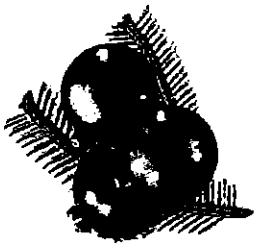

DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER
SUMMER VILLAGE OF SEBA BEACH

Mayors Message – Doug Thomas

Another year as your Mayor of this extraordinary piece of paradise is quickly coming to an end. It seems like just yesterday that I was writing my insert for the 2015 Christmas newsletter. By all accounts, it appears to me to have been a successful year with little or no major concerns for the Village. With the capable assistance of Susan Stuart, Sue Evans has once again brought us financial stability. Although the results will not be available until after December 31, it appears that we will close out the 2016 fiscal year with another small surplus in our operating accounts. Keep in mind that this was accomplished with no increase in property taxes and no reduction in the services provided. As I explained in my last communication, any increase in your annual payment for property taxes is a direct result of the Provincial Government's increase in the School Requisition, of which your council has no control. I sincerely hope that I will be able to make the same comments for 2017, but at this time, we are unsure what the impending carbon tax, legislated by the NDP government, is going to add to the expenses of the Village.

Council continues to monitor and communicate with the owners of the Pineridge Golf Course and RV Park to ensure the land currently being developed at the top of RR55A meets or exceeds all regulatory approvals. Mr. Richardson has given us his unconditional guarantee that his development will not add excess traffic to 1st avenue and that the ground water runoff from his development will be closely monitored to ensure that no contaminated water will leave this development and enter Lake Wabamun.

During the summer months, we continued to receive the normal complaints regarding excess noise and unruly parties. Jeremy Hampton, our Peace Officer did an admirable job of dealing with these issues on a very efficient and effective basis. Without sounding like a stuck record, I again encourage all residents to consider the effect that your social festivities have on your neighbors' enjoyment of our village.

Councillor MacPhee and myself attended the annual Association of Summer Villages of Alberta conference again this fall. We were both very impressed with the content of the topics presented to us. I was especially encouraged to hear that Alberta Environment is coming closer to presenting a lake mooring policy that municipalities can use to manage the mooring of docks and boat hoists within their community. At first glance it appears that this policy will be very similar to the one that Seba Beach implemented a number of years ago. The Provincial program enacted for the detection of invasive species entering our province continues to gain momentum. Please remember that as a boat owner you must be diligent in helping to make sure that these species do not enter Lake Wabamun. Cleaning and drying your boat upon returning from anywhere outside of the province is extremely important to help in the fight against these parasites.

It would be very difficult for me to complete this semiannual newsletter without mentioning the dedication and effort that our administration, public works and peace officer give unselfishly to our community. I challenge you to find employees who would give so freely of their time in helping to make Seba Beach the special place we have come to enjoy. Please take a moment to stop and thank them the next time you have an opportunity.

Thank you to Lynn Berg and the rest of the senior's executive for helping to make Seba Beach such a strong community. These exceptional people volunteer tirelessly in the development and growth of this very worthwhile endeavor and believe me when I say their efforts do not go unnoticed.

Terry and I wish all the residents of Seba Beach and the surrounding area a very Merry Christmas Season and a Safe and Healthy 2017.

The Seba Beach Administration Office is a drop off point for FOOD BANK AND SANTAS ANONYMOUS donations. Cash donations are also accepted for Christmas Hamper items. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to help local families in need. Your generous donations are most appreciated.

Regular meetings of Council are held generally the third Thursday of each month. Meeting dates are posted at the administration office or call 780 797-3863 for confirmation of dates. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you wish to address Council, please call ahead and request that your item of discussion be placed on the agenda.

Administration Office is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Office telephone number is 780-797-3863 or Fax is 797-3800 (use of the fax is available to the public at reasonable rates) **Please note our email address is svseba@telusplanet.net**. Visit our website at www.sebabeach.ca Please ensure that you provide the administration office with any change of address, new telephone numbers and email contact information that you may acquire.

Development Permits are required for most improvement developments affecting your property. Tony Sonnleitner is the Development Officer so if you have any questions just give him a call at 780 718-5479 or fax 866 363-3342 or email **pcm1@telusplanet.net**

Snow Removal – Snow Removal Waiver Forms are maintained on file so if you have completed one in the past the information shall remain in your property file. Driveway clearing rates are currently set at $ 25.00 per clearing. Senior Citizens receive this service free of charge. Please advise the administration office if you require this service. **When it snows, please move your vehicles off the street to allow for clearing. Thank you for your cooperation!**

The "Light Up Your Life Campaign" – This marks the 25th year for this fundraising campaign for Parkland Palliative Care. The Program "Lights Up" the communities of Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Wabamun and Seba Beach in different ways. In Seba Beach the "Wave Of Hope" sparkles on the Seniors Center. A donation of $ 10.00 will light a clear bulb on one of the community symbols and will glow in memory of someone dear to you. The names of those remembered in this way will be published in the local newspapers after the Christmas Season. Donations may be made at the Seba Beach Administration Office or the Seba Seniors Thrift Shop. Thanks to all of you who have shown your support.

