DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER
SUMMER VILLAGE OF SEBA BEACH



Mayors Message – Doug Thomas

As many of you are aware, there were two petitions created and circulated within the village this summer. In early November, the Provincial Government provided Council with copies of these petitions. The first petition reads "The undersigned persons, being electors of the Summer Village of Seba Beach, in the Province of Alberta, hereby petition the Summer Village of Seba Beach Council to: **Remove the barriers at the Pavilion to allow access and use of the existing boat Launch.**" I found it quite interesting to see some of the names on this petition. People who actually own property adjacent to or in close proximity to accesses are petitioning Council to open up the 5th street access for launching boats. The decision to close this access was made after a lengthy consultation period with a cross section of a very informed and dedicated group of property owners who had the best interests of the taxpayers of the Village, the environment and the safety of the general public, in mind. Despite the petition, I remain convinced that a vast majority of our electorate do not agree with the petition and feel that opening the 5th street access would not be in the best interests of the village. For those of you who believe otherwise, perhaps a discussion with the property owners near the boat launches at Wabamun or at the Provincial Park will convince you that the decisions that have been made by this Council and administration are in the best interests of the village.

The second petition reads: The undersigned persons, being electors of the Summer Village of Seba Beach, in the Province of Alberta, **hereby petition the Minister of Alberta Municipal Affairs for an enquiry into the affairs of the Municipality.** Council and administration were also disappointed to see some of the names on this petition. A lot of the same people who signed this petition also signed the Declaration of Support for Council that was circulated this summer so I find it extremely confusing to determine what exactly the petitioners are concerned about. Is it concerns regarding the Village financial situation or concerns regarding the administration and public works? Do you feel you tax dollars are being spent inappropriately or did you just sign the petition because someone told you it was a good idea? The facts are that the Minister of Municipal Affairs has now completed this review and they will provide us with the results in January 2016. I am confident that, based on the initial investigation that has been completed, the Minister will determine that there is no requirement to proceed into a second phase of this review.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Jeremy Hampton to our Village. Jeremy is our new Community Peace Officer, who comes to us with a significant amount of experience and a fresh new perspective on community policing and what we need to do to maintain a safe environment within and around our village. If you have the opportunity please take a minute to meet Jeremy and introduce yourself.

Sue Evans and her staff have successfully navigated us through another year at Seba Beach. Even though the year-end figures have not been completed, I feel comfortable in saying that we will end 2015 with a small surplus in our operating budget and we will enter 2016 with a continuing strong financial position. With that said, I am also hopeful that we can meet the 2016 operating expenses and capital requirements without the need to increase property taxes.

Our Fire department continues to recruit for new members, so if you have a desire and a little time please call the office and Sue can provide you with the appropriate contact information. The men and women of our fire department are among the most skilled and dedicated in the entire Parkland Region. We are very fortunate to have them looking after our Village.

Wishing each and every one a very safe Christmas season and a Healthy and Prosperous 2016.

A Councillor's Insight – Councillor Rick MacPhee

It was the best of times; it was the worst of times, to quote Dickens. Thankfully, the best of times far outweighed the latter this summer. I am just completing my second year on council and it certainly has been an interesting ride. In October I again had the opportunity to attend the annual Association of Summer Villages of Alberta conference. This included a session where we gathered in several different small groups and engaged with councils from other summer villages. What I heard from these folks was enlightening in that most every summer village is experiencing many of the same pressures and issues facing our village. These include growth in recreational properties surrounding the summer village, increased demand for access to the lake from surrounding areas, concern for the water quality of the lake (both blue-green algae as well as the potential for zebra and quagga mussel invasion) and bylaw infractions, including speeding within the village, noise curfew violations and fireworks activity outside approved timeframes.

We do have some challenges but for the most part no different than other summer villages. Fortunately, the water quality of our lake is exemplary; however we need to be judicious in our care of the lake going forward. The other issues are currently on the radar of Council and we are addressing internally and with input and feedback from other interest groups as required. We will persevere to maintain the Seba we all love.

I wish you all a very happy holiday season, a healthy and prosperous 2016 and please remember to make safety a priority.

