



SUMMER VILLAGE OF SEBA BEACH

Spring Newsletter

Spring 2023 Issue
www.sebabeach.ca

Greetings to all Residents of Seba Beach!

Administration

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Regular Office Hours

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

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.

Council

Rick MacPhee, Mayor

Allan Aubry, Deputy Mayor

Neil Fleming, Councillor

Administration

Emily House,

Chief Administrative Officer

Susan Stuart,

Administrative Assistant

Public Works

Sarah Sawatsky

Kent Bills

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.

We have had some questions asked about our Septic Review where lakefront property owners with non-conforming septic systems are concerned. Some of these residents do not feel the need to remedy their systems. We also have residents who continue to apply fertilizers to their lawns, even with a fertilizer ban within the Municipality.

We've witnessed the green slime that has been present on our lake the past few Summers. We've also witnessed the weeds and sludge on our shorelines this Spring. The Summer Village of Seba Beach is the largest and one of the most respected Summer Villages in Alberta. We need to do a better job of protecting our lake and ensuring we do the right things.

Council has completed a Review of the 2023 Operating Budget to allow Administration to prepare the Tax Notices enclosed with this package. I am pleased to report that the Summer Village of Seba Beach continues to enjoy a strong financial position. Council has adopted the current Fiscal Budget without the need to increase spending on municipal operations. This is an accomplishment in these inflationary times.

The Provincial Government has further increased the allocation for Policing, which we have had to absorb.

However, to offset this, the School Requisition has been reduced slightly, therefore your Property Taxes should remain very close to the same as last year.

Emily House, our CAO who joined us in July 2022, has done an excellent job of changing some internal systems and streamlining some processes. It's been a challenge and we appreciate your dedication, Emily.

Susan Stuart continues to provide continuity and knowledge and we would certainly have been lost without her over the past year. Thank you, Susan. Our Public Works team of Sarah Sawatsky and Kent Bills worked hard, going through their first winter, learning the needs, and delivering the desired results. We are lucky to have these two hard-working employees.

I would also like to thank Allan Aubry and Neil Fleming for their dedication to Council and their service to the Summer Village.

Everyone enjoy your Summer, respect our Village and each other and stay safe.

Rick MacPhee, Mayor



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.



Seba 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

Farmers Market, Regatta, Seba Pickleball & Tennis Assoc., Seba Museum, Wabamun Watershed Management Council, Edmonton Yacht Club, Seba Library, Seba Seniors

Seba Seniors Annual BBQ & Grand Opening!

On Friday, June 9, at 5:00 pm, we will be hosting our annual BBQ during Seniors Week and will be Celebrating the Grand Opening of the newly renovated Thrift Shop.

We will be thanking the Government of Alberta for its matching Grant, under the Community Facility Enhancement Program

which helped us to complete the renovation project.

Besides inviting all our members, we are inviting our MLA and our MP and representatives from several Summer Villages, the County of Parkland, the Alberta Department of Seniors, and at the Westend Seniors Activity Center (Seba Senior's partner) to join us.

To help us with the celebration, we would be honoured to have you attend.

The Seba Seniors Thrift Shop has a strong presence in the community as well as surrounding communities. It is exclusively supported by over 30 volunteers. It is well known for its generous support of people living in the Community and is the main financial support to maintain the Seba Seniors facility and allow the Seba Seniors to provide a base for a wide range of Community and seniors activities.

We have much to celebrate. Please consider joining us.

Please email seba.seniors@gmail.com to confirm your attendance and if you wish to bring greetings. We look forward to hearing from you.

2023 Regatta August 4th-7th

Regatta weekend has always been one of my favorite events of the Summer at Seba Beach. This year, once again, promises to be a huge success. There are many wonderful events for all ages planned by fantastic volunteers, for everyone to enjoy. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please call Alison Clements 780.991.7235.



All residents have the unique opportunity to volunteer at the Regatta. Many hands make light work and it's a great way to give back and meet new Seba friends! The Regatta Weekend is funded by donations and volunteers, so please consider supporting in any way you can. The Regatta Committee works closely with the Summer Village Administration, and thanks them for their continuous support and contributions.