Garbage pick-up – takes place Mondays, sometimes extending into Tuesdays. All garbage must be stored in proper garbage containers kept in suitable garbage stands capable of keeping the containers from tipping over. Regulation size garbage cans must be used. **Please Note that a $ 50.00 fee will be charged to any property owner who is in violation of garbage regulations. Any property that requires the services of our public works employees to clean up scattered garbage will be charged for the service.**

If you are dropping off items at the Seba Beach Transfer Station - Don't forget that you need to present your access card to the attendant at the station in order to enter the facility. If you misplace or lose your card, Parkland County has implemented a card replacement fee of $ 35.00.

WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL – Stan Franklin

For those watershed residents who are either unaware of the WWMC website (WWMC.ca) or do not visit it regularly, we encourage you to access the site. It is one of the most effective means for the WWMC to keep you up to date. The site contains the most current information available regarding issues in the watershed, including minutes from Board meetings, WWMC Newsletters, current projects and longer range planning.

As an example and to give you more detail on what the WWMC has been doing in 2016 and intends to do in the upcoming year, go to the website and view the Fall 2016 Newsletter (links available through the Home page and the "About Us" drop-down menu). In addition to being posted on the website, newsletters are emailed to our current email subscriber list. If you are not on the email list and would like to be, use the "contact us" button and send us your email address.

Board meeting minutes are posted under the "Calendar of Events" link and provide monthly updates of activities and issues. The minutes from the 2016 AGM and the Chair Report attached to those minutes will provide more detail of some of the 2016 activities and issues. It also provides an introduction to the Watershed Management Plan project that will be undertaken in partnership with Alberta Environment and Parks and the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance.

LAW ENFORCEMENT – Peace Officer Jeremy Hampton

On behalf of the Seba Beach Patrol Service I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season! I am very happy with the response and reception that I have received and the cooperation with all the residents whom I serve over the busy summer months. I look forward to another great year serving the Community as your Peace Officer.

With the down turn in the economy and no sign in it getting any better in the short term we have seen more activity in relation to property offences. Here are some tips to help make your property less attractive to thieves.

- Have lights that come on automatically.
- Outside lights
- Have someone check your property! Thieves will sometimes leave a flyer or a piece of paper in your door to see if anyone has been there, having someone check the property will leave prints in the snow and make it less attractive.
- If you have an Alarm system ensure that the Company has your cellphone number, this will increase the response time if your property has been broken.

Now that the winter conditions are upon us, please make sure you plan your trips out and leave plenty of time to arrive. Ensure that you have all necessary safety equipment in your vehicles in the event of an emergency (water, extra clothing, blankets and flashlight) also ensure you check all your fluids and tires (tire pressure and tread) to ensure that your vehicle is winter ready.

The Patrol Service can be reached at the Office at 780-797-3021 and by email at sbps@sebabeach.ca for all non-criminal related matters.
Evansburg RCMP can be reached at (780) 727-3654 for non-emergency calls and 9-11 for emergency calls.

FIRE SERVICES – Merry Christmas from Parkland County Fire Services – Kim Mozak Platoon Chief
The Holidays are Here!
Once again our year is almost complete, our Christmas trees are decorated, the shopping has begun, yummy treats are being made and the family is coming together!

During this time of year the prep work that goes into creating the perfect holiday for our families can be very time consuming, it is still so important to keep our families safe during the holiday season. Home fires during the holiday season often involve cooking, Christmas trees, candles and holiday decorations.

Some key things to remember:
Cooking
-Stay in the kitchen while you're frying, grilling or broiling food. Keep anything that can catch fire away

from the stovetop, and turn it off when you leave the kitchen, even if it's for a short period of time.
-Unattended cooking can cause home fires and injuries.
Christmas Trees
-Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the home or going to bed.
- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it's labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant
-If you choose a fresh tree, make sure the green needles don't fall off when touched before you bring it home
-be sure to water your fresh tree daily
-Make sure your tree is not blocking an exit, and is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, candles and heat vents or lights
Candles
-When burning candles, keep them at least 12" away from anything that can burn, and remember to blow them out when you leave the room or go to bed
-Avoid using candles in the bedroom, where more than one third of home candle fires begin, or other areas where people may fall asleep
-Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle
-Consider using flameless candles, which look and smell like real candles
Holiday Decorations
-Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory, and make sure you know whether they are designed for indoor or outdoor use
-Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini-string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs

Please enjoy this special time of year with your family and friends creating memories that can be remembered for years to come. Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for 2017 from Parkland County Fire Services.

