Summer Village of White Sands

Spring 2022 Newsletter

Greetings all from your Council. Spring is in the air. The next few days should see the ice off the lake. Our gardens are calling us.

Just a few items from Council:

* We have a new internet hotspot from Syban by the ‘Take it or Leave it’ shed. No password is required.
* The County of Stettler has problems with their sewer lagoon so they have discontinued taking effluent from White Sands and Rochon Sands. Bashaw is now the closest lagoon. This will be more expensive as it is further for the driver to haul and the cost of dumping is greater. In addition, we have no way of knowing how long we can continue to use this facility. We are working on a solution.
* The old shop attached to the Community Hall is going to be renovated to accommodate a Village office. All the planning, materials and labour will be covered by the Municipal Sustainability Initiative Grant.
* Mooring and docking is still a nightmare for us. We hired a highly rated legal firm to draw up our mooring and docking policy to comply with the new legislation. You can find it on our web site. As per the legislation, almost everyone, including most of those with properties along the lake shore, will have to apply for a temporary field authorization (T.F.A.) every year if they wish to put a dock or lift in the lake. There are 7 lakefront lots in CJ#1 which border directly onto the Right of Way rather than the municipal reserve which are exempt. However, they may still have to apply for a T.F.A. in some cases. Please refer to the policy and legislation for more information.
* We have our new Land Use Bylaw just about ready. An open house was held April 30th to hear comments. Some changes were implemented. A draft will be on the web site around the week of May 9-13th with a public meeting planned for Saturday, May 21st at 10:00 a.m. at the Community Hall.
* I would like to welcome our new maintenance man, Tim Heatherington. We would like to thank Allen Burger, who has moved on to other things, for his 11 years of service and wish him the best of luck.
* Brush and tree pick up has been discontinued because of abuse and the time required for maintenance. Info is on our web site.
* Pesticides and fertilizers are not to be used on lake front properties or those near to the lake for fear of run off into the lake. Please help us keep our lake healthy.
* Because of the risk of contamination to the lake and the aquafer, dumping of sewer and waste water in the Village must be guarded against. Anyone suspected of dumping sewer or waste water in the Village can be reported to the Environmental Protection Officer/Inspector, Environment & Parks, Red Deer office, 403-340-7721 or 24 hour 1-800-222-6514.
* Our CAO, Melissa Beebe, is leaving us at the end of May. Our hiring committee has selected Dean Pickering as our new CAO. He will be starting May 11th and plans to relocate to or near the lake. He comes to us with plenty of experience with the workings of Municipal Governance and government agencies. We would like to thank Melissa for seeing us through a very challenging time and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavours.
* The lake level as of May 1st was about 9 inches below full and about 1 inch above the trigger mark to pump. There is a moratorium on pumping because of the Prussian Carp in the Red Deer River. The lake level is going to be low this year unless we get a lot of rain.

Thank you for your time. Have a great spring. Council will continue to provide news letters to keep you informed.

The Ol’ Gray Councillor Lorne Thurston

For the Summer Village of White Sands Council