



Summer Village of Betula Beach

Winter Newsletter

Greetings to all Residents of Betula Beach!

Warm wishes from your Council

As we close out 2023, there is minimal construction activity within our Village, with only one property nearing completion. The mild fall weather has certainly allowed residents to get ahead of their yard work and get their fall projects completed as we wait for the snow to fall. The water level in the lake has dropped since we all took our piers out in September, so we can only hope that we get some significant snow accumulation over the winter to recharge the lake. TransAlta has informed us that they were pumping water back into the Lake, however exact pumping rates were not provided.

At the Fall 2023 Association of Summer Villages of Alberta Conference, we had a presentation from Alberta Municipal Data Sharing Partnership (AMDSP). This group is responsible for updating emergency response information for Alberta Health Services (AHS). In some cases, there were large amounts of missing data for some of the 51 Summer Villages in Alberta. In other cases, the data seemed quite complete but still needs to be validated. As such, the Summer Village of Betula Beach will need to confirm emergency contact information as well as proper addresses for all our village properties. With that being said, the Village is struggling to contact some residents as we do not have current up-to-date contact information. Please contact our CAO at cao@betulabeach.ca with your Betula Beach address, current mailing address (for tax purposes and other notifications), and emergency telephone contact information.

*May all that is beautiful, meaningful,
and brings you joy be yours this
holiday season and throughout the
coming year! Wishing you all the
happiness in these holidays.*



In 2023 we witnessed several heavy rain events which certainly challenged our municipal drainage system. As a result of these rain events, we completed some road crowning and ditch repairs down Terrace and along Spruce Street. We also completed additional tree removal and grading works in the Meadows area to accommodate some seasonal storage of boat hoists and pier sections for our backlot residents.

Winter 2023
www.betulabeach.ca

Administration

Box 1075,
Onoway, AB T0E 1V0
Phone: 780.691.4465
Email: cao@betulabeach.ca

Regular Office Hours

Mon - Fri, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Office is closed between noon
and 1:00 PM for lunch.

Council Meetings

Council convenes by
ZOOM Teleconference,
dates to be announced on
the website.
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.

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

Regular Office Hours
Mon - Fri, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

* The Village Office will be closed at 4:30 PM on December 22nd and will reopen at 8:30 AM on January 2nd. We will be checking phone messages and emails during this time.

Warm wishes from your Council C'td...

During mid-August, there was an informal meeting at the Meadows to discuss action items to improve access for the pier and hoists at this location. Several good ideas were presented by those who attended, from which Council has reached out to a local contractor who has experience with similar remedial projects on various lakes in the area. Council has now had a couple of meetings with the contractor and would like to host a meeting in either January or February of 2024.

At that time, Council would like to review some options with those parties using the Meadows and try to put a plan in place to have some remedial work done during the Summer of 2024. Any resident of our Summer Village is welcome to attend this upcoming meeting. Our CAO will be sending out a meeting date in the coming weeks. According to the provincial governmental department which we are working with on this issue, any in-water work must be done in July or August to avoid the spawning season, so Council's plan is to continue working on this project over the winter.

Council again would like to thank Bert Eshpeter for managing The Meadow's Property since it was developed. With the increased number of users, Bert has kindly stepped aside allowing Kevin Lefevre to take on the responsibility of managing the Property.

On behalf of Council and our CAO, Best Wishes for the Holiday Season.

Rob, Monty, Peter and Emily

Land Use Bylaw Review (LUB)

In 2022, the Summer Village of Betula Beach along with the Summer Villages of Lakeview, Kapasiwin and Seba Beach applied and were successful in obtaining a provincial grant to review and update each Summer Village's Land Use Bylaws. This grant is a collaborative grant which includes a process to ensure priorities, like lake health, are addressed in a consistent manner in each Summer Village's Land Use Bylaw (LUB), while addressing items in each municipality that is unique to them. This year, the Summer Village of Betula Beach Council engaged Municipal Planning Services (MPS) to assist with the review of our existing LUB and preparation of a new LUB if needed. A Land Use Bylaw (LUB) is one document among several different planning "tools" available to municipalities in Alberta.

Every municipality in the province, no matter the size, must adopt a LUB to:

- Establish regulations to control the way land is used and developed,
- Divide the municipality into different "districts" (sometimes called "zones"),
- Establish procedures for submitting, processing and deciding upon subdivision and development applications, and,
- Provide additional regulations on specific uses or developments.

Community Meeting - January 27th, 2024

There will be a Community Meeting at 2:00 PM on January 27th, 2024, at the Pavilion in Seba Beach. The meeting will be held to discuss how the Community would like to make use of The Meadows, as we are looking improvements to the area in 2024. All residents are encouraged to attend to have their say, and share their ideas.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please feel free to email your suggestions to cao@betulabeach.ca.

