

SUMMER VILLAGE OF WEST COVE

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2020

December 7th, 2020



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*****CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Are you new to the Summer Village?

It is important that the Summer Village Administration Office has your current mailing address. Without your current mailing address, your Tax Notice may not be properly delivered and that could lead to delays & penalties.

MONTHLY TAX PAYMENT PLAN

The Tax Payment Plan begins in January. If you would like to join, please contact the Summer Village Office for details.

SUMMER VILLAGE WEBSITE

Would you like more information on notices and various items such as financial information, bylaws, policies, minutes, meeting agendas etc.? Check out the Summer Village's website at: www.svwestcove.ca

YOUR COUNCIL:

Larry St.Amand, Mayor
lwstamand@gmail.com

Ren Giesbrecht, Deputy Mayor
renjgiesbrecht@gmail.com

Dave Breton, Councillor
dave@centraltractor.ca

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The Administration Office will be **CLOSED** December 23rd, 2020 to January 3rd, 2021 inclusive.

The office will reopen on January 4th, 2021.

Mayor's Message

It's been a wet summer, the lake level was high and with the COVID Pandemic, it added to our stress and anxiety. At this time, social distancing and isolation is the new normal in our way of life. Our activities to address matters with Covid-19 are continuing with virtual meetings, and office closures to public. Due to the distancing regulations, many projects were put on hold until we return to normal times. Many will have to repair their lawns as a result of the high-water activity along the shore line. Please refer to the website for directions to information on contacting the Provincial Government Environmental office for regulations. We continued to support the Flowering Rush Removal Plan with our neighboring First Nations, Lac Ste. Anne County and the Summer Villages at Lake Isle. The Provincial Grant continues to provide money to cover the cost of this effort. Our Administration, Development Officer and Government Consultants, along with the public input, have brought a successful completion to the Municipal Development Plan and Council has passed the new Bylaw.

As we plan for the holiday season, please abide by guidelines to ensure health in your homes. Council and Administration wishes you all a Happy Holiday Season for your family and friends and hope that we will all recover soon from this devastating pandemic.

Larry St. Amand, Mayor



Wishing you a Happy & Safe Holiday Season!!



MUNICIPAL WASTE/RECYCLE/ORGANICS CHANGE IN SERVICE !!!

Waste Carts must be left out for GFL to retrieve on Monday, December 28, 2020

The Summer Village of West Cove, along with the Town of Onoway and Summer Villages of Silver Sands, Sunrise Beach and Yellowstone, were all receiving their household waste (along with organics and/or recycling where applicable) from GFL Environmental Services. These contracts were set to expire on December 31st, 2020, so the common administration services for these 5 municipalities prepared a request for proposals for same or similar services starting in January 2021 and continuing for a five-year term. The proposals were received and we were delighted to see a significant reduction in the monthly fees on the go forward. After consideration of various factors within the proposals and service requirements, all 5 municipalities have decided to change service provider and will all be going to Standstone Vacuum Services Ltd operating as Standstone Waste & Water. With this new contract, the Summer Village of West Cove is estimated to save approximately \$7,000 annually, and all properties currently serviced will receive brand new carts. Your communities day of pickup will remain unchanged, and all concerns and/or inquiries regarding missed pickup or cart damage will be made directly with the service provider and their phone number will be on the carts.

While this change in service will see cost savings, it will come with a bit of work on the part of communities. GFL will be completing their last pickup on December 28th, 2020, and your cart(s), whether full or empty, including organics, must be left out on this day so these carts can be picked up by GFL as they are the property of GFL. **Property owners who do not put their carts out will be charged a fee of between \$70.00 and \$100.00 for their unreturned cart.** If a property owner is unable to physically set your carts out on this day please arrange with your neighbour to do so on your behalf.

New carts will be dropped off by Standstone after GFL has been through and picked up their carts. Standstone will commence service starting January, with the first pickup dates being January 4th, 2021.

A Message from the New Waste Services Provider

“Dear friends, neighbours and valued customers,

The Standstone team is excited to be back in the waste hauling business! We are so proud to have the opportunity to serve your communities more completely, with new residential waste collection contracts in your area. We will be in your area at the start of 2021, rolling out new carts for each home. Collection will follow promptly after the roll-out. We want to ensure that all our customers receive exemplary service in water delivery, septic service and waste collection and will be happy to answer your questions and concerns once waste collection has commenced. As always, our friendly admin staff are ready to discuss your service needs by calling our office at 780-967-2118 or toll free at 1-877-226-5008.”

Wishing you all a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Best, Ken & Lisa Standeven

Service & Professionalism Always





FIRE SERVICES/INSURANCE

Fire Insurance Coverage – Are you Protected?

