



SUMMER VILLAGE OF SEBA BEACH

Winter Newsletter

Greetings to all Residents of Seba Beach!

Message from your Mayor...

Winter 2023

www.sebabeach.ca

Administration

Phone: 780.797.3863

Fax: 587.305.0103

Email:

svseba@telusplanet.net

Physical Address:

140-3rd St

Mailing Address:

Box 190, Seba Beach,
Alberta, T0E 2B0

Regular Office Hours

Monday - Friday,
8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Office is closed
between noon and
1:00 PM for lunch.

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

We have another Summer season at Seba Beach in the rear-view mirror and the holiday season is approaching. 2023 has been another busy and action-packed year.

The summer really got jump-started with our public hearing which took place in mid-April. This initiative elicited some very valuable and varied feedback. The subject issue and many others will be addressed in 2024 as we get into our full Land Use Bylaw review. Communications have begun with respect to this undertaking and there will be several more as we move through the process.

There have been many projects going on within the Summer Village over the past several months. We have spent considerable time and effort in the development of and training for our Emergency Management Program. We have seen instances of emergency management initiatives implemented close to home with the wildfires in the Evansburg and Edson areas, as well as the situations recently in Kelowna and Maui. A devastating event like this could happen in Seba, so, we all need to be diligent and make sure our properties are FireSmart to combat fires before they start.

We have been attempting to implement findings from our Septic Review program. Inspections have been completed and deficiencies were found. It's interesting, that prior to the election in the Summer of 2021, we spoke with many of the residents and almost everyone's most important issue was the health of the lake. However, when property owners are advised that their septic system is not in compliance and needs to be repaired or replaced, or they are not permitted to discharge grey water from their house or cabin directly onto the ground, they ignore requests to remedy the situation.

Residents are reminded that it is their responsibility to act promptly to become compliant with the septic requirements established in the Septic Review. We will continue with our efforts and will pursue further enforcement actions to address these concerns.

We asked our Enforcement Services contractors to be more diligent in policing the activities along Highway 31 through the Village. They have dedicated more efforts in this area, which has resulted in several fines for speeding, faulty equipment, and improper driver licensing. Hopefully, this will lead to more responsible driving along this provincial highway.

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.



Lakefront residents have experienced considerable amounts of aquatic vegetation washing up on their beaches the past couple of summers. While it is not possible for the Village to clean up and remove this debris from all private beaches, we are looking into developing a program to assist in this area. This may involve a couple of specific dates where residents can move the debris to the closest public road allowance, reserve, or roadway, and Public Works will remove it from there. Stay tuned for more information on this initiative.



Message from your Mayor, C'td..

Speaking of Public Works, Sarah and Kent have been very diligent in keeping up with the many requirements within the Village, including the ongoing clearing of aquatic vegetation. This regular clearing was difficult this year as we were not able to acquire Summer Students, which we usually employ from mid-May until the end of September. If anyone has an older teenager or relative who would like to spend the Summer at the lake and work part-time to full-time for the Summer season, please contact the Village Office.


Council and Administration are currently working on the 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets. This is a difficult undertaking in these inflationary times, as we can all personally relate to. We have managed to maintain a balanced budget for 2023 and I expect this to continue for the year ahead.

I would like to thank our CAO, Emily House, Administrative Assistant, Susan Stuart, and the Public Works team of Sarah Sawatsky and Kent Bills for their hard work and dedication to our Summer Village this year. Also, a big thank you to Allan Aubry and Neil Fleming for their ongoing efforts and the many hours spent on Council initiatives.

In closing, on behalf of your Council, Administration, and Public Works, we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season!

Rick MacPhee, Mayor

Land Use Bylaw Review (LUB)



In 2022, the Summer Village of Seba Beach along with the Summer Villages of Betula Beach, Kapasiwin and Lakeview 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 Seba 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.

Over the last few months, the Summer Village of Seba 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 Seba Beach's website, Facebook and Instagram for these updates.

Municipal Indicators

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 Seba Beach that our municipality did not flag any indicators for this year's municipal indicator results reporting.



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.



NEW Bulletin Board

The Summer Village of Seba Beach acquired a new bulletin board!

It is located at the Pavilion and residents are welcome to put their information up for all to see.

Friendly reminder from Administration to date your notices as they are taken down after two weeks.





Seba Beach Farmers Market 2023

This year marked the 35th year as an Alberta Registered Farmers Market in Seba Beach. Thank you to everyone who supported us this season.

We welcomed back and accepted 126 vendors this past 2023 season. We extended the market one week to host our first Christmas in September which was well attended.

We found a home online at sebabeachfarmersmarket.ca which was created this past season, as well as adding an Instagram account.

New this year was a 50/50 draw. We are happy to report we sold every ticket possible and gave back to multiple organizations \$2500.

