as the broader social and physical distancing requirements remain in place. In light of the Chief Medical Officer's direction prohibiting gatherings exceeding 15 people, we have cancelled the annual "wine and cheese" normally held on the Saturday of the Canada Day weekend. We will review our other normal summer activities and keep you advised if there are additional delays or cancellations.

Consistent with several other municipalities, we will be providing property owners the option to defer the 2020 property tax payments to August 31 without penalty.

Village Administration
Council has been quite busy through the fall and winter dealing with a range of administrative matters. The recent changes to the Municipal Government Act and the results of the government's Municipal Accountability Program review require the Village to have a number of administrative policies and practices in place. These include the Assessment Review Board Bylaw, Subdivision and Development Appeal Board Bylaw, Emergency Management Bylaw, Procedural Bylaw, and the Bylaw Enforcement Officer Bylaw which have now or will be put in place.

Council also approved the required Inter Municipal Collaboration Framework with Parkland County. Fortunately, recent changes by the provincial government have exempted us from the requirement to have an Inter Municipal Development Plan with Parkland. Last summer we held an open house on our Municipal Development Plan which we will finalize this summer. Once that is complete, we will continue work updating the Land Use Bylaw.

At Parkland County's request, we are in negotiations to update our fire services agreement. The current agreement is over 20 years old and overdue to be refreshed. As part of our due diligence we are exploring alternative arrangements as well.

The Village has contracted Bylaw Enforcement Services as needed on a pilot basis. We will update our website with contact information when this comes into effect.

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. We are asking you use these facilities for emergent or critical needs to reduce person to person contact. Please practice social distancing and stay away if you are showing any symptoms of COVID-19.

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

Message from our Mayor Continued

The Security Committee has continued to meet over the last year. We would like to thank all the volunteers on this committee for their involvement and being vigilant on any issues that come up. The next phase of the Security Camera Project will be completed this summer along with improvements to the existing system.

An upgrade to Railway Avenue is also being scheduled this summer. This will include new gravel, grading, brushing of trees along the roadway, and dust control. We will also be sweeping and filling any cracks in the pavement on Gibbons Avenue.

Responsible Pet Owner's Bylaw
Council will be replacing the previous Dog Bylaw with the new Responsible Pet Owner's bylaw by the end of May 2020. Thank you for the comments we received on the draft Bylaw shared last summer. The key features of the new Bylaw include:

- eliminates the former licensing requirement
- updates the enforcement actions and fines
- pets must be on leash when not on your property, including the footpath
- pets on your own property must not interfere with others using the footpath

Footpath (Wapumeg Avenue)
We are happy to report that the Alberta Court of Appeal supported the original Alberta Court of Queen's Bench decision. This means the footpath across most of our properties is validly established under the easement on most of our land titles (E.T. 1420) and the Land Use Bylaw.

While the vast majority of property owners strongly support the continued use of the footpath, we understand a few property owners would prefer people not to cross their property on the path. However, based on the court decisions, Council remains committed to maintaining the presence of the footpath in our Land Use Bylaw so the path can continue to be enjoyed by residents the same way it has been for many years.

We ask that everyone be respectful of each other on this matter. If you are crossing someone's property, please cast your view towards the path or the lake to respect the property owner's privacy and move across quickly, don't linger unless invited. Your dog must be on a leash and you must clean up any droppings immediately. When people are crossing your property, please ensure your dogs do not interfere with them and ensure there are no physical obstacles. Please contact Emily if you come upon any obstructions inhibiting the use of the pathway.

We acknowledge this has been a difficult situation recently and there are some strong feelings on this matter. If we all demonstrate common sense and respect for each other there is no sound reason for the path to become a divisive issue in our community. But we need everyone to contribute to the solution in the traditional Kapasiwin way!

A request has been made to the Supreme Court of Canada to hear a further appeal of the existing court rulings. Motions for leave for appeal to the Supreme Court are generally heard by a panel of three judges of the Court and a simple majority is determinative. By convention, this panel never explains why it grants or refuses leave in any particular case, but the Court typically hears cases of national importance or where the case allows the Court to settle an important issue of law. Leave is rarely granted,

Message from our Mayor Continued

meaning that for most litigants, provincial courts of appeal are courts of last resort. We are still awaiting to hear whether the panel will grant leave.