Seba Beach Farmers Market 2023

This year marks the 35th year as an Alberta Registered Farmers Market in Seba Beach! **We are excited to be open from May 20th to September 16th this season.** We have over 100 vendors who will bring a great variety of goods for you to shop from.

This year we are bringing back our Green Contest. If you bring your own reusable bag to the Market, you can get entered to win Market Bucks. There will be a draw every month and the Market Bucks can be used with any of our vendors.

We are hosting a Christmas Market on September 16th our last Market of the year. To get everyone in the early spirit, there will be an ugly sweater contest. New this year, we are bringing a 50/50 draw to the Market. We would like to send out a special Thank You to everyone who has supported our Market. We look forward to seeing you for the 2023 season!

Edmonton Yacht Club

2023 is a very important year for the Edmonton Yacht Club, because it is our Centenary!

Founded in 1923 at Cooking Lake, the Edmonton Yacht Club (EYC) built boats and sailed there until 1945. Cooking lake had become too shallow so the members chose Seba Beach as their new location. Initially, the Club operated out of the second floor of the Memorial Hall, then purchased a lot (where the Clubhouse is now) and relocated North.

The next three lots were purchased to provide accommodation for members and an increased beach for dinghies. That compound was originally Hurry Home, with weekly rentals and a tea room for travelers spending a week or two at the lake. The history of the first fifty years is available on the EYC website at edmontonyachtclub.ca Click on **WIND IN THE SAILS**.

Today, the Club provides Moorage and dock space for cruisers and beach launches for catamarans and sailing dinghies. We have also expanded to include paddle boards and kayaks.

The Club also has a sailing school. If you want to learn more about boat operation, you can take lessons. An Open House for the Sailing School will be held on Saturday, June 10 at the Club. Details are on the website.

Canada Day weekend will be our Lake Celebration. Neighbors, former members, and guests are welcome to visit the Club on Saturday, July 1st in the afternoon for tours of our facilities. Weather permitting, some of our instructors will be offering boat rides on cruisers.

2023 Seba Public Library Programs

We are excited to be offering the TD Summer Reading Club which will launch in July. The Theme for 2023 is "Check This Out". We will be running children's programs during July and August, along with the very popular Story Walk that everyone enjoyed last year. We will announce more details of the programs on our new website!

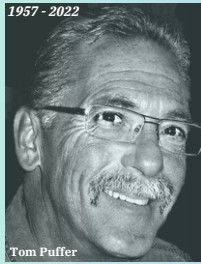
Bring your perennials to our Perennial Plant Swap on Saturday, June 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If anyone has rhubarb to share, we have a new home for that too! House plants are also welcome, and we would be happy to accept and swap more after the very successful Earth Day Saturday. While you are here, enter your name for the gift certificate from Violet Gardens and Greenhouses. Our Summer hours will begin Tuesday, June 20 and we will be open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10 AM to 5 PM until Thursday, August 31.

The library has high-speed Internet and Wi-Fi for computer and device usage. Visitors are welcome to log on to our e-resources while browsing. We do not charge for our library memberships and are happy to sign you up with proof of identification. We look forward to seeing you and your families this Spring and Summer!

Tom Puffer

It is with great sadness that the Summer Village of Seba Beach announce the untimely passing of Tom Puffer, our Bylaw Officer. Tom was a long-time resident of Wabamun and served

the Community as Bylaw Officer for many years. Council and Administration would like to offer our deepest condolences to Tom's family and friends. Our thoughts, prayers and memories are with his family.



Enforcement Services

The Summer Village of Seba Beach would like to announce that we have contracted Parkland County Enforcement Services to provide a valuable service, ensuring the safety and enjoyment of our community through the enforcement of:

- Provincial statues (e.g., Traffic Safety Act, Gaming and Liquor Act, etc.)
- Municipal bylaws (e.g., Fireworks, Noise, Animal Control, etc.)