2023 Municipal Identifiers

Over the last few months, the Summer Village of Betula Beach's Council and Administration have worked with MPS to start reviewing the Land Use Bylaw. There will be opportunities for the residents and other stakeholders to provide their input which will take place over the next 12 to 18 months. We will provide updates as they become available on these opportunities so, please watch the website for these updates.

Alberta Municipal Affairs annually reports a performance measure that identifies the percentage of municipalities deemed to "not face potential long-term viability challenges based on their financial and governance indicators". This performance measure is used as a benchmark for measuring the ministry's efforts to ensure Albertans live in viable municipalities and communities with responsible, collaborative and accountable local governments.

The performance measure is based on an analysis of 13 municipal indicators. Each of the 13 municipal indicators has a defined benchmark. A municipality is 'not deemed to face potential long-term viability challenges' as long as it does not flag a critical indicator on three or more non-critical indicators.

The ministry compiled and verified the data collected from Alberta's municipalities for the 2022 financial year and was pleased to inform the Summer Village of Betula Beach that our municipality did not flag any indicators for this year's municipal indicator results reporting.



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Address Change

Please remember that it is YOUR responsibility to ensure that the Village Office has your correct mailing address & contact information.

Replacement Gate Fobs

If your gate fob is no longer working, please contact the Village Office at cao@betulabeach.ca or **780.691.4465** to begin the process for a replacement fob. If you have lost or require an additional fob there is a fee of \$60.00.





Enforcement Services

If you are aware of suspicious behavior or vehicles in or around the Village, if possible, record the license plate number and notify the RCMP Evansburg Detachment.

Emergency Contact numbers are as follows:

RCMP Administration

780.727.3654

Emergency Complaints

780.727.4446

Village Snow Removal

If you have any questions or concerns with respect to the snow removal in the municipality, please contact the Administration Office at **780.691.4465** or **cao@betulabeach.ca**.

If you wish to have your driveway cleared, please call the Village Office, and will arrange for a private contractor to assist you for a fee.

Street Lights

If you notice a streetlight in the Village that has burnt out, please contact Fortis at **780-310-WIRE (9173)** and provide them with the number on the pole (if available) and the municipal address closest to the pole.

Alberta First Call

Call before you dig:

1.800.242.3447

You must give at least two or three working days notice and have your legal land description available when you call.

2024 Property Assessments

Property Assessment Notices will be mailed out separately from Property Tax Notices for 2024. Assessment Notices will be mailed out in March of 2024 with Property Tax Notices being mailed out in May/June 2024.

Please note that once you have received your Property Tax Notice, it is too late to have your property assessment changed. Assessments cannot be adjusted after the appeal deadline, which is 60 days after the Assessment Notices are mailed.

We highly recommend each resident closely examine their Property Assessment Notice and speak with the assessor regarding any details you are unfamiliar with. Should you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact the Village Office at **780.691.4465** or **cao@betulabeach.ca**

Driveway Approach Application and Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish a consistent policy for all approach installations in the Summer Village of Betula Beach as well as provide an application for all new approach installations. More information can be found on **www.betulabeach.ca** but listed below are the general guidelines that are at the discretion and direction of the Summer Village of Betula Beach.

- Approach location must have a minimum of 300' (91.44 m) sight distance each way.
- Finished road top must be 8.0 meters (26') in width and flared to the Summer Village Road.
- When culverts are required, they must be C.S.P culverts and be the following dimensions: - Residential - 400mm (16') minimum and must be a maximum length of 10 meters (32') - Culvert must be installed one (1) foot from the property line on the road allowance.
- The approach must have a reasonable slope, not exceeding 5% for a distance of 15 meters (50') away from the Summer Village Road into the parcel.
- Approach must be graveled with a minimum of ten cubic yards of 20mm (3/4") crushed gravel.
- Approach application must be submitted and approved by the Summer Village of Betula Beach.
- Only one approach for each parcel of land will be allowed unless prior authorization is granted by the Summer Village of Betula Beach.

Off Highway Vehicles

A reminder that while operating Off Highway Vehicles (quads, dirt bikes, golf carts, etc.) registration and insurance are required for these vehicles, and valid plates must be displayed. The minimum age for operating an Off Highway Vehicle is 14 years where permitted. Vacant lots are private property and unless the property owner provides written permission and accepts the liability of use in the property, the operator can be charged with trespassing. We encourage OHV fans to use them courteously and lawfully. Please remember most of our residents are at their lake property to escape the hustle and bustle of city life and appreciate the tranquility of their surroundings.

