



Council Newsletter - Spring 2024

Welcome to the Spring 2024 Newsletter. On behalf of Summer Village Council, we would like to share some updates on things we've been working through over the past winter and in preparation of our summer season.

First, on behalf of Council we would like to extend our condolences to Gail and the rest of the Dreschler family on the recent passing of Greg. As a former Council member, Greg has been a great leader and important friend in our community. We are looking forward to an opportunity to celebrate and commemorate his life and his impact on this community.

Operating Budget

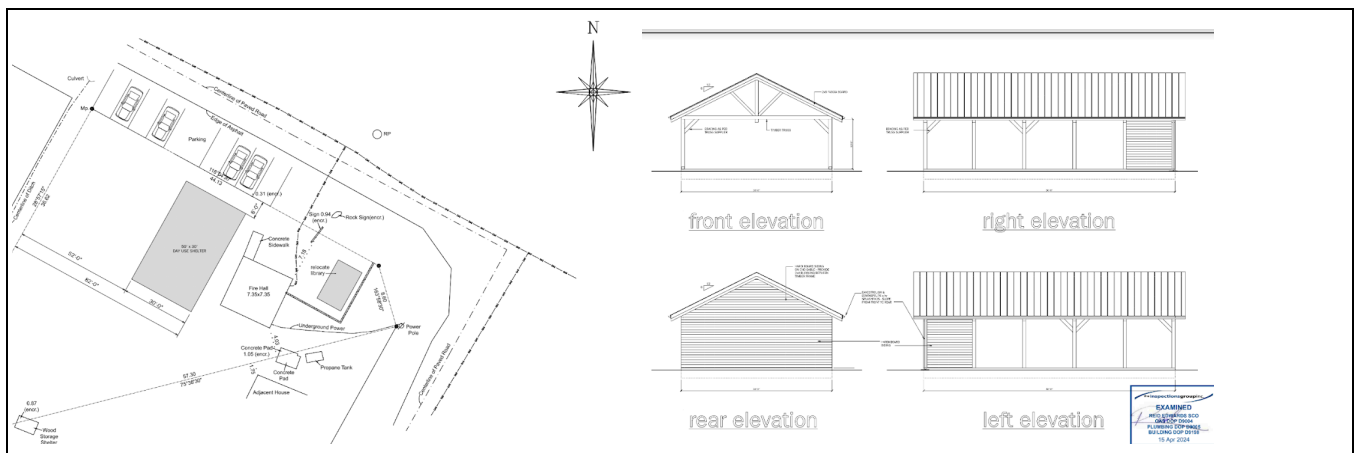
Council has approved the 2024 operating budget for the Summer Village that includes a 0% increase (or decrease?). This unfortunately doesn't mean that you will see no change on your tax notice. As you are probably aware your tax notice includes two components. The first is based on a requisition of funds based on the Summer Village Operating Budget (which will remain unchanged from 2023), and a second amount is based on a requisition of funds to the Province of Alberta to fund public education. The amount that the Summer Village is required to collect and requisition to the Province for education is increasing by 12% for 2024. Tax notices will be sent in the mail in May 2024. For your reference, the 2023 Tax Assessment information in which the tax notices are based on, is available on our [website](#).

Fire and Emergency Management

Many of you, including Council, likely have mixed feelings about the change in seasons and what it might bring in terms of the risk of wildfires. You may recall this time last year there was a wildfire near Bolloque Lake. Council has been communicating regularly with Westlock County Fire Department on ways we can improve our emergency preparedness. We are currently planning another fire training orientation session for this spring related to our current equipment in the FireHall. Please stay tuned for more information on this. Further to this, Council has also been investigating the potential design and installation of a "Dry Hydrant". A "Dry Hydrant" would allow for an easier connection and faster response time for fire vehicles and equipment to access water for firefighting purposes. The hydrant would not be pressurized but would allow for a more convenient roadside connection for a pump to connect. The planning work is ongoing and once a design and cost is confirmed, we anticipate looking at what available grants may be available to support this prior to deciding to proceed. We will share more information on this as it becomes available.

Community Shelter

Last year everyone would have noticed the work that was done at the Fire Hall / Library site to prepare the site. Council has been working on drawings in preparation of building a Community Shelter next to the Fire Hall. The Community Shelter would be a 3 season structure (not fully enclosed or with full utilities) with approximate dimensions of 30'x50'. We've included a few drawings below that may help in understanding this project. It's our hope that this shelter will become a frequent meeting place to host community events for residents and various activities such as our AGM, movie nights, nature presentations, or any other large group gathering events. It's important to note that this project is made possible only through the use of available infrastructure grants from the provincial government (the Summer Village tax dollars are not being used for this project).