We encourage all residents to become familiar with the municipality's bylaws which are available on-line at www.sebabeach.ca or by calling the Village Office. If you would like to contact Parkland County Enforcement Services or report an incident, please call 780-968- 8400. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this service will have within our community.

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.

Septic Audit and Inspection 2022-23

During the 2021 election campaign, we councillors heard from residents that the health of the lake was one of their top priorities and that they wanted us to address it. Because of the very slow exchange rate of water in Wabamun (up to 100 years) our lake is particularly susceptible to nutrient loading which contributes to the excess growth of aquatic vegetation including Blue-Green algae.

In July of 2022 Council hosted a Septic Sense Workshop for Seba residents addressing the issue of proper handling of wastewater to reduce the nutrient load on the lake. Following the workshop, Council contracted the Inspections Group to do an audit of the Village properties to produce an inventory of how homeowners are managing their wastewater. Phase 1 of the survey included a visual inspection of 100 lakefront properties looking for the presence of septic systems, holding tanks, gray water discharge etc. and whether they complied with current provincial safety codes. The results of the survey produced 3 categories:

1. Most properties were compliant and require no further action.
2. On some locations, the inspector was unable to determine how wastewater was being handled and those residents will be asked by letter, to provide additional information by June 30, 2023.

3. Some properties were non-compliant. Those owners will have received a letter indicating the deficiency and that they are required to obtain a permit by June 30, 2023 and have work completed by August 31, 2023 to meet the provincial safety codes.

Another significant finding of the inspection was the number of outdoor showers in use. By definition, shower run-off is wastewater. It needs to be handled in the same manner as all other wastewater and be contained in a proper holding tank. However, council recognizes the need for some residents to rinse off after being in the lake to prevent the occurrence of swimmer's itch and other irritants. We ask that the use of all soaps and detergents be avoided in outdoor showers that are not connected to a holding tank and that these showers only be used for rinsing and not washing to prevent contaminants from reaching the lake. We trust that by being aware of the potential effects on our lake, residents will comply.

Council intends to proceed with phase 2 of the program and complete the inspection of the remaining lakefront properties sometime this fall. Should you have any questions about the audit or your property in particular, you can contact the Village Office or Rick Baxter, Safety Codes Officer, the Inspections Group, at **780.454.5048**.

A Message From the Seba Museum

As I sit to write a message from the board at the Seba Museum, there is still a hint of frost in the air, but the tulips are beginning to leaf so Spring is finally on its way! Despite the continuing chill, thoughts drift to the upcoming Summer season; Seba Summer 2023 has a lovely ring to it and the season is full of promise.

Speaking of Spring and flowers, we must extend a hearty thanks to the volunteers who dropped by last year to weed the garden and trim the bushes. Your contributions of time and enthusiasm were greatly appreciated. The Board of the Museum thanks you, the Seba Beach and Area residents, for your support last Summer.

The three main fundraisers, the sale of Plaques for the Memory Wall, the sale of Museum Annual Memberships, and the Museum 2nd Saturday in July Yard Sale, went well. I am sure that many of you are already putting aside items to contribute to the 2023, 2nd Saturday in July Yard Sale. Let's make it the biggest sale yet! As well, please drop into the Museum Shop and purchase your Museum Annual Membership as you view the delightful new additions on the shelves.

Don't forget that the Museum is a charitable foundation, and you will receive a tax receipt with your Annual Membership.

The Museum and Shop will be open for a few hours on the weekend towards the end of May. New displays are being prepared in the Museum and the pictures from Regatta Weekend are mounted. The Hostesses are ready and eager to begin their work as the Museum Shop hours are extended.

Keep your eyes and ears open as we are planning a few surprises for 2023. You will not want to miss them! We look forward to seeing you.

Other events to watch for:

- Installation of a plaque on the wall of the Museum
- Posters and information sheets about the weekend events
- An "Across-The-Decades Party" after the season is over

Contact information is available on our website.

