



Summer Village of White Sands Newsletter June 2012

Well the May Flies are still about, the fuzz has been flying for 3 weeks, the mosquitos are just starting and the rain doesn't seem to want to quit. Good thing we are tough Albertans. We are happy that summer is here and our special lake life season has begun for another year. I bring you greetings from the Council of White Sands. Here is an update:

Beach Work – The big equipment is all finished though you may see a small cat on the beach now and then. Though the lake is at its maximum height, there should not be any trees washing into it. The storms have changed the shore line again but that can't be prevented. Roots and debris now pose our biggest beach problem and we need your help to clean them up as we do not have the manpower to get the job done. If you can cut and pile the roots, etc., preferably just over the fence of the nearest beach access for pick up; that would be very helpful. If the beach access is too far, just make large piles where you can. Maintenance man Allan will pick up when necessary.

- Future beach work will continue and will focus on particular areas each year. Though we will not be able to please everyone, we are going to do the best that we can for the whole community.
- Please do not alter the beach or shore or dig through the berm. The results may be quite different than you expect and may worsen rather than improve the situation.
- Old docks and lifts that have not been used for two years or more will have to be removed to your property or disposed of. The Village will flag items that are in question with a ribbon. If you have concerns, phone me at 403-742-0210. Please keep all items off the shore so that we can harrow the beach and pick up weeds and roots, etc.. In the fall, please move your dock and lifts well off shore.
- Please do not cut trees off your property without Village permission. Please remove the debris.
- Dog Bylaw is going to be enforced. You can view it on our website.
- Sorry! No fire pits are allowed on the beach or off your property. Please be sure any fire pits on your property are properly constructed and not just a circle of rocks.
- As always, there is **no tolerance** for **fireworks** in the Village. Two fines have already been issued this spring. We are serious about protecting the Village from fire. Don't you think we should be?
- Quads, golf carts and other off road vehicles are not allowed on the beach or municipal reserve. Be aware that the Highway Traffic Act does not allow these vehicles on the roads.
- We have had some problems with the big storms we have had blowing our No Wake buoys onto shore. We are working on rectifying this. Swimming area buoys have arrived and will be going into the lake soon.
- Leanne Whitechurch from the Village is arranging a yoga class on the morning of Saturday August 25th at the hall. Call Leanne at 403-695-7256 for more information.
- The Land Use Bylaw has been amended. The changes include:
 - o Unattached accessory building height has been changed to accommodate pontoon boats and boats with towers.
 - o The 10% discretionary margin for development permits is no longer available.
 - o No "mega" houses are allowed on large lots. This will be discussed at the AGM.
- The County of Stettler is handling our noxious weed inspections and spraying.
- There is an article from the Stettler Independent on the back of this newsletter regarding the extra policing the RCMP have planned for Buffalo Lake this summer.
- July 14th is our annual golf tournament. Phone 403-742-1463 (Carl and Gerri Cornelssen) for more info.
- Our wind up BBQ courtesy of the White Sands Bottle Committee will be on the September long weekend.
- Tuesday card night continues at the hall.
- The Annual General Meeting will be held at the hall 9 am on June 30th. Important WATER to be discussed.



Well, after all the do's and don'ts we certainly hope you have a wonderful and safe summer. On behalf of Council we wish you and your family many fond memories of your time at the lake over the years.

Lorne, Colin & Barry - Summer Village of White Sands Council

Local RCMP institute 'zero-tolerance policy' for impaired boaters

**SGT. DUNCAN
BABCHUK**

Stettler RCMP detachment

Stettler RCMP will be conducting enforcement activities at Buffalo Lake this summer and would like to inform the general public of their zero-tolerance policy regarding boating and the consumption of alcohol on the lake.

The rules for alcohol and boating are very strict and the only vessels that are permitted to have alcohol on board must meet all of the following criteria:

— The vessel must have permanent sleeping facilities, permanent cooking facilities and a permanent toilet and must be anchored or secured alongside a dock.

If you're missing any of the criteria listed above, it's against the law to have alcohol aboard your boat.

Most pleasure boats that

operate on Buffalo Lake don't meet the criteria.

The RCMP will issue fines to every boat that's not equipped to have alcohol aboard. Boating while impaired is an offence under the Criminal Code of Canada and operators with more than 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood are liable to the following fines, plus a driving suspension:

First offence is at minimum \$600; second offence is a minimum of 14 days of imprisonment; and third offence is a minimum of 90 days of imprisonment.

Being charged with impaired operation of your boat will result in the suspension of your driver's licence, as well. Also, a \$115 fine will be issued to every person aboard the boat that's in possession of alcohol, and you may be ordered to leave the lake.

The RCMP will be start-

ing their patrols on the lake and boat launches to enforce the above-mentioned laws.

The RCMP is asking for the general public's assistance and support in order to keep our lake safe this summer.

If you see anyone that might be operating or consuming alcohol on the lake, please call 403-742-3381.

A reminder to boat owners, you must have the following when operating your boat: life jackets for every person on board; boat operator's licence; licenced vessel 10 horsepower and up (hull number must be visible); two paddles; horn or sounding device; fire extinguisher; manual bailing device; and don't exceed the passenger capacity.

Please check Transport Canada's "Safe Boating Guide," or find it on the Internet for all boating requirements.