Thank you for all your generosity!

A vendor and 50/50 recipient form will be posted on our website on February 15, 2024. We look forward to seeing you for the 2024 season.

Street Lights

If you notice a streetlight in the Village that has burnt out, please contact Fortis at [780.310.WIRE \(9173\)](tel:780.310.9173) and provide them with the number on the pole (if available) and the municipal address closest to the pole.

Traffic Speed Limits

Friendly reminder that the speed limit in the Village is 30 km/hr. The only exception is laneways which are posted at 20 km/hr. Please always be diligently aware of our children, pets, and other residents while driving through the Village.

'TIS THE SEASON

Seba Beach Seniors

2023 once again has been another busy and successful year for the Seba Seniors. How Busy? So busy the Seba Senior's volunteers logged over 7000 volunteer hours in 2023! The Seba Seniors Centre including the Thrift Shop had another successful year and continues to be the place to go for great deals, to meet new people, and to volunteer to make Seba Beach a great place to live.

Hopefully, you have read this far, so we can explain that the Seba Beach Seniors makes its programs and activities (e.g., Watercolours, etc.) open to all ages and community members. Community members can attend Seba Seniors events (e.g., Spring BBQ; Monthly Sundowner's, etc.) as a guest of a member. To become a member with full privileges you only have to reach the tender age of 50 years and it costs \$25 a year. We retain the name Seba Seniors to honor those who established the Centre 46 years ago.

With the funds generated from the Thrift Shop and government grants, we are working hard to ensure residents in the Summer Village of Seba Beach and the surrounding communities can successfully age in place. Our partnership with the Westend Seniors Activity Centre in Edmonton allows the Seba Seniors to share WSAC's well-developed networks and resources. WSAC also assists in conveying the needs of rural seniors to all levels of Government.

Funded by a federal New Horizons grant and with the assistance of WSAC the Seba Seniors now have a website sebaseniors.ca that not only provides information on our activities and events but also has lots of great information for everyone. When on the website, sebaseniors.ca, be sure to sign up for the Seba Senior's monthly e-Newsletter. We also started an official Facebook page! facebook.com/sebaseniorsofficial/

In 2023 we continued the Talking Circles and held a Celebration Feast on September 30th as the Seba Seniors contribution to Truth and Reconciliation efforts. Also, because we are a not-for-profit charity, proceeds from the Seba Beach Thrift Shop pay for the operation of the May Community Hall, the Melmoth Members Lounge, and donations to charities in the area. E.g., Camp He Ho Ha, local Schools, STARS, Local Food Banks, the Wabamun Medical Clinic, and Light Up Your Life Society. On behalf of the Seba Seniors, I wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Holiday Season and New Year.

Gene McMullen, Past President, and Communications, Seba Seniors

Seba Beach Library

It has been a year of changes in the library. Sue Evans has stepped down as a board member and Sheila Smith has filled her position. So many thanks Sue for all your years of service and welcome to Sheila. We all look forward to working with you.

After a very successful summer with Kait Wilson as our interim library manager, we welcomed Natalia Yatsyuk as our permanent manager. Natalia is a new graduate of the Library and Information Technology Diploma at MacEwan University. She is skilled with computers, Windows, Microsoft Office, Word and Excel, so if you need any help, it is just one more service the library can offer you. If you are looking for a particular book or movie or just something new to read or watch, come in and talk with Natalia. She will point you in the right direction of something interesting.

Natalia has many new ideas of what the library can offer. If there is anything you would like to see, come in and discuss it with her. She will be only too happy to help!

Our hours for the winter have changed. Currently they are Wednesday – Friday 10:00am to 4:30pm. If these hours are not convenient for you, talk to Natalia and something will be arranged for you to get your books and movies.

Natalia and the Library Board look forward to seeing you in the library in the future, so you can see for yourself just what we have to offer.

Enforcement Services

The Summer Village of Seba Beach has partnered with Parkland County. We would like to take this opportunity to remind and encourage residents to fully utilize the Enforcement Services provided. Please report any incidents that you are concerned about by phoning Parkland Enforcement Services at [780.968.8400](tel:780.968.8400).

The following is a summary of enforcement stats from May to October 2023:



Number of Violation Tickets Issued: 51	Seatbelt: 2
Total Fine Revenue: \$5,762.00	Not Road-Worthy: 2
Number of Calls for Service: 15	Parking: 4
Speeding / Distracted Driving: 9	Animal Control: 3
Invalid Documentation: 12	

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 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 inspectionsgroup.com, or they are available at the Village Office.



FIRE STATION

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

FREE FireSmart™ Home Assessments

Where are your Home Ignitions Zones? Parkland County is now offering free FireSmart Home Assessments to residents of Seba Beach. Residents can get a free FireSmart Home Assessment to learn 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!