Developing and Building

A Development Permit must be applied for before obtaining any Safety Code Permits necessary for new construction, additions, decks, demolition, and excavation (HOLDING TANKS & CISTERNS). This permit is to ensure that your project conforms to the Village's Land Use Bylaw, including proper setbacks from property lines, etc.

Our Development Officer, Tony Sonnleitner, can be reached at **780.718.5479**. A Real Property Report, showing the location of existing buildings and the proposed development must be submitted when applying. Application fees must accompany all Development Applications.

Safety Code Permits including electrical, plumbing, building, etc. must be obtained from the Inspections Group before beginning your project. They provide the permits, compliance monitoring, and inspections to the completion of your development. Once the Development Permit has been approved and issued by the Development Officer you can download any permits you may need or if you have any questions, visit the Inspections Group website **www.inspectionsgroup.com**. You must apply for these permits to ensure that your project is safe and conforms to safety code regulations and must be obtained before commencing work. Permit forms and information can be found on **www.inspectionsgroup.com**, or they are available at the Village Office.

Fire Safety Reminder

Fire Protection Services to the Summer Village of Betula Beach is provided by Parkland County.

West Central fire hall (WCFH), located in Wabamun, is Parkland County's brand new, fully staffed Emergency Services facility. With the opening of the WCFH, fire response times were expected to improve as of March, 2022. The Fire Hall also houses an updated medical clinic to service residents in the area. It is recommended that residents update their insurance to reflect the closure of the Seba Beach Fire Station.

The nearest on-call fire hall is :

**Tomahawk Fire Hall,
(18KM)**

**West Central Fire Hall
(22KM)**



FireSmart™ Canada App

FireSmart is a national program that helps Canadians increase neighborhood resilience to wildfire and minimize its negative impacts. It was founded over 20 years ago to address common concerns about wildfires in the wildland-urban interface. For more information and the Homeowners FireSmart Manual please visit www.firesmartcanada.ca or www.betulabeach.ca.

Everyone can be FireSmart.

With a changing climate, the threat of wildfire has increased significantly for everyone, including those living outside of the wildland-urban interface. We all have a part to play when it comes to preventing wildfires 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.

FREE FireSmart™ Home Assessments

Where are your Home Ignitions Zones? Parkland County is now offering free FireSmart Home Assessments to residents, teaching how to protect their homes from wildfires. Each assessment takes about 30-45 minutes.

Our FireSmart experts will:

1. Tour the outside of your house and yard for things that increase your risk during a wildfire.
2. Provide a customized report based on what they see with actions on how to reduce the risk of damage by wildfire.
3. Share helpful tips to make your home less susceptible to wildfires.

If you've completed the suggested safety improvements in the report, you can ask for another free assessment!

Visit Parkland County - Free FireSmart Home Assessments for more information!

Ice Safety

Winter allows for lots of ways to get outside and be active, but ice can often be unpredictable. Check the conditions and know what to watch for when heading out for festive fun!

Top Ice Safety Tips from the Lifesaving Society:

- 3"(7cm) or less - STAY OFF!
- 4"(10cm) - Ice fishing, walking, cross country skiing.
- 5-7"(13-18cm) - One snowmobile or ATV.
- 8-12"(20-30cm) - Group of people.
- 12-15"(30-38cm) - One medium truck (pickup or van).

- Measure ice thickness in several locations. Local conditions such as currents and water depths can affect ice thickness. White ice has air or snow within it and should be considered suspect for recreational use. Recommendations for ice thickness are based on clear, blue, or green ice.
- Avoid travelling on ice at night. It is very difficult to see open holes on the ice at night. This is a frequent cause of drownings.
- Never go onto ice alone. A buddy may be able to rescue you or go for help if you get into difficulty. Before you leave shore, tell someone where you are going and expected time of return.

For more tips on water and ice safety, visit www.lifesaving.org

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 the Village Office 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.

Winter Hours

Tuesday 10 to 4

Saturday 10 to 4

What's changed with recycling at Parkland County Transfer station? No longer allowed in Blue Bag Recycling:

- Plastic bags, film & wrap
- To-go cups
- Glass, including jars
- Tetra paks without deposit
- Styrofoam
- Small Metal items
- Single use plastic items
- Plastic packaging from toys, food and household items
- Soft/Flexible plastics
- Single use plastic cups

Acceptable Material

- Bagged household waste
- Ashes (cold only)
- Appliances
- Oil, Oil filters, oil containers (where available)
- Small furniture
- Tires
- Cardboard/Paper