



Summer Village of Grandview

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Winter Newsletter 2019

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a very enjoyable Christmas and look forward to an exciting new year. The Summer Village of Grandview has many projects underway which are scheduled to be completed this year. This newsletter will give an update on the current status. Your Council also requests all residents to provide input on a survey we are conducting concerning the consumption of cannabis in public areas.

Cannabis Legislation

As you are aware, recreational cannabis was legalized across Canada in October 2018 and is controlled by both Federal and Provincial laws. In addition, municipalities have the right to introduce further legislation pertaining to the areas where cannabis may be consumed and sold. The Grandview Council is considering passing a bylaw for the control of cannabis consumption, but first, in keeping with our policy to consult residents on matters of public concern (Public Participation Policy 34-2018, posted online), we would like your input. Federal and provincial laws prohibit the consumption of cannabis within 100 m of the playground. Many small municipalities have passed bylaws which further prohibit consumption in all public areas. Your Council is currently considering a similar bylaw. In our village, public areas include the roadway and paths, all municipal reserves, lake accesses, and Hamblin Park. Municipalities have no authority to prohibit consumption on private property. Retail sales of cannabis would not be a problem in Grandview under the existing regulations since we do not have a commercial district in the zoning provisions of the Land Use Bylaw.

Survey question: If you have an opinion regarding whether or not the Summer Village of Grandview should pass a bylaw to prohibit the consumption of recreational cannabis in all public areas of the Summer Village, please either e-mail the village at information@svofficepl.com or by mail and express your thoughts. This inquiry is to provide guidance only to your Council and is non-binding.

Wastewater Project Update

The Summer Villages of Grandview and Poplar Bay have collaborated in the construction of local wastewater lines and services. This was done to achieve the economies of scale and has resulted in some significant cost savings. The mainline construction by the contractor PME commenced in September 2017 and is largely finished. The installation of the service connection lines, which join the mainline to individual holding tanks, commenced on June 12 with the work being done by Urban Dirtworks Inc. from Sylvan Lake. This work involved the installation of 1½" high density polyethylene pipe from the mainline to each holding tank and the installation of secondary pump basins where necessary. The project is nearing completion, and work will continue through the winter months unless stopped due to unfavorable weather conditions. Based on feedback from many residents, the Summer Village arranged on behalf of the residents for the contractor to do additional on-lot work. This work included such things as the installation of new main tanks, secondary tanks, and risers, as well as the insulating of tanks and risers where required. Besides providing benefits from the economies of scale, these arrangements on behalf of the homeowner promote consistent installation practices and the orderly completion of construction throughout the Summer Village while avoiding the necessity of each homeowner having to

deal with contractors. Homeowners who wished to complete this work themselves could do so as long as the design specifications are met.

The status of the project at the end of the year is as follows:

Directional drilling	100% complete (249 lots)
Service connections	84% complete (176 lots)
Pump basins installed	59
Installations remaining	26
New tanks to be installed	10
Service connections ready	5

Under normal weather conditions, this remaining work is scheduled to be completed in the first week of February. The schedule of work is at the discretion of the contractor. Current plans are to continue working throughout the winter until finished with landscaping work to be done in the spring. Under the terms of our contract, the contractor will restore the disturbed land with black soil and seed. We chose this approach to avoid unnecessarily high bid prices that might ensue if we required the contractor to keep coming back for remedial work. Residents should expect some ground settling in the spring which will be addressed when landscaping is done.

Under Grandview's Wastewater Bylaw No. 272, all wastewater-producing lots must connect to the new wastewater system within one year of the system becoming available. When the new system is put into operation, 100% of the septic fields will be eliminated and pump-out trucks will only be required for the infrequent removal of solids accumulation.

There is no doubt that a significant environmental benefit will be derived through the elimination of septic fields. In many instances, when the crew was digging to install the service connection beside existing septic fields, the effluent, called *black water* for obvious reasons, came gushing out of the ground from over-pressured fields. These fields have passed their useful and functional life. With over 20 fields from our community eliminated, the stress on the lake will be significantly reduced. The phosphorus in black water is in the soluble form, which means it is immediately available for uptake by living organisms including algae.

Early in 2019, the Summer Village will be making arrangements for the bulk purchase of pumps and associated equipment. The Hamblin Trust will provide funds for the pump and the biotube which will be the property of the home owners. Also, on behalf of the residents, we plan to obtain quotes from installers for the installation of the pumps and control panels rather than each property owner negotiate a separate contract. As with the installation of the service connections, we believe that a single contract to handle multiple residences will provide the economies of scale and a consistent and approved installation procedure. However, property owners who prefer to make their own arrangements may do so as long as provincial and municipal requirements are met. A certified installer must install the pumping system – not a homeowner task.