Fun Stuff

Our village has a long tradition of outstanding volunteerism. People are always willing to come together for an ad hoc work bee for cleaning up a mess at the beach, installing a playground, clearing land for the horseshoe pitch, or bucking up trees downed by a tornado. We also have had great volunteers organizing our social events. When my wife and I were kids we helped her dad (my future father in law) write out the prize "tickets" for the races that could be redeemed at Cahoons store (this was before money was invented). I will always remember Bernie Stanton's booming voice shouting out the next race at the land and water races.

But there is one volunteer who has done way more than his share, Tyke Drever! Helping at all those work activities I just mentioned was not enough for Tyke. He ran the "STEP crew" since its very first year, 1972 (I know that since I was on it with Dennis and Douglas Drever and Rob Henderson) up until just a few years ago when my brother Dave was finally experienced enough to handle that responsibility. Tyke taught many Kapasiwin kids how to hammer a nail and cut a lawn properly, including my niece and nephews and my own kids. He also took each and every STEP crew kid for ice cream.

But that was still not enough. Tyke has been the chief organizer and coordinator of the wine and cheese party, horseshoe tournament, golf tournament, land and water races and the fireworks for most of my adult life. Tyke always found lots of helpers, but it was his leadership that made sure the events went off without a hitch. I hate to think how many hotdogs and buns, marshmallows and cases of pop and beer Tyke has lugged to these events.

Tyke has let me know that last year was his last as the organizer of all these events. But I know we will see him out there continuing to support our community. Tyke, as your friend and Mayor, and on behalf of Council and all Villagers, thank you so much for everything you have done!

Our tradition of volunteerism is still alive and well. Mary Jane Stanton and Jocelyn Brophy took it upon themselves to pick Tykes brain to create a "manual" of how to run each of these events. We have also found new volunteers to run our events for this year, but we have spread the work over several families. Let's hope we are able to hold some of them!

On behalf of Council, we wish you a fun and healthy summer.

-Tim Wiles, Mayor

2020 Property Assessment and Taxes

Property Assessment and Taxation Notices will be mailed out early June. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Council has decided to defer the property tax due date to August 31, 2020.

Please note that the **ASSESSED VALUE** for your property is as of **July 1st, 2019.** We highly recommend each resident closely examine their Property Assessment and speak with the assessor regarding it when you receive it. The Assessment Complaint Deadline is August 10, 2020.

PROPERTY TAXES are DUE AUGUST 31, 2020 by midnight.

Penalties will not be applied if the Village receives your payment on or before August 31, 2020 or if the post mark on your envelope is August 31, 2020.

An 18% penalty on your current tax levy will be applied on September 1, 2020. On January 1, 2021, 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 or if you would like to speak with the Village's Assessor, please feel free to contact Emily at 780-914-0997.

Be a Responsible Pet Owner

We would like to applaud the residents who respect their neighbors and community 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.**

Warning Buoys

We are looking at replacing 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.

Ten Tips for Maintaining a Healthy Lake

Wabamun Watershed Management Council

1. Leave your shoreline in a natural state or if cleared, replant it with native species. Shoreline vegetation intercepts nutrients in runoff water and stabilizes the shore. Spring is an excellent time to gather willow and other cuttings to plant along the shore.
2. Do not wash vehicles, pets, or other items in or near the lake.
3. Do not cut/mow vegetation close to the water.
4. Trim down, rather than cut down obstructing trees and shrubs. You can still enjoy the lake with a natural shoreline.
5. Ensure your septic system is functioning properly and if you have not already, upgrade to a holding tank/pump-out system.
6. Avoid the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Instead, use compost, mulch your cut grass and fallen leaves.
7. Keep your boat wake as small as possible near shore and wildlife. Boat wakes flood wildlife nests and stir up lake bottom, increasing water turbidity and releasing sequestered nutrients.
8. Clean, drain and dry your boat/watercraft before transport. Invasive species hitch rides on boats, trailers, and gear.
9. Know what invasive species to watch for and report any sightings.
10. Join the WWMC and learn more about what you can do to protect your 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.