



SUMMER VILLAGE OF

BETULA BEACH

Spring Newsletter

Spring 2023
www.betulabeach.ca

Greetings to all Residents of Seba Beach!

Administration

Phone: 780.691.4465

Email: cao@betulabeach.ca

Box 1075, Onoway, AB, T0E 1V0

Regular Office Hours

Mon - Fri, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Council

Rob Dickie, Mayor

Monty Wood, Deputy Mayor

Peter Wilkes, Councillor

Administration

Emily House,

Chief Administrative Officer

Janet Zaplotinsky,

Administrative Manager

Lynnette Kraley,

Administrative Assistant

Council Meetings

Council convenes every month in person at the Summer Village of Seba Beach's Council Chambers, and by ZOOM Teleconference.

If you have an item you'd like added to the Agenda, please submit it to the Village Office by noon the Wednesday before the meeting. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Message from your Mayor...

The Summer Season at Seba Beach is quickly approaching and we have had a busy and productive Winter to share with you. As communicated in the December Newsletter, Council made the decision to undertake two specific projects in 2023. These are difficult issues but ones that needed to be tackled.

The first was a review of the Land Use Bylaw (LUB), pertaining to RVs and trailers on residential properties. The second involved a review of a Bylaw regarding the use of Municipal Lands. The proposed amendment of the Land Use Bylaw for RVs used as dwellings could have been managed better. More information relative to the current issue and the reasons for changes should have been provided. I admit that and as Mayor, I take responsibility for that.

We did experience the desired result through the Public Hearing, however, which was to receive a wide range of feedback regarding the LUB. It is evident that we need a Bylaw that is more fit for purpose and reflective of our overall needs. This will be a challenging issue to address as the fact remains; the current Land Use Bylaw is neither being adhered to nor enforced, due to it no longer suiting our needs and it does need revision.

*"And Spring arose on the garden fair,
Like the Spirit of Love felt everywhere;*

*And each flower and herb on Earth's dark
breast rose from the dreams of its wintry rest."*

- Percy Bysshe Shelley



We recently received approval for a provincial grant that will cover the cost of reviewing Seba Beach's full Land Use Bylaws. As such, we have effectively tabled the proposed amendment to the LUB and will address it fully when we review all of our Land Use Bylaws. This LUB review will be completed over the next fifteen months or so, with progress updates along the way.

The Bylaw pertaining to Municipal Lands, at the time of writing, required further amendments prior to receiving the third and final reading. The intent of this Bylaw amendment is to prevent the unauthorized use of Municipal Property and to prevent individuals from making changes to or damaging these lands.

Late last year we initiated a Septic review to address non-compliant properties and systems in an effort to protect our lake. Councillor Fleming has addressed this important project elsewhere in the Newsletter.

In a lead-up to the election two summers ago, I met with, as did Allan and Neil, and spoke with, many residents within the Summer Village. I asked them what the most important issue within the Municipality was to them. Overwhelmingly, the answer was the health of the lake.

Message from your Mayor, C'td..

Another issue that reared its head again is the launching of boats at the 5th St. South road allowance beside the Pavilion. It is a public beach and unfortunately, the lake is very shallow there. The boats of today are very large and the vehicles with their boat trailers would clearly be entering the lake too far to be considered safe. The activity of launching our boats at this location simply damages the ecosystem of the lake and as such, will never be an area to launch boats again. However, we will hopefully have the Sundance boat launch open this Summer.



Alberta First Call

Call before you dig
1.800.242.34

You must give a 48-hour notice and provide a site plan and land description to the relevant authority when you call.



Rob Dickie, Mayor

Betula Beach Memorabilia

Dates the Ice Went Off Lake Wabamun

1999 – April 24	2005 – April 19	2011 – May 9	2017 – May 11
2000 – April 27	2006 – April 22	2012 – May 7	2018 – May 9
2001 – April 28	2007 – April 28	2013 – May 7	2019 – April 24
2002 – May 15	2008 – May 7	2014 – May 2	2020 – May 3
2003 – May 2	2009 – May 1	2015 – April 20	2021 – April 30
2004 – April 20	2010 – April 14	2016 – April 9	2022 – April 27

2023 - May 3



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Newsletter Contributions

Wabamun Watershed Management Council,

Development Officer

Tony Sonnleitner
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Email: pcm1@telusplanet.net
Box 2945,
Stony Plain, AB, T7Z 1Y4

**Seba Beach
Transfer Station
53128 Range Rd. 61
Range Rd. 61
South of Hwy. 16**

Betula Beach residents are entitled to receive a transfer station card that grants them access to nearby transfer stations where they may drop off acceptable materials free of charge. You must present your waste transfer card to be eligible for no-charge disposal. If you require a card, please contact Emily to arrange to have a card printed and mailed to you. If you have misplaced or lost your card Parkland County has a replacement fee of \$35.00.

