

Message from the Summer Village of Larkspur Council

July 2021

We are hopefully, moving toward a more normal way of being – a new normal. It's wonderful to be back!

Here are the projects that your council has been working on since last July.

Library

We were able to do a bit of re-modelling to our amazing community library. Koni Getschel removed all the books from the library and new shelves were installed and the inside of the library was painted a nice bright white colour. Koni then went back and re organized all the books into the new shelves. It looks amazing Koni. We're acting on a request that we bring electricity to the building to install a motion light. This is being done soon.

CAO

We have a new Chief Administration Officer for the SV. Marion Bancroft has retired and her daughter Kim Bancroft has taken over as our new CAO. Kim also replaces her dad Garth, who was our Bylaw and Development Officer. Great to have you on the team Kim.

Reserve Walkways

The SV received a grant that could be used for Vegetation Management. Work will soon be started to clear and open reserves to allow for easier access, primarily for emergency access to the lake. There will be a 3 - 4 ft path cleared and a simple fencing will be installed on the edges of the walkways. This will be a multi year project starting with R6 and R5 in 2021.

Fire Smart

The SV received a \$500 Fire Smart grant this year. We are using the money to open up the walkways onto the reserves.

Fire & Alarm Sign

We have installed a Fire & Alarm sign here at the hall. If you see a fire or something that the community needs to be warned about, dial 911 to report the emergency and then proceed to the hall and pull the alarm. If you hear the alarm please proceed to the hall to get information.

William Boytzun

On March 23, William Boytzun passed away. William loved the Summer Village of Larkspur from the time he first saw the land in 1960 to the hours spent on his lake lot with his family. His vision helped take an empty piece of land and develop it into the community it has become today.

Westlock Food Bank

A donation of \$5,000 was sent to the Westlock Food Bank in March to help families in need due to the hardships of Covid 19. This money had been a grant called MOST that was given to municipalities requiring assistance from Covid.

Security Cameras

Our Security Cameras are up and operating. They were installed by Dave Kelly and are now maintained by him. They are located at both ends of Larkspur Drive. If you have a break in at your property, please report it to the RCMP and tell them that we do have security cameras at the SV.

Public Lands Bylaw

We passed our Public Lands Bylaw this spring. This bylaw is to regulate the use of public lands, compatible with normal activities of urban life and with the recreational objectives of the municipality. We encourage you to go to the SV web site and read this bylaw.

Disturbance Standard

The new Disturbance Standard became provincial law in April. The purpose of this Disturbance Standard is to set the maximum acceptable footprint for temporary seasonal docks, temporary seasonal boat lifts and associated structures for personal recreational purposes. Discussions were initiated and further discussions will occur about how this affects the home owners backing onto the reserves.

We passed our Temporary Seasonal Docks and Lifts Bylaw on April 29th that follow the requirements of the new Disturbance Standards set out by the Alberta Government.

Collaboration between SV and County of Westlock

Collaboration and partnering are becoming more and more common among Alberta Municipalities. We believe that working together with our neighbour to seek efficiencies and improve services can be more effective than trying to do everything on our own.

With this in mind we have been working on several projects with the County of Westlock.

ICF

For the SV, fire services, road maintenance and waste management are services that our small community just can't afford on our own. Municipal Affairs have mandated that we develop an ICF (Inter-municipal Collaboration Framework). This was completed and is available on our web site for you to review.

MDP

Our MDP (Municipal Development Plan) was completed this spring and we did our public review in March. The purpose of this Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is to set policies for the use of land within the Summer Village of Larkspur. Also, while accepting that Summer Village Council has no jurisdiction beyond the municipal boundary, this plan discusses how development outside the boundary might affect the Summer Village of Larkspur.

IDP

The Summer Village of Larkspur and Westlock County has been collaborating to develop an Inter-municipal Development Plan (IDP).

An IDP is a high-level plan jointly developed and adopted by two or more neighbouring municipalities. IDPs ensure that land use decisions within the identified IDP area are thoughtfully considered through a cooperative planning approach to support the long-term interests of both municipalities.

The draft IDP was prepared by MPS (the project consultant) and an Inter-municipal Planning Committee that consists of a member of Council from both municipalities.

The project began in 2019 and is still ongoing.

An online public meeting was hosted on June 14, 2021 by MPS. The purpose of the meeting was to explain what an IDP is, share information about the Long Island Lake area, and provide an overview of content in the draft IDP. Responses to the public meeting closed on July 19th. MPS are now correlating the responses and a future meeting with Westlock county will be planned to discuss how we move forward.

Water Levels

We have all seen that our lake water is at a very high level. We have been working with Alberta Environmental and Ducks Unlimited with the goal of lowering the water level as

it is impacting structures on the lake's shore. To lower the water levels the weir that is located at the north end of Long Island Lake would need to be modified so that the water levels can be adjusted when we have high or low water levels.

Tony Galiwoda

Tony has retired from his duties looking after the Maintenance of the SV. He & June are selling their lot and moving to St. Albert. Tony's service to the community has been much appreciated and will be greatly missed.

Greg Boutin will be taking over from Tony.