

# Summer Village of Seba Beach

## 2022 Spring Newsletter



### Mayor's Message

#### Year in Review and Looking Forward

It is often said that the only constant in this world is change. We have all had to deal with a myriad of changes over the past couple of years. This has been very true within the Summer Village of Seba Beach. In sixteen months, we have had a new Chief Administrative Officer, a new Mayor, two new Councillors and one new Public Works employee, and we know there will be more change ahead.

Peter Charkiw, a member of our Public Works team for 7 years retired at the end of April. Thank you, Peter, for your dedicated service. Peter will be replaced by Kent Bills who job shared with Pete over the past several months. Continuing with our staff, Robyn Bach just completed her 12th year and Susan Stuart her 15th year. Congratulation to both of these individuals and we thank you for your service to our community.

Individually, we have all had to deal with the ravages of inflation and increased energy and general commodity costs over the past year.

These continue to create financial challenges for our municipality as well. In addition to these increases, the Provincial Policing and Parkland Fire Services allocations will see year over year increases in 2022 of 10% and 15% respectively, a total of \$33,000. The cost of these services will increase again next year reflecting a total increase of over \$100,000 between 2020 and 2023. We have also had to absorb a new annual cost for Emergency Services in the amount of \$5000. To cover these costs, we have increased our General Services Levy by \$50 per residential property, the first increase since 2010. This levy is intended to cover operating costs for municipal buildings, general maintenance and services that are utilized by all residents.

Unfortunately, we have no control over the Alberta School Tax Requisition which we collect for the Provincial Government. This figure has increased for this taxation year by over \$50,000 (12%). As you may recall, due to late reporting of the School Requisition by the government last year, an Under Levy resulted, a very small addition to your school taxes.

This has reversed itself this year so you will notice a slight Over Levy (credit) as a line item on your taxation notice which will slightly moderate the impact of the above increase. There is a section later in this newsletter outlining the recently re-released provincial regulations for placement of piers, boat lifts, etc. Please make sure you have a look at this article.

If you have any questions, comments or you would like to discuss something pertinent to the Summer Village, I can be contacted at [rmacphee@sebabeach.ca](mailto:rmacphee@sebabeach.ca).

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer. Please remember to use our lake respectfully and stay safe.

Mayor Rick MacPhee

#### New Dock Mooring Requirements

New Requirements for Dock placement length, setbacks, mooring and swimming dock placement are in force this year. Info Graphic and further Information in this issue on **Page 2**

#### Fire Hall Updates

Fire Hall Closure: Parkland County cancelled the Seba Beach Fire Hall Agreement in 2019. The Fire Hall formally closed in February, details on **Page 3**

#### Staff Succession

##### Staff Changes in Public Works

We celebrated the retirement of our Public Works Staff Peter Charkiw this spring of 2022 and announce the retirement of Robyn Back at the end of this Summer.

We are pleased to welcome Kent Bills and Sarah Sawatsky as our new Public Works Team. Please feel free to introduce yourself and welcome them to the Summer Village as you see them this summer.

#### CAO Announces Departure

The first sentence of the Mayor's message has turned out to be very profound. Martino Verhaeghe has announced he will be departing his role as CAO following the June Council meeting. Council is appreciative of Martino's hard work and his contributions to the organization over 2021 & 2022. He played an integral role in modernizing systems, helping Council find efficiencies in operations. Council has begun the arduous task of looking for a replacement. We wish Martino the best of luck and nothing but success in all his future endeavors.

Wabamun Watershed Management Council (WWMC)  
*Let's Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear*

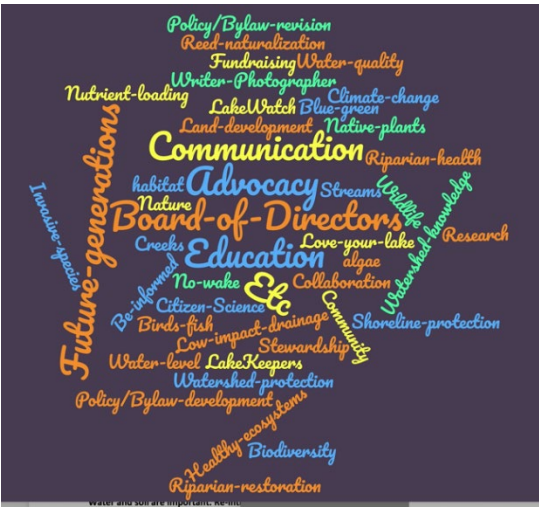
WWMC Chair Sue Styles  
Happy Spring 2022!