Seba Beach Fire Safety Reminder

Fire Protection Services to the Summer Village of Seba Beach, following the closure of Parkland County's fire station at Seba Beach, is still provided by Parkland County.

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 Fire Station at Seba Beach.

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.

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 firesmartcanada.ca or sebabeach.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.



Do You Own a Small Business in Seba Beach?

The Village is updating our website and looking at dedicating a section to small businesses in the area. If you have a current business license and would like your company included on the Village's website, please email your information to svseba@telusplanet.net.

Address Change

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

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The Village of Seba Beach has completed the installation of two electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS), located outside the Municipal Building on 140-3rd Street.

These chargers were generously funded by the Alberta Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) and are available for public use.

Special thanks to those who championed this project, and to Sustainable Projects Group (SPG), who supported the installation and funding application for the chargers.

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.



Village Snow Removal



We want to thank all residents who have expressed appreciation and respect towards staff during the winter season while clearing snow from our roads. We take pride in being able to provide prompt and thorough snow clearing within our Village and would like to remind residents of a few things that they can do to help further enhance this service. Depending on the amount of snowfall this could take more than one day for Public Works to complete.

To be placed on the Snow Clearing List:

The Summer Village offers driveway snow clearing to residents of Seba Beach. To be placed on the Snow Clearing List, residents must contact the Village Office and register.

Your options are:

- (1) Every time it snows.
- (2) Only when there is a substantial snowfall.
- (3) Call-in basis (requires 3 to 4 days notice)

There is a **\$25.00/driveway** charge, and seniors receive the benefit of a seasonal snow clearing budget cap of **\$150.00**

The snow removal priorities continue to be the same and are as follows:

- (1) All major thoroughfares (Main roads).
- (2) Side streets and sidewalks.
- (3) Snow removal list. "Priority of driveways will be given to those residents that are permanent."
- (4) Roads will be sanded on an "as needed" basis and residents are reminded that they can grab a bucket full of sand from the Village Office if they need it for their walkway.

How can you help?

To eliminate delays and damage to equipment, we are requesting all residents to help the Village by:

- (1) Not plowing snow from your property or driveway onto or across the road. Please place plowed snow from the approaches and driveway clearing on the right-hand side of your driveway as you are exiting your property.
- (2) Removing vehicles, equipment, and other objects from the road allowance.

We thank everyone for their patience during snow and ice control operations.

Transfer Station

53128 RR. 61, S of Hwy. 16
Range Rd. 61 south of Hwy. 16
16 min (21.7 km) via AB-759 S

Winter hours

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

Acceptable waste 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 (charges may apply)

Transfer Station Dump Card Required

Contact the Village Office for your transfer card to the Seba Beach Transfer Station.



Payment
Credit and debit payment available
*No cash accepted

Garbage & Recycling: Winter Season

Garbage collection starts on Tuesdays in the winter.

Unforeseen weather/equipment matters can change the date and time of garbage collection. Public Works actively tries to schedule their days around the weather, so as to maintain the highest productivity level.

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.

Seba Beach Residents are respectfully asked to:

- (1) **Please tie your bag when it is full.**
- (2) **Bags should weigh no more than 35lbs. or 16kg.**
- (3) Property owners should have regulation-size garbage containers, inside a garbage stand or box.
- (4) Garbage must have proper and secure lids to prevent animals & the weather from making a mess.
- (5) **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.**
- (6) All garbage is required to be placed in a garbage can lined with a large garbage bag, rather than thrown in the bins loosely. *** We do not pick up if the garbage can is full of little bags.**
- (7) Please keep your cans clean and wash out any toxic residue.
- (8) Garbage should always be placed in cans, not left on top of your bins.
- (9) Cardboard should be flattened & stacked beside the garbage. If you have multiple boxes, they should be flattened and tied together nicely.

***Public Works also picks up blue bag recycling.**

Parking Reminder

Please be advised that the Summer Village of Seba Beach is contracted through Parkland County Enforcement Services. After analyzing the Enforcement Services reports for the last year, we have noticed that there are a lot of parking related infractions.

The Summer Village of Seba Beach would like to break down the Traffic Bylaw, as it pertains to parking.

- No vehicle may be parked within five (5) meters of any stop sign.
- Vehicles may not park nearer than five (5) meters to a stop sign that is erected upon a highway, which is also nearer than five (5) meters to any street or lane intersection.
- Vehicles are not to be parked as to block any driveway or lane.
- No person shall park on any street or area which is designated a "No Parking" area and is marked by a "No Parking" sign.

The Village of Seba Beach Traffic Bylaw No.03-07 is located on the Seba Beach website for review:

www.sebabeach.ca