Lot owners will be responsible for the costs of this phase of the work. However, the Hamblin Trust will provide funds for the pump and the biotube. After the costs for the service connections have been finalized, we will know if additional funding for each lot is available from the Hamblin Trust. Those lots which are classified as "non-wastewater producing lots" (ie. Non-developed) will each receive the same amount of this benefit as wastewater-producing lots. These funds will be distributed in five years unless the lot becomes a wastewater-producing lot sooner. At this point, we are optimistic that the mainline and service connection costs will be coming in under budget.

Important note concerning electrical requirements: Two circuits will be required for the system to be installed: a 20-amp circuit for the pump and a 15-amp circuit for the operation of the control panel. In most cases, electricians will run a 12-2 (for the 20 amp circuit) wire for the pump and a 14-2 (for the 15

amp circuit) wire underground from the home to the control panel location. This panel is typically mounted on a post adjacent to the secondary tank. If you want your control panel mounted elsewhere, such as near a building, the wiring configuration is different because of the wiring requirement for the floats. When arranging for your electrical circuits, you must discuss the location of the control panel with your electrician and the required wiring details. It is recommended that the control panel not be mounted on a building because of the vibration caused when the contacts close; rather, mount it on a separate post.

Each home owner is required to provide the two electrical circuits from the electrical panel in the residence to the desired location of the control panel as the Summer Village will not be making these arrangements. If more information is required on the electrical requirements, or other details of our wastewater project, please contact Don Davidson (403-860-1050).

Invoicing: The Summer Village Office sent out invoices for Wastewater Service Connection costs (Phase I) last fall. Anyone who has not yet paid that invoice will receive a statement in the next few weeks.

Outstanding amounts as shown on this statement that are not paid within 30 days of the statement date will be transferred to the property tax account and tax penalties will apply, unless arrangements for scheduled payments have been made with the office.

Invoices for On Lot costs (Phase II), including pump basins, new tanks and related work, will be invoiced in March 2019. Payment is due within 30 days. Outstanding balances will be transferred to property taxes and applicable penalties will apply as of July 1, 2019. Pump installation costs (Phase III) will be invoiced after completion of this phase and will be due within 30 days. Any outstanding amounts will be transferred to property taxes and applicable penalties will apply.

It is important that all residents attend to the invoices within the specified time period so that we have sufficient cash flow for expenses incurred on behalf of the residents and also to reduce administrative costs.

Please note that all payments must be made as a requirement of being connected to the wastewater system. We encourage you to pay the invoices within the noted time frame to avoid tax penalties as the tax penalty rates on July 1, 2019 will be 12% and January 1, 2020 will be 18%.

2019 Road Restoration Program

Our capital-works program includes the restoration of the road system within our Summer Village after installation of the wastewater line. Now that all digging for the mainline has been completed and most of the movement of excavators on our roads is finished, we are getting recommendations for this road work. An engineering consultant has completed the evaluation and has proposed several options for consideration. The problems facing our road are the lack of a proper road base and high water table. Removing the base material and replacing it with proper building material would be a monumental task involving thousands of truckloads of material to be moved and replaced with proper material. This would be beyond the financial capabilities of our summer village. An alternative would be to selectively replace the base in several locations and then build up the entire road with a cap of gravel. This would be an acceptable process but has the significant disadvantages of narrowing our already narrow road and requiring gravel ramps at every residential driveway. The cost of this approach is also quite high. A less expensive alternative would be to grind the road base and then stabilize with cement as was already done in Grandview Heights. The surface cover material is also being evaluated. Asphalt is the usual material used but can quickly degrade if the road base is sub-standard. Cold mix and chip-sealing provides a quality road surface and can easily be repaired if necessary.

Council's plan is to bid this work on a "per unit" basis which will give us the opportunity to adjust the scope of work to meet the specific requirements for the satisfactory improvement of the road.

Another consideration is the replacement of our bridge. This bridge has passed its design life and soon will require replacement. We have submitted a grant application to help finance the costs. Also, we want to coordinate the bridge replacement and the road upgrade in this area to minimize construction costs.

Further details will be made available as we progress this project over the next several months.

Pigeon Lake Watershed Management Plan

The PLWMP has now been adopted by all 12 Pigeon Lake municipalities and has been given support by the four chiefs of the Maskwacis Cree Nations. The Summer Village of Grandview has applied for funding for under the Alberta Community Partnership grant program of Municipal Affairs to implement the Plan's 46 recommendations. All residents are encouraged to become familiar with the Plan (www.PLWMP.ca) and help us to achieve the goals of the plan.

The plan provides for continuing investigations into the science of Pigeon Lake. Under Grandview's leadership, Dr. Rolf Vinebrooke from the University of Alberta is conducting research into the variability of cyanobacteria blooms. His work is nearing completion and has found some very interesting relationships on the variability of algae communities within Pigeon Lake. This work should be finalized this summer. Did you know that we have over 100 different species of cyanobacteria in Pigeon Lake!