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 24th 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 – Kelly Aldridge –WWMC Past Chair
At this busy time of year it is understandable if looking after the watershed may be far from your mind. But you can rest assured that there are a lot of us in the lake community working hard behind the scenes to continue progress in protecting our beautiful lake.

Since the summer, your WWMC executive and board have met many times with the other critically important players in watershed planning. We are currently working towards a partnership with Alberta Environment and Parks, the municipalities in the watershed (Parkland County, the Village of Wabamun, and the Summer Villages) and the North Saskatchewan Watershed Alliance (NSWA). The purpose of this partnership is to produce a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for our lake that has the full support of all the partners and stakeholders. Parkland County is currently working with a consultant to develop a Land Use Plan for the Wabamun Lake watershed. When completed this plan will form part of our Watershed Management Plan. We expect to establish a steering committee to oversee the development of the WMP, with members from each of our partners. Once the partnership has been formalized, our first task will be to complete terms of reference for the steering committee and the WMP.

Have a great holiday season, and stay tuned for a progress report in the spring of 2016.

LAW ENFORCEMENT – Community Peace Officer Jeremy Hampton

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.

Don't forget that Off Highway Vehicles (Quads, skidoos etc.) will be out and about within the area and it is unlawful to operate these vehicles within the Village boundaries. If you are unsure about any of these rules and regulations the Seba Beach Municipal Office does have pamphlets with information about Off Highway Vehicles Regulations for your convenience. Don't forget to check with the Parkland County for updated bylaws regulating the use and operation of Off Highway Vehicles within the County.

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.

On behalf of the Seba Beach Patrol Service I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

FIRE SERVICES – Merry Christmas from Parkland County Fire Services – Kim Mozak Platoon Chief
Christmas is here already and from our Fire Family to your family I would like to extend a Merry Christmas and All the Best for 2016!

Now that it's cold out an important issue that many are concerned with during this time of the year is a chimney fire. No one wants to ever experience a chimney fire or worse a fire in the chimney that spreads to the home. Even a small chimney fire that doesn't spread is never a good sign and it is very important to know how to recognize one as it is occurring and to prevent them from happening. Many times homeowners learn that they had a chimney fire after the fact, usually during the next chimney cleaning.

Common Causes of Chimney Fires

* infrequent sweeping and cleaning
* burning unseasoned wet wood
* overnight burning or smoldering wood for long periods in wood stoves
* buildup of creosote along the chimney lining



Warning Signs of a Chimney Fire

* excessive, dense smoke
* embers falling back into the hearth
* walls of the chimney breast or adjacent walls becoming very hot to the touch
* flames showing from the pot or flames /dense smoke may shoot from top of chimney
* loud cracking & popping noise, can be detected by neighbors/people passing by
* an intense, hot smell

How to Prevent Chimney Fires

* properly maintain your chimney, clean and perform needed repairs

What to Do If You Think You Have a Chimney Fire

* evacuate your home safely
* call 9-1-1, explain your situation

I would like to extend an invite to the community to stop in and say "Hello" at our Seba Beach Fire station when you see us there. We will always be more than happy to give you a tour and answer any questions you may have.

SEBA BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY
Season's Greetings and Happy New Year from the staff and board of the Seba Beach Public Library.
2015 proved to be another extremely thriving year for our library with a successful summer reading program, several adult programs including an on-going book club, our continuing relationships with the Seba Beach School, and a host of satisfied patrons of all ages. Our book club will meet once a month on Thursday mornings before the library opens to the general public.

The first book to be discussed in 2016 is The Prison Book Club by Ann Wamlsey, a true story of a writer who helps run a book club for prisoners at the Collins Bay Prison in Ontario. Kate Taylor, in her review of the book for The Globe and Mail, wrote "(For a journalist, Walmsley's level of access to the inmates was remarkable and may have been possible only because she entered the prisons as a volunteer. When I was researching a story for this paper about the book club at the Warkworth Institution east of Toronto, it took me eight months to get permission to enter the prison for a couple of hours to sit in on the group's monthly

meeting and ask a few general questions. I was not allowed to interview the inmates individually nor ask why they were incarcerated.)" This, indeed, is a pertinent title to launch our new book club.