Animal Control Bylaw

Council has heard concerns related to aggressive dogs within the Summer Village. It's our hope to rely on responsible owners to ensure that dogs are under careful supervision and monitoring at all times. In lieu of the possibility of increased issues or concerns, we have proactively drafted and approved a Bylaw that provides some steps in terms of possible enforcement. It's certainly not our objective to use these enforcement options and would prefer to rely on owners, however should there become repeat issues or concerns this bylaw will help inform possible next steps. Council is prepared to contemplate revisions and If you have any concerns with the [Bylaw](#), please share them with Council or our CAO.



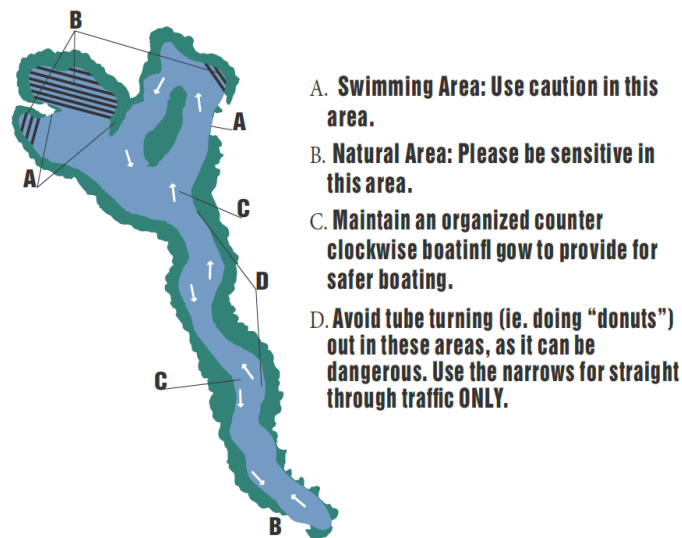
Boat Safety

As many of you are aware, our lake has become increasingly popular with boat and non-motorized watercraft activity over the years. It's with this understanding that we want to reiterate some of the more commonly understood practices of navigating the lake. Although we don't have any formal authority over use of the lake by watercraft, by sharing this information we hope we can model good practices to other users of the lake.

- Motorized watercraft must yield ALWAYS to non-motorized watercraft.
- Motorized watercraft should navigate the lake in a COUNTERCLOCKWISE direction
- Motorized watercraft should allocate sufficient space when following any other motorized watercraft should there be towing occurring (i.e. tubing, skiing)

Please share this information with family, friends, and guests when you discuss going on the water this summer.

LAKE MAP LEGEND



Reserve Walkways

As a reminder, [Reserve Walkways](#) exist at numerous points within the Summer Village. These Reserve Walkways are for everyone's benefit and public use. Please do not block or impede use of these public walkways. The walkways are not always apparent. Please ask any of the councillors if you have questions or concerns at any of the locations within the Summer Village.



Larkspur Drive Walkway

The gravel walkway that was completed last fall is ready for use by the community! We are preparing to add some signage to 1) help ensure safe operation at intersection points with roadways, and 2) to ensure its use is restricted to pedal powered bikes and pedestrians only to preserve its condition. Please still drive to the conditions and be careful of pedestrians that may still continue to use the roadway.

Temporary Seasonal Docks and Lifts Bylaw

A lot of work has been done in preparation of the updated [Bylaw](#). The approved Bylaw and [maps](#) are available for reference on our website. Council has been in ongoing discussion with Alberta Environment & Parks to ensure alignment with their Mooring Disturbance Standard. The Provincial Standard goes into full effect in 2025 so we are hoping to use this year as an opportunity to transition to the maps linked above. The Reserve Captains process will also go into full effect in 2025. Thank you to those who have already volunteered for these roles. We will be posting signage this spring at each of the reserves for easy reference for everyone when laying out docks this spring. Once the summer season is complete, we will have an opportunity as a community to debrief on any challenges or lessons learned at our Annual General Meeting in preparation for 2025.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting has been scheduled for September 7, 2024 at 10AM. We had great attendance last year at this time, and we anticipate this timing will be more suitable as it relates to sharing information about some of the initiatives like the Community Shelter and Dock Bylaw. Please hold this date and time.

If you have any comments, inquiries related to any of the information provided in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Councillors. Contact information is available on the Summer Village [website](#).