The following is a brief synopsis of what the WWMC has been doing over the last few months and an open invitation to get involved.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022, the WWMC board has been immersed in work concerning two overarching themes, namely board governance and implementation of the [Wabamun Watershed Management Plan](#) (WMP). WWMC board governance efforts include formalizing a 3-year strategic plan, advancing by-law revision, and completing an application to register as a charity.

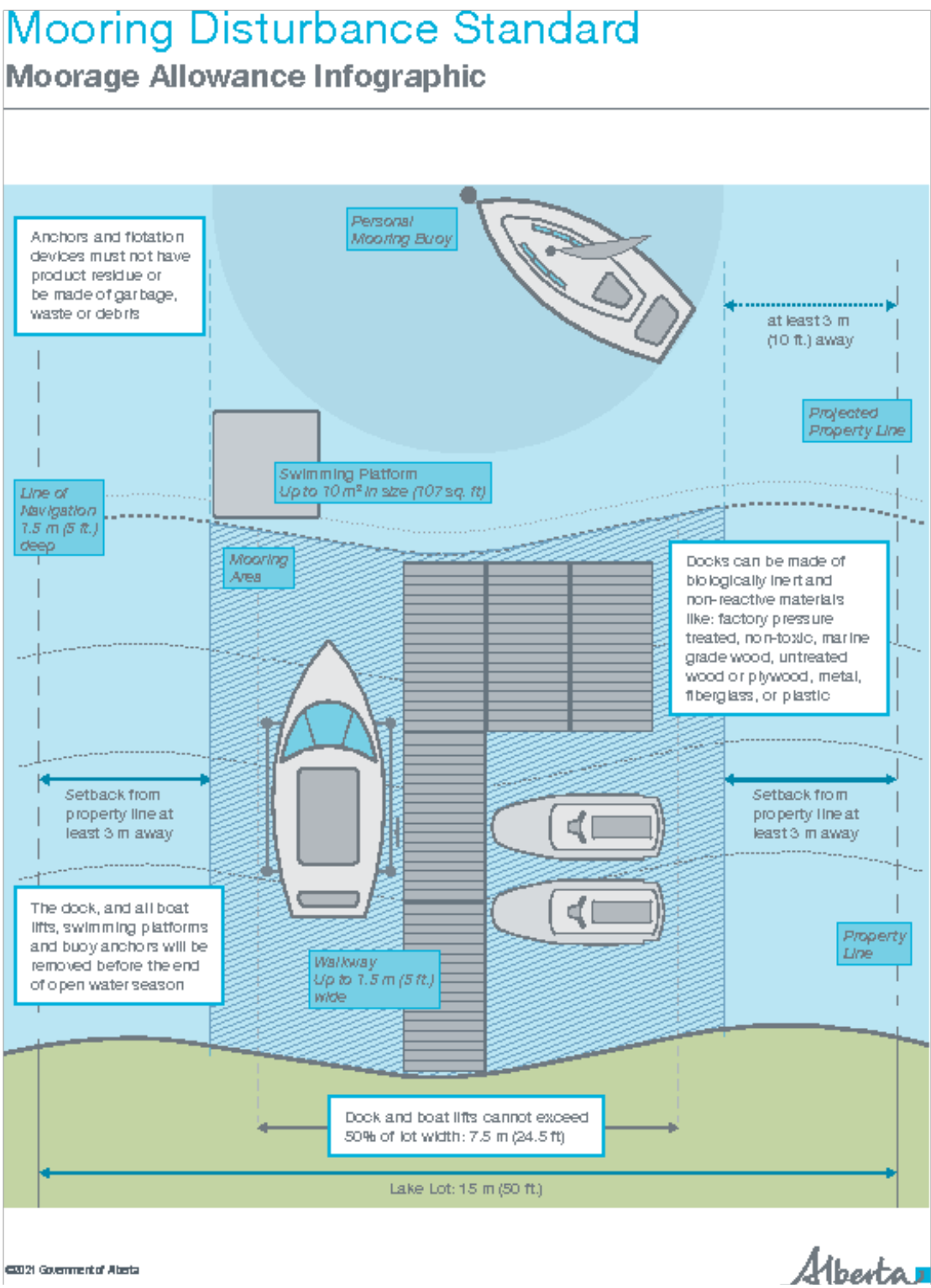
Current WMP implementation efforts are centered on collaborative initiatives related to the priority WMP focus areas

including, but not limited to, planning summer education events on aquatic invasive species, riparian restoration, and advocating for municipal bylaws/policies alignment with protection of the lake and watershed. For a review of the WMP priority focus areas, see ‘page 5 of the WMP’.