For more information about the book club, contact the library and/or check out our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/1027200510O/?fref=ts). This page is updated on a regular schedule and it is highly recommended that patrons who are on Facebook "like" the page to be kept up to date with programming notices, information about new materials, and bookish news from beyond our community.
One of the main functions of a public library, regardless of its size, is the provision of readers' advisory. Readers' advisory (sometimes spelled readers advisory or reader's advisory) is a service which involves suggesting fiction and nonfiction titles to a reader through direct or indirect means. Our library staff is always available to provide this service for you. Do not hesitate to ask next time you are in the library. Email inquiries are welcome also. At the time of this writing, Judith Watts-Mott is on extended leave but patrons will be well looked after by our two extremely competent interim staff, Cheryl Taillieu and Margaretha Bottinga.

The library will reopen on January 5, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. and we hope all of you drop in once or twice (or many times more) to experience the warm hospitality and service during the upcoming year.

FARMERS MARKET – Carol Blake and Margy LeGrow, Managers

The Seba Beach Farmers' Market is all about supporting change. The market manager strives to be connected to the community and is not afraid to try new things. Successful changes have been implemented in the market through active engagement of vendors, having a plan, being honest and forthright and, most importantly, having a positive attitude. A life-long learning approach helps the manager stay on top of change.

SEBA BEACH SENIORS – Diane Coulthard, Communications
Greetings from the Seba Seniors, and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year to All.

It's been a busy summer and fall around our Seniors Centre. Our enthusiastic Board of Directors and Committees have been working hard to provide programs and activities to suit all interests.

The ongoing programs include Music Jam Sessions on Wednesday evenings, Yoga and Majhong on Mondays, Quilting and Fibre Arts on Wednesdays, Bridge on Thursdays, and a new Walking Group on Mondays. If you are interested in any of these programs, or would like to suggest some new programs or activities, please contact Lynn at 780-797-3054. All activities are open to the community, and all levels of skill or expertise are welcome.

The membership and guests have also been enjoying the monthly social get-togethers, called Sundowners, as well as the very well attended BBQ in June, Octoberfest in October and the Holiday Dinner in December. Jamborees are held once a month, and those attending enjoy dancing, eating, and socializing. In November, the Seniors Centre hosted the Remembrance Day service, followed by coffee and treats in our Centre. Also in November, we had a successful Craft Sale, Cookie Walk, and Tea which brought people together to shop and socialize with their neighbors.

Speaking of shopping, have you discovered the Seba Seniors Thrift Shop yet? Wonderful bargain for all ages. In November each year, we also add a Christmas Store, which has become very popular for great gifts and decorations at affordable prices. Please support the Thrift Shop by shopping, donating, or volunteering, all of which are very rewarding. For more information, call the Thrift Shop at 780-797-3087 during opening hours — Wednesday and Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm.

As you probably know, our Centre is now barrier free for people with mobility issues, and this has certainly been appreciated by those people using our lift and the new washrooms. This was a valuable improvement to our building making it open to a wider segment of the public for activities in the Centre and also for people who wish to rent our hall.

We continued to improve our facility this year with two new energy efficient furnaces and programmable thermostats, and additional electrical outlets upstairs. You may have noticed our new paint job on the outside of the building done by willing volunteers - looks great. The deck extension is impressive, and we all appreciate the new garbage enclosure.

In 2016, the Seba Seniors will celebrate their 40th Anniversary - 40 years with amazing changes to our building but still a very dedicated group of volunteers who want to see our organization thrive. We are in the planning stages of festivities, and we ask you to watch for advertising in the spring about the 40th Anniversary, and to join us in celebration of our achievements. As a lead up to the 40th year, we have a very active committee of people planning some new landscaping for our building, so watch for this beginning in the spring. If you would like to help with labour or donating of trees and plants, etc., please call Annette at 780-721-6154.

We encourage you to visit our Centre, shop at the Thrift Shop, attend an activity, and if you see what you like, sign up for a membership. If you have any suggestions for improvements or new activities, we would love to hear from you - contact information below.

Be sure to check our sign for 'what's happening'. You can contact us Seba Beach Seniors; 109-First St., PO Box 293, Seba Beach, Alta.T0E 2BO 780-797-3087 President: Lynn Berg 780-797-3054