Summer Hours

Tuesday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Winter Hours

Tuesday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Saturday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Acceptable Materials:

- automotive waste
- blue bag recycling
- commercial/construction
- waste (charges apply)
- electronics recycling
- grass and leaves
- household hazardous waste
- household waste
- metal recycling (charges apply)
- mixed waste (charges apply)
- tree trimmings

The Seba Beach Transfer Station has a fully operational compost site. In the interest of the environment please participate in the composting program for grass and leaves. Clear plastic garbage bags should be used. Place your leaves and grass clippings in the clear bags and transport them to the compost pile. Please do not store household garbage outdoors unless contained in animal proof receptacles. We do not want to attract animals into our Village.

Alberta RCMP Launch App to help keep Albertans Informed

Alberta RCMP has officially launched their brand-new mobile app for iOS and Android devices. The app has been developed to simplify online user experience on mobile devices to ensure that Albertans can access information quickly and conveniently. The app is available as a free download through [Apple](#) or [Google Play](#).



Developing the app allows the Alberta RCMP to provide the public with online access to news, crime reporting, detachment locations, crime mapping and statistics, and a map for initiatives like Project Lock Up. The app also provides access to partner law enforcement services, mental health supports, Crime Stoppers, and links to Alberta RCMP social media accounts.

"An app is an easy way for the public to stay connected and report crime to the police along with gaining quick and easy access to Alberta RCMP news and information," said Supt. Peter Tewfik, Officer in charge of the Alberta RCMP's Community Safety and Wellbeing Branch. "Having an app will provide the public with an option for digital accessibility that is convenient and centralized." Even though the app provides convenient links to Alberta RCMP social media account, this app will not replace existing website, social media feeds, or other sources for information. The tool also will not replace other methods of crime reporting, engagement, or emergency assistance. Citizens should remember that social media posts or use of other third-party crime apps are not appropriate ways to report a crime.

Why it is important to report any crime? To strategically put resources where they are needed. This information is supplied to officers, and this will determine where they do patrols.

If you need to contact the Alberta RCMP or to report a crime, please remember the following:

- For emergencies, or if you see a crime in progress, phone 911.
- For non-emergency property crimes, you can file your report online through the Alberta RCMP app or contact your nearest RCMP detachment.
- If you have information about a crime and wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1.800.222.TIPS (8477), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store.
- For scams and fraud, contact your local detachment and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca.

In full compliance with Canadian privacy laws for mobile apps by the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada and the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta, the Alberta RCMP app will not track or monitor users in any way.

2022 Property Taxes

PROPERTY TAXES are DUE JULY 31, 2022, by MIDNIGHT.

Penalties will not be applied if the Village receives your payment on or before July 31, 2022, or if the post mark on your envelope is July 31, 2022. An 18% penalty on your current tax levy will be applied on August 1, 2022. On January 1, 2023, an additional 18% penalty will be applied on the complete outstanding amount (previous and current tax levy and penalties).

If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact Emily at 780.691.4465.



Wabamun Watershed Management Plan

(full report, a 2-page summary at wwmc.ca)

The 4 Main Goals Are As Follows:

- 1. Good Water Quality
- 2. Engaged Stewardship
- 3. Wise Land Use
- 4. Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems and Biodiversity



The opportunity to provide a WWMC update in this Summer Village Newsletter is about Goal #2 Engaged Stewardship ---Engaging YOU, to be the stewards of Wabamun Lake. In the WWMP, the following objectives are related to this goal:

- Residents and visitors are knowledgeable about how they can lessen their impact on and contribute to lake health.
- The community shares its collective responsibility to be the best stewards of the Wabamun Lake watershed and stewardship programs inspire individual and collective action.