Boat Launch Update

Parkland County has informed the WWMC that crews will begin clearing land in the very near future (with accommodation to bird nesting and fish spawning season) for the approved boat launch site on the Wabamun Lake south shore near the Sundance power plant. This will be the beginning of Phase 1 of the project, constructing the new launch. Phase 2 will involve closure or restricting access to the informal launch sites around the lake. These efforts will go a long way to helping protect the lake’s fragile ecosystem while allowing easier access to the lake for most users. More information about the launch can be found on Parkland County’s website ([parklandcounty.com](http://parklandcounty.com)), search for Wabamun Lake Boat Access.



Get Involved to ‘Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear’

Keeping Wabamun Lake “Clean and Clear” requires each one of us to be engaged in the protection of the watershed. There are many aspects, many areas to get involved in. It can be overwhelming to know where to begin. Importantly, it does not matter where you begin to get involved, just PICK ONE aspect to delve in to, to participate in. The motto of WWMC is ‘Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear’; this is in fact a **collective responsibility** - *Let's Keep Wabamun Lake Clean and Clear*. Now more than ever we must have a strong bold collective voice and action to protect the lake and watershed. Visit [WWMC.ca](http://WWMC.ca) for information on the watershed and ideas to get involved. Connect with us to share your involvement in protecting the lake and watershed or your interest in getting involved. [info@wwmc.ca](mailto:info@wwmc.ca)



Picture Caption: To make your document look professionally produced, Word provides header, footer, cover page, and text box designs that complement each other.



WWMC Chair Sue Styles  
**Winter Water Sampling**  
The latest updates



A robust water quality monitoring program is one of the [WMP](#) priority focus areas. The Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS) has been running the LakeKeepers Winter Water Sampling program at 22 Alberta lakes for the past three winter seasons to document trends in water quality.

WWMC volunteers completed 4 LakeKeepers water sampling events this winter season (one in each month from December to March). staff will produce a report containing their findings. Past reports can be found on [wwmc.ca](#)

Thomas Kelm, Edmonton Yacht Club  
**Edmonton Yacht Club Sailing School**

Ahoy fellow Seba Residents,

As the summer village emerges from hibernation, the Edmonton Yacht Club Sailing School is getting ready for another summer of lessons on the lake. We welcome aspiring sailors of all ages to take part in a proud tradition of learning a skill that has moved trade and built empires for thousands of years around the world.

We will offer classes starting on weekends in June through to August for all age levels. Watch the Edmonton Yacht Club website at [www.edmontonyachtclub.ca/school](http://www.edmontonyachtclub.ca/school) for details and how to sign up.

Welcome back for another summer of fun on the water.



Seba Librarian, Lana Bouma  
**Happy Spring/Summer from Seba Beach Library**

We are busy getting ready for the Summer Reading Club for children. The theme this year is “Once Upon a Time; Myths and Legends”. We will have a set program once a week during July – August. Back by popular demand we will be running the story walks again this year! We will be changing it up so, each walk you will need a map. In addition, we will be having an exciting “family escape room” so, stay tuned for details on how to participate. We are happy to advise that Gail de Vos will also be returning to provide storytelling presentations for all age groups. We look forward to seeing you all this summer.

Summer hours will begin on July 5th and will end on Aug 31<sup>st</sup>. Tuesdays to Fridays 11 AM - 4 PM and Saturdays 10 AM – 2 PM.

The best way to keep up to date with the Library is follow us on FB: Summer Village of Seba Beach Public Library, Our special FB page for the SRC: Seba Beach Public Library Reading Club, Twitter & Instagram: Seba Beach Public Library.

Take care and we hope you all have a great Spring/ Summer 2022.

**The State of the Lake**

A Message from all of Council for Seba Beach

For each of the last 3 years, Wabamun Lake has experienced Cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae) blooms. We know that these events reduce our already too short use of the lake in the summer months. They are also deadly to pets and children, reduce our property values and result in fish kills. It is also known that algae blooms are directly tied to increased nutrient loading from many sources.

Your Summer Village council is committed to reducing the nutrient load on the lake from sources within our control. We should all be very proud that the SVs of Betula Beach, Lakeview and Seba Beach were the first on the lake to enact fertilizer/herbicide bans to reduce runoff from lawns. If you haven't already, we ask that for the health of the lake, you stop the use of cosmetic fertilizers within the Village boundaries.

Another point source of nutrient loading is improperly handled sewage, both blackwater and greywater. At a recent "Septic Sense" workshop put on by the Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association (AOWMA), it was made clear that all septic handling methods require regular maintenance and inspection to ensure they are not leaking effluent into the water table. It should also be noted that under current guidelines for new construction, only watertight holding tanks are permitted for Lake Lot properties! "

To help you assess how your wastewater management practices may be impacting the health of the lake, Seba Beach in conjunction with AOWMA will be hosting an online information session later this summer. Council sees this as the first step in a move to educate and improve wastewater disposal in the Summer Village. Everyone is encouraged to attend the seminar to better understand how we can all reduce our impact on the lake we enjoy so much. For more information on wastewater management and the fine work of the Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association you can visit their website at [aowma.com](http://aowma.com) . More information to follow.

