

SUMMER VILLAGE OF NAKAMUN PARK

2020 NEWSLETTER AND COMMUNITY INFORMATION PAMPHLET

GREETINGS AND WELCOME

From Council and Administration

Mayor's Message 2020

Spring has finally sprung and I'm sure we are all looking forward to being out of doors after being indoors so long.

We passed a good winter, with some very nice days where we could get out and walk, or use the skating and curling rinks. Our February Family Day activities were enjoyed by a group of approximately 50. A huge thank you to Dean and Carrie Wilmot for getting the ice surfaces ready, building the bonfire, and keeping things going. Thanks also to their helpers. Events don't just happen, they require good volunteers.

Some good news is that we finally got the permit to repair the boat launch. Thanks to Bob Charter for his input in planning, and his hard work with a short deadline. After some long days, he managed to get it done. It looks great. Thanks Bob.

Other good news that might be helpful is that Onoway Public Library is offering curb side pickup while the library is closed due to the Covid-19 virus. Check out their website for further information.

With the Covid-19 virus crisis and social distancing, we remind cottagers to be diligent and considerate to others. While I know everyone is eager to catch up with their friends and neighbours, please do so at a distance until the mandated restrictions are relaxed. For its part, Council has decided to postpone many of our regular seasonal activities until further notice. Our May garage sales, baseball season, and the Summer Village annual meeting and BBQ are postponed indefinitely. Perhaps we will be able to have them in August.

On behalf of Council and Administration, I wish you all a happy and safe summer.

Mayor Marge Hanssen

IMPORTANT NOTES

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Key Dates

Sept. 30: Tax Payment Deadline
(2020 taxes due!!!)

Oct. 1: Current Year Penalty
(18% on current balance)

Jan. 1: Tax Arrears Penalty
(18% on total outstanding balance)

July 24: Assessment Appeals
(property assessment complaint deadline)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

COVID-19 and 2020 Property Tax Relief

Aligning with our federal and provincial partners, the Summer Village of Nakamun Park is committed to helping our community weather the COVID-19 pandemic. Council understands that the unprecedented challenge of addressing COVID-19 has required an immense sacrifice and will likely continue to impact our economic and social framework well into summer 2020, and beyond. Administration was tasked with drafting some possible COVID-19 relief measures to help our ratepayers weather this time of uncertainty. Along with Budget 2020 and the various required tax rate bylaws for the year, Council reviewed relief proposals during their April 15th, 2020 regular council meeting.

The Summer Village of Nakamun Park has a healthy cash reserve – equivalent to over one year's operating requirements. This has allowed Council to approve the following relief measures:

- **Pass Budget 2020 with a 0.7% increase in mill rates (the lowest annual adjustment on record);**
- **Scale back the Minimum Amount Payable (MAP) adjustments from \$750 (projected) to \$725 (approved)*;**
- **Maintain services and spending by accessing operating grants and reallocating the 2019 budget surplus;**
- **Defer the tax payment deadline to September 30th, 2020 (traditionally due June 30th annually).**

Council is committed to ensuring that the municipality works towards greater financial independence for the future, but also recognizes 2020 will be a year to focus on how we can help in the present. The relief measures approved for 2020 will keep taxes affordable and give property owners additional time to sort their personal finances before paying the bill. It must be noted that the municipality does have cash flow commitments to consider, and therefore we are asking that if you are able to pay before the deadline you please consider doing so. The relief program is temporary, and the traditional penalty structure on outstanding balances will take effect after the September 30th, 2020 payment deadline.

It must also be noted that the adjustment to the 2020 tax payment deadline will not impact those subscribed to the Tax Payment Plan (TPP) and your monthly payments will continue as normal. There are two reasons that no specific aid was considered for TPP accounts. Firstly, the TPP program is an existing relief service, of sorts, as it allows taxes to be paid in increments over the course of the year (rather than in one lump sum) in order to avoid penalties. Secondly, the TPP subscription is established by agreement and a default renegotiation of all those agreements is not feasible at this time.

Notwithstanding the above, whether you are on the TPP or hoping to pay in full by the deadline, the municipality is committed to working with property owners during this difficult time. If you want to join the TPP, or need additional flexibility in paying your 2020 taxes, please contact the office and discuss options that work for you on a one-on-one basis.

The increase in mill rates and MAP charge referenced above are attributed to a new provincial policing expense in the budget. This charge is deemed to be a "core service" available to all properties and therefore required a proportional adjustment to the MAP rate. Aside from this external policing cost (which is remitted to the province), Council has worked hard to ensure that the same service level the municipality received in 2019 is maintained for 2020, without increasing taxes to cover those core services.