Wabamun Watershed Management Council



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.

Solid Waste/Transfer Station information

Garbage pick-up starts on Tuesdays.

Many properties still do not have adequate garbage stands and containers. As per Bylaw #386, garbage containers must be fastened in such a way as to prevent insects and animals from reaching the contents of the containers. Each owner must provide a suitable stand for his or her garbage containers that will hold them securely and prevent them from being tipped over by animals.

- In the event that it is necessary for Public Works to clean up scattered garbage from your property, there will be a minimum \$50.00 clean-up fee.
- All garbage is required to be placed in a garbage can lined with a large garbage bag, rather than thrown in the bins loosely.
- Garbage cans full of small, grocery-sized bags will not be collected.
- Garbage bags should weigh no more than 35lb. or 16 kg.
- Cardboard boxes need to be broken down and flattened. Please remove all Styrofoam and place it in garbage bags. Ideally, multiple boxes should be broken down and tied together.

Summer hours for the transfer station are 9 - 5 Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Compost - Solid Waste/Transfer Station information

Seba Beach and Parkland have partnered in a compost venture located adjacent to the Seba Beach Transfer Station.

Please be aware, Public Works does NOT pick up dirt or sod. They DO, however, pick up grass, leaves and branches.

Please participate by placing leaves and grass clippings in clear bags and Public Works will pick them up and recycle them to the compost pile.

If you are able/wish to transport your own the compost site, it will be open at the same time as the transfer station. Compost must be placed in **clear bags only**, not black, not green, not orange as they can be mistaken for household garbage.



Wabamun Watershed Management Council Ct'd

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).

Developing & Building

Inspections Group is the service provider contracted by the Summer Village to provide the permits, compliance monitoring and inspections to 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.

Seba Pickleball And Tennis Association

Fellow Wabamun Lake Dwellers:

A Committee has been formed (SPATA) to organize the construction of new Pickleball / Tennis courts in the Summer Village of Seba Beach! SPATA is a division of the Heritage Society of the Summer Village of Seba Beach (Museum and Dedication wall). **We are a not-for-profit registered charity, meaning that all donations are fully tax deductible.** The Village has kindly leased the Organization land, which is located adjacent to the old schoolyard along Township Road 531A. The design is a combination of two permanent Pickleball courts and additional four convertible Pickleball/Tennis courts. The courts will be managed by SPATA and for use by the general public. This includes all residents in the area, not just those that live in Seba Beach.



Proposed Court Costs

The planning and construction has already begun for these courts, with an application for a provincial grant under the Community Facility Enhancement Program. However fundraising is still needed to cover many of the costs of construction. At this time, we still need to construct the fencing, surfacing, nets and line painting. We are hoping to raise \$150,000 in order to build the courts. To date we have raised over \$70,000 and have a loan for the remaining amount that will need to be repaid either by donations or by grant money.

Purpose

SPATA wants to make more physical activity options available for the residents of the Wabamun Lake Area. These courts will bring people of all ages together, will be well used by residents, and will provide a great addition to the Community.

Donating

If you are interested in donating to this Community Enhancement Project, you can **EMT your donation** to Doug Thomas at dt1315@live.com. Please indicate your name/company and mailing address in the comments section.

If you prefer paying with a cheque, please make it payable to the **Heritage Society of the Summer Village of Seba Beach** and mail it to Doug Thomas, at: **PO Box 351, Fallis, Alberta T0E0V0.**

Thank you in advance for your support. We will keep you posted on the development via the Seba Beach Facebook page and/or email if you are interested.

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.

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.

Seba Beach Fire Safety Reminder

Parkland County still provides Fire Protection Services to Seba Beach. In fact, fire response times were expected to improve as of March, 2022, with the new fully-staffed fire hall in Wabamun, West Central fire hall (WCFH).

The nearest on-call fire hall is Tomahawk Fire Hall, (18KM) West Central Fire Hall (22KM).

It is recommended that residents update their insurance to reflect the closure of the Seba Beach Fire Station.