**Fire Hall Closure**

Seba Beach Fire Hall has been operated by Parkland County Fire Services for over a decade. In 2019 Parkland provided notice they would no longer be providing fire services to Seba Beach, but they would consider a new agreement for service if requested. In 2021, with no new options available for provide fire protection to its residents Council authorized an agreement which allowed for fire protection services to be maintained in the Village. Part of this change included a closure of the Seba Beach Fire Hall with service being provided out of a manned station in Wabamun and the volunteer station in Tomahawk. This new agreement was based on the provincial model for policing services and increased costs over 3 years, with a cost of \$70,000/ an above previous costs in 2023 (+/-14% of all taxation). With the Seba Beach Hall now formally closed it is recommended residents review their Fire Insurance to ensure they have up to date policies. The open space is being repurposed with a view towards revenue generation to help offset these increased costs.

## Heritage Society, Doug Thomas **Pickleball Enthusiasts**

Planning and design are well underway, with construction to hopefully begin within the next few weeks on the Seba Beach Tennis and pickleball courts. Located on Summer Village property just west of the RR 60, and township road 531A, we hope to have the courts operational within the next couple of months. An application for funding has been made to the Provincial Government with a matching portion of the costs coming through local donations. These courts will be available to everyone from around the lake and outlying areas. If you, or someone you know, would like to offer financial support please contact Walt Carlyle at [waltcarlyle@gmail.com](mailto:waltcarlyle@gmail.com)

More updates to follow



## Seniors Center, Peter de Vos

### **Newsletter Update**

The Seba Beach Seniors are opening up into busy spring and summer seasons. We're developing partnerships in order to bring more events and programs to the people in and around Seba Beach. Upcoming events include social activities, exercise, and learning.

One of our events occurs over six months. Called Talking Circles: Towards Truth and Reconciliation, this is a series features Indigenous speakers, leaders and scholars who will offer a way to building understanding between our cultural groups.

Cathie Duchesne, of the Seba Beach Seniors said, "this is a rare opportunity to learn from Indigenous knowledge-keepers. The Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Report pointed to how we can move past our history. To do so, it's important to understand the background to where we are today in Canada, and in our neighbourhood, to see how we can move forward to become stronger together. On five Saturday afternoons the series will explore important topics and conclude each day with refreshments and discussion."

The five monthly events will be held Saturday afternoons at the Seba Beach Seniors Centre starting in April. On September 30 a Celebration Feast will be held featuring performances, demonstrations, and feast food!

Those interested in joining in can register for one or each of the Talking Circles afternoons and Celebration Feast by registering at the Seba Seniors Thrift Shop Wednesday and Saturdays 10 AM-3 PM or by visiting a special webpage at [https://weseniors.ca/whats\\_new/talking-circles-towards-truth-and-reconciliation/](https://weseniors.ca/whats_new/talking-circles-towards-truth-and-reconciliation/)

Addition to the Talking Circles Events, the Seba Beach Seniors also are planning to bring a series of fitness classes and talks on a variety of subjects. We'll be posting events on our Facebook page and soon, on a new website.

All this is made possible by volunteers. We're volunteer run. It's an open secret that we have a lot of fun as volunteer-- it isn't all work. We welcome anyone who wants to volunteer. Drop by and see how we can grow together.

## Heritage Society, Renee Bliss

### **Greetings from Seba Beach Museum**

The board of the Seba Museum would like to thank the residents and the visitors of Seba Beach for your continued support of the Museum over the last two years. We could not have survived without all of you!

With Spring on its way, our thoughts turn to the summer of 2022. We are looking forward to opening the Museum Shop and the Museum itself. You will have to drop by to see the "treasures" in our store and to enjoy the Seba history displays. While you are there, don't forget to get your Museum membership and to drop a little something in the Museum donation box.

We have not been idle over the winter break. The Shop hostesses for the summer are hired and they are looking forward to your visit. The board will meet in June to make the final decisions regarding Bridge on the Beach, and the Yard Sale, which is generally on the second Saturday in July. The other fund raiser is the sale of Plaques that hang on the Memory wall in the garden facing the Shop entrance. These plaques commemorate the lives of Seba Residents, celebrate the joys of Seba Life and are a reminder of how fortunate we are to have our little gem, Seba Beach.

In June, please check the notice board by the Shop entrance to confirm our summer hours. As well, if any of you are avid gardeners and are inclined to get your fingers in the soil, don't hesitate to pull a weed or two in the garden area.

If you have any questions, please contact any of the board members, or Renee Bliss at the following phone number 780-690-7215.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!