Tax Notice & Assessments

Enclosed with this newsletter, please find your 2020 property tax notice. Taxes are **due September 30th, 2020** by 12:00 midnight and may be mailed or delivered to the office at the provided address. You may also pay your taxes via e-transfer; send to cao@svnakamun.com, no password required. If you would like a receipt to confirm your payment has been received, you may request one at the time of payment and a receipt will be mailed (or emailed).

If you wish to appeal your assessment, you have until **July 24th, 2020** to file a complaint with the Administrator. If you believe your assessment is incorrect, we encourage you to start by contacting the assessor before filing an appeal. Additional information regarding the appeal process can be found on the reverse side of your tax notice.

Tax Payment Plan

As in past years, the municipality offers property owners access to a preauthorized tax payment plan. This allows property owners to make regular monthly payments over the year, as opposed to paying

the balance of their municipal taxes in one annual payment.

If you are an existing Tax Payment Plan (TPP) subscriber please note that your 2020/2021 payment calculation is enclosed in the your 2020 tax notice. This will indicate the payments that will be withdrawn from your account over the next twelve months.

If you would like to know more information on the Tax Payment Plan option, register for the program, or make changes to an account, please contact the office.

Council Meetings

Regular council meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of every month, with dates confirmed at the preceding council meeting.

Public attendance is always welcome at council meetings, however if you wish to make a formal presentation on a matter you are required to make a written/email submission to the administration office at least one week prior to the meeting date so that we can ensure you have an appointment on the agenda. This advance notice will also

give administration time to gather related background information to help in the decision-making process.

During the current COVID-19 situation, Council is continuing to meet – if not in person, at least via teleconference. Meetings remain open to the public. Our office chambers can host a limited number of gallery spectators and still observe social distancing requirements. If you are interested in observing a meeting please contact the office to confirm options; we may need to arrange remote access options if we exceed a certain gallery size.

MDP, Bylaws and Public Hearings

Over the next few months, Council is scheduled to review several bylaws, including a Municipal Development Plan Bylaw, that may require public hearings. The COVID-19 situation may make this difficult, but we are exploring options that allow us to continue with these important initiatives while preserving your right to engage in the process. While there are no dates, times, locations set yet, we will provide details if/when they become available.

Similarly, we had hoped to hold some public consultations with the WILD Water Commission regarding Phase IV alignment and truck fill siting (discussed in more detail later). While not required, these are still something we would like to facilitate, and we are working to find a way to do that.

Public Works Department

We welcome back Larry Tarnowski for another season as Summer Village Foreman. Larry will be on staff from May through September 2020.

The public works department will continue with normal operations, including grass cutting, road maintenance and weed harvesting activities through out the 2020 season. Except for the Boat Launch Repair Project, that was substantially completed earlier this year, there are no confirmed major capital projects for 2020. Administratively, we are reviewing some drainage issues and pending additional grant availability may request Council's consideration of any additional projects later in the season.

Relevant details on any approved or arising projects will be posted to the website

to keep the community informed and aware of potential impact such as traffic restrictions or restricted access to properties.

Boat Launch Rehabilitation

As referenced in Mayor Hanssen's message, the Summer Village permit for the boat launch was approved in March 2020. The approvals process took much longer than expected, but we are pleased that a multi-year repair and maintenance permit was issued (expiring 2036) that will allow a timely response to future rehabilitation needs.

Mr. Charter did a great job on the rehabilitation project and we extend our sincere appreciation for his hard work and skill. Bob has asked that we do communicate to residents that the Boat Launch is open, however the project is two-stage. We expect there to be some settling over the summer and barring any major shifts requiring immediate attention, a final layer of aggregate and any touch-ups will be addressed in fall 2020.

If you notice any damage to the launch, please forward

these concerns to office as soon as possible.

Recreation Committee and Summer Activities

Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 is likely to result in the cancelling, or postponing, of many of the usual summer activities. We will continue to evaluate the possibility for hosting any community events but for now these events are postponed.

For now, Baseball at Ted MacDonald Park is postponed as well. However, our volunteers are exploring ways for the games to continue while maintaining social distancing requirements – so keep an eye on the website for updates to the schedule or details on modified format.

Council has also made the difficult decision to postpone the Annual Information Meeting and BBQ, usually held in early July. We know this is an important opportunity to come together as a community and for ratepayers to engage with their elected representatives – we will work to reschedule a date for the 2020 AIM as soon as feasible.

Notwithstanding the current restrictions, the Recreation Committee is always looking for members and ideas for events throughout the year. Mayor Hanssen is council's representative on, and Chair of, the Recreation Committee. If you are interested in joining, volunteering or sharing an idea for an activity, please contact Marge.