Shoreline Assessments

Work to protect our lake and watershed is progressing on many fronts. One of the initiatives undertaken by the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA) involved the assessment of the health of the shoreline. During the past summer, Nature Alberta, through the *Shoreline Love Your Lake Program*, conducted shoreline assessments in the Summer Villages of Grandview, Itaska, and Norris Beach. Confidential assessment reports will be sent to lot owners early in the year. The PLWA will be providing further information concerning how lake shore property owners can help protect our lake through shoreline enhancements. We all have an important role to play in protecting our watershed and lake through small but critical actions and Grandview residents are strongly encouraged to take part in watershed programs.

Investigations into In-Lake Interventions

Options are being considered by the Alliance of Pigeon Lake Municipalities for in-lake management actions including the possibility of importing water from the Paskapoo aquifer wells to raise the level of Pigeon Lake. Your Council has grave concerns about water importation including the following:

1. **Justification:** The long-term analysis of the lake level does not show a meaningful decline in water level (reference PLWMP appendix on science). Lake level fluctuations are natural and directly reflect cycles in the weather. Pigeon Lake varies as much as 1 ½ metres as do other central Alberta lakes.
2. **Introduction of bioavailable phosphorus:** The phosphorus concentration of the Paskapoo aquifer is much higher than that of Pigeon Lake and will likely have the effect of increasing algae blooms.
3. **Cost:** There are very high capital and operating costs associated with the importation of a meaningful amount of water. Wells would have to be spread out over a considerable distance to avoid local depletion of water reserves. This project also would have ongoing long-term operating costs and these costs would need to be funded by municipalities.
4. **Ongoing commitment:** Water importation would have to be a continued project but will not prevent the lake level from undergoing its natural variations. Studies have shown the even at the very high rates of 1 m³ per second, the lake level cannot be sustained during periods of continuing droughts (ref: WorleyParsons Hydrological Assessment of Pigeon Lake).
5. **Loss of storage capacity:** A natural lake has the ability to store flood waters without flooding its banks. With artificially high water, this capacity is diminished. Significant flood events have occurred in the past

(e.g., July 1, 1990) and will certainly occur in the future. Flooding causes considerable environmental damage and diminishes water quality.

6. **Increased risks from ice damage:** A recent scientific paper on “ice quakes” at Pigeon Lake concluded that during periods of high water level, the risk of shoreline and infrastructure damage is increased. Both Lac Ste. Anne and Lake Wabamun sustained shoreline infrastructure damage because of high water levels. Pigeon Lake experienced the same magnitude of ice thrusts but, because water levels were at the normal levels, all thrusting occurred away from the shoreline.
7. **Waste of valuable resources:** Predictions are that most of Alberta’s glaciers will be gone in the next 50 years, resulting in reduced water supplies. Aquifers are not infinite and, in many parts of the world, have been depleted by poor management. Pumping massive amounts of water from the Paskapoo aquifer to attempt to raise the level of the lake could lead to shortages of drinking water in the future. Importation of water from the North Saskatchewan is not possible because of the risk of introduction of invasive species including whirling disease which was recently found in this river.
8. **Precipitation is the determining factor in lake level:** While evaporation from a lake is generally higher than precipitation, there is no doubt that precipitation is the controlling variable for the lake level. Current predictions under conditions of climate change are for increased precipitation. If these predictions are correct, lake levels can be expected to continue fluctuating with weather patterns while not exhibiting long-term declines overall.
9. **Water importation will not improve water quality:** Tests and calculations have shown that flushing of nutrients from the lake is not possible under realistic rates of water importation. In fact, it is likely that water importation will increase phosphorus levels because the phosphorus concentration in the aquifer water is higher than in the lake water. Also, the salinity of the lake water can be expected to increase as the aquifer has a higher proportion of dissolved solids than the lake has. Changes in water chemistry can have unexpected and unpredictable results

If you want further discussion on this matter, please contact a member of Council or attend a Meet and Greet.

Tree Planting Program and Protection of Municipal Property

We plan to continue with our tree planting program in the spring. If anyone wishes to have some native white spruce trees planted on their property, please email the summer village office before May with the subject line “Grandview trees”. These trees will be between 2 and 3 feet in height. There is no charge for participating in this program and the only requirement is to place a stake where the tree is to be planted. This is part of the program to improve our watershed by reducing our development footprint. Residents are also reminded that trees on municipal property are protected and must not be damaged. Removal of healthy trees on private property requires development permits as specified in our Land Use Bylaw.

Upcoming Events

We are planning to have a Canada Day celebration (July 1) including a Penny Carnival, BBQ and Music Night in the Park. Also, our Annual Information Meeting is scheduled for July 20 where important information is provided to both to residents and to your Council. In addition, try to attend the Meet and Greets which are held on every long weekend throughout the year. Mark these dates on your calendars and be sure to attend and participate!

Winter will soon be gone and before we know it, we will all be enjoying our new wastewater system!!

Don, Hugh and Ken

January 23, 2019