An excellent way to enhance knowledge about our coveted Lake is to visit wwmc.ca You are encouraged to review the Wabamun Watershed Management Plan, studies/reports, history, the 'Get Involved' page, and newsletters. For the most recent update on WWMC activity/happenings, see the Spring 2023 WWMC Newsletter (Lakescape) (includes Lake Water Level Update, South Shore Boat Launch, etc.).

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Also, support the WWMC by bolstering our membership numbers (general membership is free) - go to Get Involved, and now that we have charitable status, consider making a donation for stewardship projects; all donations will receive a charitable tax receipt.

Stewardship action: The health of Wabamun Lake is the responsibility of each one of us. So... talk about the health of the Lake with your neighbors, and family and friends. Share your knowledge, and this spring and summer do at least one new action for the good of lake health that will inspire your circle to further care about and for the Lake. (Remember too, to share with the WWMC the action(s) you and your circle have undertaken).

Seba Beach Fire Safety Reminder

Fire Services for the Summer Village of Betula Beach comes from the Tomahawk Fire Hall, with secondary service coming from the Wabamun Fire Hall. We encourage all residents to update this information with the home insurance providers.

The approximate distance from each to the properties in Betula Beach is as follows:

- Tomahawk Fire Hall – 20.3 km
- Wabamun Fire Hall – 28 km

Fire Permits are required for the discharge of fireworks. Family Fireworks (low hazard- do it yourself) are only allowed to be discharged with a permit at the following times:

- New Year's 8:00 pm December 31st – 1:00 am January 1st
- Canada Day 8:00 pm – 11:59 pm July 1st
- Labour Day 8:00 pm – 11:59 pm on the first Monday of September.

High-hazard fireworks also need a permit. Anyone wishing to discharge these fireworks needs to have a qualified pyrotechnics contractor or apply for a permit.

Remember to Fire Smart Your Yard!!

By managing the vegetation around your house and buildings, you will limit the risk of a ground fire spreading to your home. We encourage all residents to ensure all fuel is stored properly.

Report a Wildfire

If you see a wildfire in a forested area, call: 310-FIRE (3473)

Alberta Wildfire

Stay current on Alberta's wildfire situation. See where wildfires are burning in Alberta and how they impact you.

View all current fire restrictions and bans in place across the province at albertafirebans.ca.

Regardless of where you are in Alberta, the Alberta Fire Bans Application will help you find the most current and reliable information on all active fire advisories, fire restrictions, fire bans, and OHV restrictions in Alberta.

FireSmart™ Canada App

FireSmart Canada is a national program that helps Canadians increase neighborhood resilience to wildfire and minimize its negative impacts.

Everyone can be FireSmart.

We all have a part to play when it comes to preventing wildfire and reducing risk. FireSmart Canada has developed practical, effective, and science-based programs that provide you with tools to be better prepared when wildfire occurs.

Lightcatch App

Use Lightcatch to track suspicious activity in your area. It's a free phone app to help prevent crime in your area, it's like a block watch program that is for your phone. This app will keep you connected with what could be happening in your area. You can also post information notifying others of any suspicious activity.



Water Safety Stay legal. Get your Pleasure Craft Operators License at EYC Canadian law requires that anyone, regardless of age operating a vessel fitted with a motor, whether the motor is in use or not, must have a valid Pleasure Craft Operators License, commonly called the boat license. There is a \$250.00 fine for not being in possession of the card. To get the card you must pass a simple exam after a course instruction, which teaches you the basics of water safety. Become a certified safe boater and save yourself embarrassment and a possible fine. Courses are available at EYC located in Seba Beach. Contact Paul Kantor or mail in an application form available at www.sinbad.ca. Boat Launching When launching your pleasure crafts please use the launches located in the Village of Wabamun or at the Wabamun Provincial Park. Betula Rest is NOT officially a boat launch; however, it can be used by residents only to launch small watercrafts (seadoos, small sail boats, and small fishing boats). Please do not try and launch larger power boats at Betula Rest or Betula Meadows as they are not designed to be launch sites. Village Website We are hoping that residents will find it easy to navigate and find information. Administration will be focused on updating our website and to ensure the information provided is relevant and current. Please check our website on a regular basis as new information is being added If you have any suggestions, please email Emily at cao@betulabeach.ca.