Summer Village of White Sands

Fall 2021 Newsletter

Greetings all from your Council. Sorry that there has not been a lot of communication of late. There is always a bit of a “dead zone” from nomination day until after the election and organizational meeting. We hope that your summer at the lake this year has built many fond memories of family and friends and good times.

As most of you are aware, Bill Sanchuck, Ed Waugh and myself were elected councillors for the Summer Village of White Sands. Bill Sanchuck was appointed Mayor at our organizational meeting based on MGA 150(2) “The chief elected official of a village, summer village or municipal district is to be appointed by council from among the councillors unless the council passes a bylaw providing that the official is to be elected by a vote of the electors of the municipality”.

Just a few items Council is working on:

* A big thanks to Elaine Owre, formally from Front Street but who has relocated to Town, for the donation of a gas generator to the Village.
* The newly cleared area on Buffalo Road just north of the 4-way stop is going to be a park to complete through next year’s budget.
* We also have scheduled the refinishing of the tennis/pickle ball court for next year.
* Many thanks to all for removing your docks and lifts from the beach area that were not placed in the water this year.
* Only rate payers are permitted to place docks and lifts in the lake adjacent to our Village boundaries. We are still waiting on the Provincial Government for the final plans on how mooring and docking will be handled for Buffalo Lake. Buffalo Lake is the only lake in Alberta which has a Provincially owned right-of-way along the shore line. Our unique situation calls for unique rules and regulations which they are still working on.
* We are planning a new small swim area below beach access #6 for next year.
* The Provincial Government is in the process of making legislation for shore line protection and stabilization in the Province.
* As of November 4, 2021, the lake level is down approximately 12” from last spring and is now at 780.59. This is usually the trigger point for pumping and stabilizing the lake levels. However, there is a moratorium on pumping because of concerns regarding an invasion of Prussian Carp from the Red Deer river.
* There have been a number of reports of a sewer smell along Lakeview Avenue near beach access #4. This is being investigated.
* Council has started a Strategic Plan for the Village’s future projects. Once it is complete, it will be posted on the web site.
* Our Land Use Bylaw is being redone. It should be ready around March 2022. There will be public consultation regarding any proposed changes. Please visit [www.whitesandsab.ca](http://www.whitesandsab.ca) or [www.facebook.com/whitesandsab](http://www.facebook.com/whitesandsab) for current updates.
* In 2019 the Summer Village of White Sands took on the “No Stone Left Alone” program for Erskine cemetery. It involves placing crosses and poppies at the headstones of our veterans for November 11th. We currently have about 30 Veteran’s graves and have called out to the community to identify any we may have missed. Many of these vets have a connection to White Sands, Rochon Sands and south Buffalo Lake. May God bless them all. “We will remember them.”

That’s it for now. Stay safe.

The Ol’ Gray Councillor Lorne Thurston

For the Summer Village of White Sands Council