

Summer Village of White Sands

April 2020 Newsletter

We hope that this newsletter finds you and your families healthy and faring well. Just a few items to try and keep you all in the loop of what the Village knows or is anticipating regarding spring lake activities:

- There is still no word on mooring and docking regulations. We are in a “wait and see” situation until we hear from the Province. We have also not received any direction from the Province regarding whether the beaches will be closed. Council is recommending that you do not put docks or lifts in the water until we receive some clear direction. We know how much work it is to put the equipment in and how difficult it is to adhere to physical distancing while you do it. If the beach is closed, you would not be able to use docks etc. At this time, we do know that all Federal and Provincial campgrounds have been closed.
- Deadlines for tax and tax fine payments have been extended by Council to October 30th, 2020. We know some folks are having a hard time.
- The green flashing lights on top of vehicles indicates volunteer or regular fire fighters on their way to the fire hall. Please pull over for them.
- Do not be surprised if we find ourselves with a fire ban in the near future. The fire departments are having a hard time with staffing and getting assistance from other jurisdictions during the pandemic. They are preparing to take some pro-active measures. Last year, 70% of forest fires were started by human activity.
- We have the Buffalo Lake Ranch subdivision with 108 lots being developed. Naturally those folks are going to want to access the lake so we need to address parking. We have begun making more parking at beach access #6 between 1st and 2nd Streets. There will be about 14 spots, much the same as beach access #5, the main beach off Lakeview Avenue. We are planning to put an approach below Gazebo Hill off of Mackenzie Way, mow the grass below the hill and put up a rail fence to allow for parking of 15 or 20 vehicles for beach access #8. We will not be removing any bushes or trees and will not be gravelling the area at this time. If anyone has any other ideas, please let Council know.
- Our Land Use Bylaw has stalled because the South Shore Intermunicipal Development Plan and the Buffalo Lake Intermunicipal Development Plan are having reviews which may bring changes to our Land use Bylaw. For example, some municipalities have RVs designated as dwelling units which our LUB does not. We are not able to hold Public Hearings and Annual General Meetings because of the COVID-19 rules. The folks with RVs on vacant lots will not be asked to pay the \$300 permit until this is figured out.

If you have any questions or concerns, please phone Lorne at 403-742-0210 or email thurston.lorne@gmail.com.

Thanks to all for what you are doing to assist with fighting this pandemic. Keep safe.

The Ol' Gray Councillor Lorne Thurston
For the Summer Village of White Sands Council