Also, please join us in thanking all our awesome volunteers! Without them many of the activities we enjoy as a community every year would not be possible.

Development

If you have your own plans for a summer project, please make sure you consult with the Land Use Bylaw (a copy can be found on the village website) and get in touch with our Development Officer, Tony Sonnleitner, before you begin.

Your project may need to be approved as part of a development permit and it is always a good idea to check that it meets community standards for setbacks, coverage and aesthetics before you start.

If you require a development permit from Development, or building permits through our accredited service provider Superior Safety Codes, please allow extra time for processing. These services remain in place despite COVID-19, but additional precautions may result in longer timelines for the inspection process.

Boating Etiquette

Please use common sense when boating to ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer on the lake. Keep your speed down, no alcohol allowed in boats, keep the music in your boat at a level for you to enjoy (not the rest of the lake) and watch out for other watercraft, including people out fishing.

Lake Weed Harvesting

The Government of Alberta has approved our permit for harvesting weeds on the lakeshore. There are specific rules on when and where we can harvest – for example only one pass is allowed each year, and only a single 3 metre swathe (perpendicular to the shore) adjacent to subject properties.

Noise Bylaw

Please ensure that you control excessive noise that may be

affecting your neighbours. The Noise bylaw is in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Bylaw 2020-4 was recently passed by Council and codifies aspects of previous sections (in other bylaws) referencing "noise pollution." A significant change worth noting is that noise restrictions apply from 11:00pm through 7:30am, year-round. A penalty schedule for violations in also incorporated.

Please Keep Our Roads Safe

As in previous years, there will be speed bumps placed through along Nakamun Drive during the summer season. We remind everyone to please observe speed limits and drive cautiously while traveling through the village.

Also, please avoid parking on the municipal roads, or road right-of-ways. It is important that residents and guests ensure they are parked entirely on private property; the village roads can be narrow at spots and we need to ensure traffic, service trucks, public works and emergency services can pass safely through the village. Please ensure you and your guests do not park on municipal roads.

Traffic Safety Act

ATV and Golf Cart Use

The Community Peace Officer has asked that we include a reminder to residents about authorized ATV operation and user requirements.

It is important that ATV users observe requirements for driver age restrictions, registration, licencing, insurance and helmets. Please recognize that these requirements vary for each small vehicle sub-class.

Also, note that golf carts are classified as a 'prohibited miniature vehicle' and may not be operated by anyone, at any time, for any reason, on any roadway or highway. While golf carts may be used on private property, please be respectful of the stated restrictions and keep them off municipal roadways; the Community Peace Officer (CPO) has been asked to remain particularly attentive to this matter on the go-forward.

Additional information will be provided on the village website (note the Provincial Small Vehicle Booklet for reference) and is also available directly via

www.saferroads.com. If you have any questions regarding vehicle classifications or operating requirements and restrictions please reference the material, or contact the CPO at 1-844-786-4650, bylaw@mayerthorpe.ca.

New Dock Permit Rules

There are new requirements in place for placing a dock in the lake! The User Guide for Dock Permits outlines the requirements and process for an individual to obtain an authorization to place a temporary, seasonal dock for personal recreational use in Alberta's water bodies.

Documents you will require to obtain a dock permit:

- a) User Guide for Dock Permits - Government of Alberta 2019
- b) Dock TFA Application
- c) Crown Land Client ID Application

Note: If you as the applicant are NOT the owner of the waterfront land parcel, the department will then require the applicant to obtain the written consent of the waterfront landowner or holder before the application will be considered for approval. You will need to attach this consent to your application. If the land is one of the Summer Village's

reserve areas, please email the administration office to request a letter of consent and provide your contact information and where you are requesting to place the dock.

Additional information and reference material will be available on the website.

Cannabis Use

Thankfully, residents have been respectful users of cannabis since legalization in 2018. By doing so, the summer village has been able to avoid the enforcement costs associated with consumption nuisance.

If you choose to use cannabis, please do so responsibly. Restrict use to private property and never use on municipal property, parks, or while operating vehicles or watercraft.

Pet Deposits

Every responsible dog owner agrees... picking up after your dog is a MUST. No matter where or when it occurs there is NO excuse for not scooping the poop, and if you don't you can be fined.

Also, the office has fielded an increased number of dog related noise complaints over

the past year. Please be respectful of your neighbours' peace and relaxation, including preventing excessive/aggressive barking and ensuring your pets are secured by a leash when not confined to private property.