Fires can happen! Unfortunately, our communities have faced or will face fire response in one form or another. Recent scenarios and incidents have renewed a broader discussion on fire protection strategies within our smaller communities. Encouraging property owners to carry appropriate insurance policies is a vital part of this discussion. All residents are reminded that the cost of fire suppression on your property is a cost payable by the property owner – not the municipality – and it is important for you to ensure that you have either adequate personal finances or a comprehensive insurance policy to cover these costs should the need arise.

You are encouraged to take the time to have this conversation with your insurance broker and make sure that the coverage you have on your property is realistic for the potential costs you may incur including property damage/replacement, structure fire suppression, grassland fire suppression and call-out services.

In the event of a fire, the suppression costs are an additional expense that is ultimately the responsibility of the property owner to pay – not the municipality. While some municipalities opt to subsidize their fire suppression costs through general revenues, the Summer Village – among many others – has opted for a less subsidized model that relies on property owners obtaining proper fire suppression insurance coverage on their property.

While every insurance firm is likely to be slightly different, it seems a typical policy contains \$10,000 in structure fire suppression coverage. As an administration provider to many local municipalities, our experience is that **structure fire suppression costs can amount to tens of thousands of dollars!** There is also an additional coverage option for grassland fire suppression that may be worth consideration as recent grassland fires have resulted in bills as high as \$11,000.

For discussion purposes, a poll of our office staff found that an additional \$10,000 in fire suppression coverage (for a total of \$20,000) on an average policy increased individual insurance costs by around \$65.00/year. It would appear that reliance on the private insurance market to cover fire suppression costs in our community clearly seems to be the affordable way to ensure you are covered. As a property owner in the Summer Village, we encourage you to review your fire suppression coverage with your insurance provider at your earliest convenience.

Also be advised that should the fire department be dispatched to your residence as a result of a home alarm, a false alarm or, for example, a passerby sees smoke and calls 9-1-1, ***you, as the property owner, will receive an invoice for these call outs.***



OUTSTANDING TAXES DUE DECEMBER 31st, 2020

Just a reminder that any outstanding taxes are due on December 31st, 2020, otherwise are subject to an 18% penalty on January 1st, 2021.



MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVED!!!

Council Meetings

Regular Council Meetings are generally held on the last Thursday of each month for January, February, March, April, June, July, August, September & November at 6:00 p.m., however due to ongoing COVID restrictions, processes change as required. We ask that you please check the website for any changes that may occur.

If you would like to make a presentation to Council during the meeting, please contact the Administration office at 780-967-0271 in the week prior to the meeting to ensure a space on the agenda.

ELECTION!!

2021 is once again Election Time! Becoming a councillor can be an extremely rewarding experience. It gives you the opportunity to help your local community and be part of a dedicated team providing key services for your area. If you feel you have good links with your local community, great communication skills, a good head for numbers and are able to work as part of a team, this may interest you. For Summer Villages, the nomination period will occur in June and/or July, with election day held 4 weeks after the nomination period closes. Check the Summer Village website for ongoing information.



The Summer Village of West Cove Municipal Development Plan has been approved!! In 2017, work commenced to review and update the MDP for the Village. Work was primarily conducted in the summer months over the past few years to capture feedback from permanent and seasonal residents. This included discussions on future development goals, parks, open space & recreation goals, mobility goals, municipal servicing & utility goals, environment management goals, collaboration goals and implementation & policies.

Subsequent to Stakeholder Workshops (May 18, 2017), Online Survey (May 31 – July 4, 2017) and Public Open Houses (June 3 & 6, 2017, August 24 and September 24, 2020), it was felt that the MDP has captured the goals of the Summer Village moving forward and was approved at the November 26th, 2020 Council meeting. A copy will be posted to the website for your perusal in the near future!

We thank all those that participated in the process, it is appreciated!

DID YOU KNOW ????????

The Summer Village Regional Emergency Management Plan (SVREMP) is a guide to managing all emergency incidents for the 11 partnering Summer Villages. As such, according to Provincial Legislation each Municipality must appoint a Director and Deputy Director of Emergency Management. We are pleased to advise that Jim Deeks was appointed as the Director of Emergency Management February 4th, 2020 and Wendy Henderson as Deputy Director on April 30th, 2020. The requirements for these positions are extensive, which include ongoing training, preparing emergency management plans, identifying and mitigating hazards, identifying service providers in case of emergency and acting as the “general” in emergency situations.

We would like to thank both Jim and Wendy for taking on these roles, they are essential to the West Cove community and are complicated roles to fill!

