

MEWATHA BEACH

September 2019

Pump House Reserve Park

Phase I of the new park is almost complete. Next year we will be looking at possibly adding some benches and maybe a small access road for those residents requiring it. Quading is not permitted in the park. The gates will be locked throughout the year except for a small period of time in May and September to allow those residents using the reserve for storage to get their items in or out.

Maintenance

We understand that many residents are upset about the maintenance this year and we completely agree. We have hired a new contractor and he has been working hard to get everything caught up. We have high hopes for the coming year. He is also working to fix the ruts in the road, the boat launch road and also the trail on Glade Way that was washed out in the storm.

Bears

There was a lot of discussion about bears this year. Apparently bears were an issue throughout North East Alberta this year. The bear situation in the summer village was repeatedly reported to Fish and Wildlife but they made it clear that they will only remove a bear once it has become aggressive or too familiar around people. They only recently decided to set up a bear trap at the boat launch. We were told that most times if they remove a bear from an area that is 'bear friendly' a new bear will just move it once it is gone. It is our responsibility to make our summer village not 'bear friendly' by putting away food and garbage. I know many residents love their bird feeders but this is a main attraction for bears.

Outhouse

There has been a lot of concern about the outhouses as well. Many concerns are due to cleanliness which should be addressed by our change in maintenance contractors. However, the building is very old and is becoming harder to clean and also harder to maintain. We are currently getting quotes on replacing the entire building with something more sanitary and handicap accessible. Regarding the restocking of the outhouses, they will only be restocked when they are cleaned. When the outhouses are overstocked, items are stolen and then the supplies are gone anyways. We cannot restock them every day as we do not have the resources for this.



Website

Please check out our website and sign up to receive all the latest updates. If anyone has pictures that they would like to contribute to either the website or the newsletters, please feel free to send them to administration.

www.mymewathabeach.com

Municipal Plans

There are a number of plans that we are currently working on that have been required by the Provincial Government. These include

- Intermunicipal Development Plan (IDP). This is an agreement between the County of Athabasca, the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach and the Summer Village of Bondiss. This plan addresses plans for the areas important to all concerned parties.
- Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF). This is an agreement between the County of Athabasca and the Summer Village of Mewatha Beach. It will address any formal agreements for service between the two municipalities.
- Municipal Development Plan (MDP). This is a plan for the future development of our summer villages, roughly estimated over the next 10 years.
- Land Use Bylaw (LUB). We will be updating our LUB to coordinate with the plans mentioned above.

At some point, likely this fall, you will be sent a questionnaire regarding some items that will be in these reports. Once we have received the questionnaires back, draft forms of the above mentioned reports will be posted on the website for review. Then there will be a community meeting held where residents are invited to provide feedback on these reports prior to their approval. Please fill out the questionnaires. The more input we receive, the better. The work being done on these plans is entirely paid for by grant funding.

Reporting Items That Require Attention

We kindly ask that residents noticing items that require attention, report these items to the administration at email bancroftkim@hotmail.com or phone 780-239-7323. Items may go unresolved if we are unaware of them. Council does their best to move through the summer village on a regular basis but are not always aware of each issue. This includes items such as downed trees whether on roadways, pathways, or cottages; or any areas that are washed out or dangerous after a storm etc.

Dogs

We have recently received a lot of complaints about dogs running loose and defecating on other resident's property. Just a reminder that we do have a dog bylaw which can be viewed on the website. Dogs are not permitted to run free throughout the summer village. Dogs are also not permitted on the beach. Anyone failing to adhere to this bylaw is subject to a \$50.00 fine for each offence reported to administration.

FireSmart Home Inspections

The Athabasca County Fire Department is offering property inspections to all owners in the summer village. The inspection is paid for by grant money given to the Fire Department. An inspector will do a walk around your property to give you suggestions on how to make your property more FireSmart. If you are interested please email Kim at bancroftkim@hotmail.com. You will need to provide your name, phone number, email address and property address at the lake. Then an inspector will contact you directly to make an appointment. Some insurance companies offer discounts to residents who do the inspection and comply with the recommendations.

Parking / Towing

Just a reminder that parking is not permitted on road allowances and in ditches. Please park on your private property or in permitted parking areas. We will be putting up new parking signs and vehicles violating these rules may be towed.

Beach

Going forward the beach will be harrowed once a month during the summer months. We are also looking in to purchasing new more secure garbage bins.

Bulletin Board

We have a new bulletin board by the boat launch. One side will be locked and is for administration only. The other side is available for residents to post items they wish for other residents to see.

Cannabis - Be A Good Neighbor

Now that cannabis is legal in Canada, let's all be good neighbors! Please use responsibly.

Meeting Schedule

Going forward the council meeting schedule will be posted on the website. Any residents wishing to attend are welcome. Anyone wishing to speak at a meeting must submit their topic and time requested at least 5 days prior to the meeting date. Meeting dates and times are subject to change so please confirm on the website the day before.

Administration Office

Please note that the administration office will be closed from December 23rd to January 11th. Administration contact numbers are to the right. The best time to contact us is on a week day. If you have an emergency (including dog related emergencies) you may contact the local RCMP at 911 or 780-689-3622. If the emergency is fire related please contact the Boyle fire department at 911 or 780-689-3611.

Please be respectful of your neighbors and obey the rules of the summer village. Remember that this is your summer village and you want it to be there for your future generations.



Council Members

Mayor Barry Walker

780-991-5790

Deputy Mayor Dave Boychuk

780-689-2286

Councilor Gerry Demers Jr.

780-818-4052

Administration

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COUNCIL WISHES EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY WINTER SEASON! SEE YOU AT THE LAKE NEXT SUMMER!!