Yellowhead Regional Library

As residents of a YRL member municipality, you are entitled to the full benefits of the YRL service. The Summer Village of Nakamun Park's designated library is the Onoway Public Library and library cards can be purchased from there. For details on library hours and information on how to obtain your card please contact the library directly at 780-967-2445.

Waste Disposal

Summer village residents are permitted to use the various county waste transfer stations, but you can only take bagged waste and you need to purchase garbage tokens - one token per bag (including recycling).

Tokens can be purchased locally from Bill Burrell; you can contact Bill at 780-967-3691 to arrange for purchasing tokens.

For disposing of larger items like appliances, branches, etc. you need to go to the

main landfill site on Hwy 43. Toxic materials are being accepted at the Regional Weigh Stations (Onoway and Rich Valley); however, do not mix toxic materials such as paints, aerosol cans, batteries, fluorescent bulbs etc. with regular garbage.

More information on transfer station locations and hours of operation are available at:

<http://lsac.ca/services/solid-waste-recycling?id=137>

Fire Bans

Council would like to remind residents and their guests to use extreme caution when enjoying a fire.

Fire Bans will be posted on the Village website and signs placed at both entrances to the village. As we move into fire season, the Summer Village will actively consult with provincial authorities and our fire service provider for direction. Onoway Regional Fire Services provides our fire protection services and we are obligated to follow their recommendations on this matter. Council may wish to further restrict fire permits or issue their own bans for the village at their discretion.

WILD Water

Phase II of the WILD Water project has been completed. There are currently truck fill stations in Alberta Beach and on Heatherdown road south of Onoway.

These stations give regional access to commercial and private haulers; if you are a hauler and wish to gain access to these stations please contact the WILD Water Commission directly through their account management agent Flowpoint at 1(844)509-2837 or by visiting www.water-fill.com to set up your account.

Phase III and Phase IV of the WILD Transmission line have been approved and are currently in design stage. Phase IV will see water piped up Highway 777 and then branching north to the Nakamun Lake region and East towards Sandy Lake, capping with a truck fill station in each respective area. While no proposed location for the Nakamun Site has been finalized, the municipality will remain engaged in exploring feasible options that deliver this vital service without compromising local infrastructure in the process.

Need More Info?

We hope this newsletter highlighted the issues that are important to you with enough detail to keep you engaged. If you require additional information on any of the

topics listed above, or any other matter related to the administration of your summer village, contact the office.

Sign Up Today...

...for the new **Nakamun Park Connect** and receive

information on community events, public notices, and emergency alerts for the community. Visit the website for more information or to register for the system!



**STAY CONNECTED
Register With Us**

We are proud to announce the launch of our new Communication system Nakamun Park Connect. This system will keep you informed about the latest news, events and information from our community and emergency information from the Regional Emergency management group. Alerting options include:



Voice Call



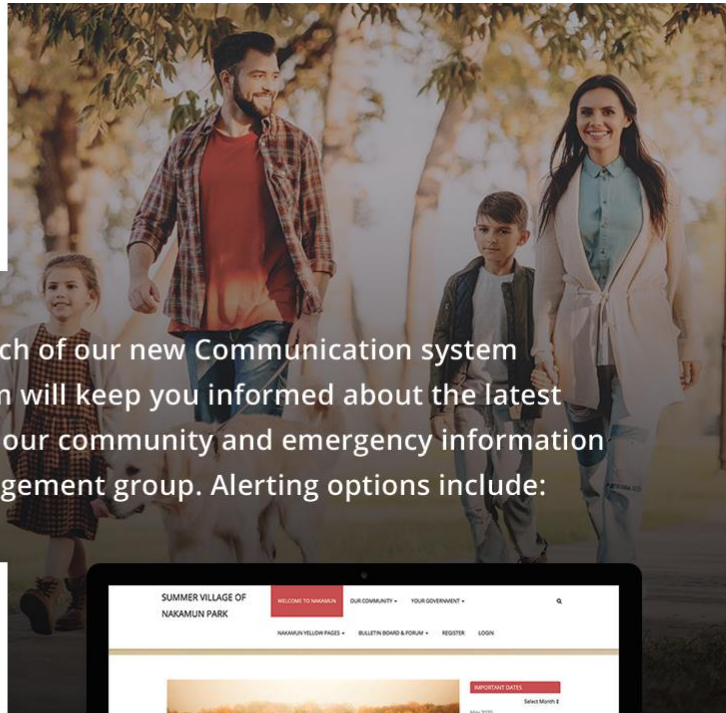
Text Messaging



Mass Email



Social Media



Sign up today!

www.svnakamun.com

Not online? Call the Village Office at
(780) 967-0271