

## Summer Village of White Sands Newsletter Spring 2013



Dear Rate Payers,

Sure has seemed like a long winter. However, we are pretty sure spring is going to happen any time now and we are looking forward to the warm summer days.

Here is the goings on with Village Council:

- Bad news with the Provincial budget.
  - The 12% cap on the school requisition disappeared. This means that the Village will be paying an additional school tax of about \$47,000 this year.
  - The Government also did away with our STEP grant for our summer helper. That will cost the Village about \$3,000. In spite of the Provincial Government cuts, we will still employ a summer helper for Allan.  
This will mean my personal property taxes will increase about \$300. Empty lots will increase about \$100. This does not include any increases we need to operate the Village.
- We are looking into a new-to-Canada dust control that is cost effective and environmentally friendly called Ryno Snot (yes, really).
- We took 4 licenses to pump water into the lake from flooded areas this year but are hoping we do not have to use them.
- There will be more waste containers put up around the Village to help with doggy doo disposal. Thanks everyone for picking up after your pet.
- We have a new attachment for the mower to sweep gravel out of the grass beside the roads. This will help with broken windows and gravel costs. Also, you good folks that help clear snow, please be careful not to push the gravel into the ditches. Thanks for your help.
- We have purchased a 16 foot section to add to the dock at the boat launch. Hope this helps.
- I have been attending Fire Smart meetings at Rochon Sands. The biggest problem is deadfall. If you can remove deadfall from your property and any Village property that will help. We know it is a huge job but if we all keep picking away at it, it makes a difference.
- The Shirley McClellan Water Line to Red Willow and Donalds will run within 5 km of the Village. However, Provincial funding for South Buffalo Lake is up in the air.
- The South Shore Development Plan is just about complete. I will update everyone at the Annual General Meeting.
- The RCMP now have a boat to patrol the lake. They will have a zero tolerance for alcohol and boating infractions. Operating a boat while impaired will result in the loss of your vehicle driver's license as well as your boating license.
- Coming events include an open house for Parks Day on July 20<sup>th</sup> at Rochon Sands Provincial Park; an open house for the Buffalo Lake Management Team who look after lake stabilization and right-of-way around the lake at Rochon Sands Hall on August 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and at Pelican Point from 2 pm to 4 pm; an open house about the Fire Smart Program the morning of May 18<sup>th</sup> at the Rochon Sands Hall.
- As you are aware, all off road vehicles including golf carts and quads are illegal to operate on Village roads. Please do not let children operate these vehicles as it puts everyone at great risk.
- Lake front owners, please keep your quads off of the beach. Having access from your property does not give you special rights and I have had complaints.
- A fire escape road through to Bar Harbour is in the planning stages.

- New property owners - Approved holding tanks are required under all outhouses, not just a hole in the ground.
- I attended a course on Emergency Alert responses. An emergency would be broadcasted on radio, television, Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- There is now a drop box for recycling household batteries and cell phones at the dumpsters. Please tape battery terminals.
- If boat lifts and docks are not going to be put in the water, they must be removed from the beach and Village property. Please phone Lorne at 403-742-0210 if you will have problems complying.
- Allan will be picking up any weeds piled on the beach every Thursday starting in June time permitting.
- As always, fire pits are not permitted off of your property and fireworks are prohibited in the Village.
- Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Alberta says we have to maintain the natural vegetation along the shoreline. Do not remove any vegetation from the shoreline or in the water without approval from the Alberta Government. A fellow at Gull Lake was recently fined \$20,000.
- Someone made a mess on the beach access at the end of Front Street with off road vehicles. Our maintenance workers have enough to do without having to fix senseless damage. We are working on a stair system and erosion control for that area. Please ensure your family members and guests respect our Village.
- Again, many thanks go out to all the Villagers, like the Hall Committee and the Bottle Committee along with the many individuals who help take care of our little piece of paradise.
- For questions or concerns regarding any items in this newsletter please contact one of your Councillors. There is contact info on the Town of Stettler website whom contracts our Administration.
- This is Election Year with nomination day on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Village Hall from 10 am - 12 Noon. Election Day will be held on Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 7 pm at the hall. This will be for a four year term. For more information contact Greg Switenky at 403-742-8305.
- Our Annual General Meeting will be on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at the hall. Hope to see you all there.

Respectfully

Lorne on behalf of  
 Myself, Colin and Barry  
 Summer Village of White Sands Council



### **White Sands Community Hall Society**

The White Sands Community Hall Society raises funds all year long which we use to improve our community. However, our residents understand that the Stettler Hospital is an integral part of our community, and we have shown our support with a donation of \$1,000 to the Hospital Foundation. This is an example of your bottles and cans at work. Our annual golf tournament and the summer BBQ will again support the Stettler Food Bank with donations of money or food. Our new bottle sorting garage was completed last fall and we have been busy with organizing the space. It is a wonderful improvement over our smaller, colder sorting building and we thank the Village Councillors for their decision to build the garage. Our 2013 White Sands Golf Tourney will be held the morning of July 13, with lunch and prizes at the hall afterwards. To sign up, please call Carl at 403-742-1463. Our next meeting is planned for July 9 at 6:00 pm at the hall – everyone is welcome to attend.