SEBA BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - Judy Mott

It's that time already – almost Christmas! Our Book Club has been busy reading a book a month and doing reviews. I will post a summary of the books we have read, some comments, and the overall rating out of 5 stars on our library's website **www.sebabeachlibrary.ab.ca**. I will also post this information on our bulletin board so that our patrons can use it for choosing their books. I will share snippets from our book club's observations on our Facebook page "Seba Beach Public Library". The December book club meeting is moved to January 5th because of the holidays. We will discuss the bestselling mystery Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn. The January Book Club meeting will be on Thursday Jan. 26th at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline. Everyone is welcome to share good conversation, coffee, tea and cookies. Our library has Christmas themed novels, picture books, and movies so check it out! Our online service HOOPLA also has Christmas eBooks, movies, and music. The library will be open on Christmas Eve 10a.m.- 2 p.m. , Tues. Dec. 27th. 11 a.m.– 5p.m., Thurs. Dec. 29th. 12-5p.m. and Sat. Dec. 31th. 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.

New Adult Fiction Books:

- Small great things by Jodi Picoult
- The Chemist by Stephanie Meyer (new thriller in Top Ten of Tracpac)
- The Games by James Patterson
- The Whistler by John Grisham
- The Wrong side of Goodbye by Michael Connelly
- This was a Man by Jeffrey Archer (final book in the Clifton Chronicles series)
- Two by Two by Nicholas SparksNew

Adult Non-Fiction Books:

- 99 Stories of the Game by Wayne Gretzky (in Top Ten of Tracpac)
- Canada by Mike Myers (by comedian, in Top Ten of Tracpac)
- Elon Musk: Tesla, SpaceX, and the Quest for a Fantastic Future by Ashlee Vance
- Waiting for First Light: my ongoing battle with PTSD by Romeo Dallaire

New Audiobooks:

- Breath of Scandal by Sandra Brown
- Buried Book by D.M. Pulley
- Eye of the Beholder by David Ellis

New Movie:

- Star Wars: the Force awakens

Thanks kindly to everyone who has donated books and audiovisual items! Your generosity makes it possible to share these items with borrowers across our Province. There will be TV series and movies added to our collection in the New Year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017!

HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS FALL 2016 – Sandy Drummond

A beach running north and south, facing the most beautiful sheet of water, describes the Summer Village of Seba Beach on the west shore of Lake Wabamun. Away from the noise and bustle of modern-day, Seba is unequaled, with wild bird life to be seen and heard all day, along with fish jumping in the water and abundant vegetation growing on its shores. Thus it has become a summer resort and permanent home for many.

This was written in 1919 and today in 2016 little has changed. We hope all of Seba appreciate how fortunate we are to enjoy this treasure and strive to preserve it for the future.

The Seba Museum celebrates the past, present and future. The mandate of the museum is to acquire, conserve, research, communicate and exhibit, for the purpose of study, education and enjoyment, its collection of artifacts and archival materials in accordance with museum standards. Even though we house old stuff, it doesn't have to be boring. The collection of Regatta photos updates the old to new and certainly isn't boring.

To accomplish these goals it takes serious hours of time and commitment to this project. Without the great group of volunteers that have stepped forward, this museum would never have survived. The Board of Directors of the Seba Beach Heritage Museum governs the museum and makes policy. Members and volunteers help to host the museum, fundraise, help out with special events and are encouraged to work on museum displays. The museum's main source of revenue comes from various fundraisers, gift shop sales, memberships and cash donations.

The Board of Directors wish to recognize and sincerely THANK all whom faithfully and generously support the Seba Museum.

Wishing all a very Merry Christmas with a safe, healthy and Happy New year.

SEBA BEACH SENIORS – Diane Coulthard, Communications

Seasons Greetings from the Seba Seniors
and Happiness and Good Health in the Coming Year.
Socializing and connecting with new people is a great way for seniors to maintain good health. In Seba we have a wonderful resource called the Seba Seniors. Some may not know that there are socials and programs happening there such as music, exercising, shopping, and social events. If you would like to learn more, a good way to start would be to attend one of our **Sundowners** - a social gathering held the third Friday of each month at 7 pm at the Seniors Centre - 109-First St. Our phone number is (780) 797-3087. Come and join in the conversation, and meet new friends. It might just be good for your health!