

Summer Village of Ross Haven Newsletter Spring 2020



Mayor's Message

Dear Ross Haven Ratepayer,

With the difficult economic times as a result of the provincial budget and the Covid-19 pandemic your Ross Haven Council has endeavored to ensure that we would pass on no rate increases to any of our ratepayers. One item that we have had been requisitioning for includes policing, and this year's cost is \$1600.00. The Summer Villages of Alberta have also been mandated to coordinate with its neighbors and develop Emergency Management Systems in order to be prepared of an emergency such as a wildfire. This has involved many meetings and training costs which we have been able to accomplish within our existing budget. The emergency management fees this year have increased from \$2500.00 to \$3500.00. Summer Villages that do not pass the Provincial audit this year put the status of their Village at risk and will possibly be dissolved. There have been four villages that have already dissolved. At no other time has the Summer Villages Association been so concerned for the status of all Summer Villages. In meetings with Minister Kaycee Madu, he has not ruled out dissolving the Summer Villages for the betterment of Provincial Budgets and reallocation of MSI funding to larger municipalities. We encourage all ratepayers to contact your MLA on the viability of Summer Villages.

There will also be other costs that will affect out rate payers that are not in the control of your council. The largest increase will be from the 43 Lagoon Commission. An additional \$20.00 will be added to the load fee, changing the fees from \$26.00 to \$46.00 per 10 cubic meters or legal load. This increase was driven by the Town of Onoway due to their dumping fee increase. The lagoon commission will be installing Sewage Receiving Systems that will measure how much a truck is carrying and if the carrier is working to their legal load limit. Keeping the carriers to legal load limits will protect our roads especially our side streets and Range Road 34. It's been reported that some carriers have been consistently hauling up to 24 cubic meters.

For the past few years Ross Haven has been putting a side MSI funding for capital projects, and budgeting for improvement projects. This is government money assigned for specific approved projects within the Village. It is especially important to address at this time because if we have to dissolve, the County of Lac St. Anne will not have the funding to accomplish these projects and the money will have to be returned.

Ditches and Culverts; This year we will be engineering and designing all the ditches and culverts to insure proper drainage. There will be more to follow as the design gets completed.

Sewer Project; Another project that we have funding for, from "Water for Life," is the extension of the force main (sewer) project into Ross Haven. The grant money is available, and we are strongly encouraged to use it as it would be very prudent of us to take advantage of this grant money. With the force main project on our doorstep and with the potential of the Province mandating the project due to the availability of the government funding for environmental and health reasons we will be moving forward with this project this year. We could potentially have to fund 100% of this project if we delay using our MSI funds. Again, there will be more information to follow.

Dock Permits

Please be reminded that there are new Provincial requirements for installing piers and docks. Information on the website under "Docks".

Further, where there is Municipal Reserve land between a lot and the Lake, approval for a dock or pier is required from the Summer Village of Ross Haven. This specifically pertains to: 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820 & 821 - 8th Street, 959, 960, 961, 962 & 963 - 9th Street, and 1091, 1092 & 1093 - 10th Street. Please contact Administration at (780) 999-6654 before undertaking any works upon the Municipal Reserve lands.

Storage of Boatlifts on Municipal Parkways

Municipal Policy requires that all privately-owned boatlifts be removed from the parks and parkways between June 1 and September 1 of a given year. With the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, leeway will be granted on this requirement, until further notice.

Golf Carts

Please be reminded that Golf Carts are prohibited from being driven upon Municipal Roadways.

TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT

Property Assessment and Assessment Complaint Procedure

Each year, the Assessor will inspect certain properties within the Municipality. The property assessment is the estimated market value of your property which is used to calculate property taxes. If you disagree with your assessed value, you have 60 days from the date of your assessment notice to make an assessment complaint. This year, the assessment complaint deadline is July 10, 2020. There is a fee of \$50.00 that must accompany a completed assessment complaint form. A copy of the form is available from Administration. Prior to completing the assessment complaint form, please contact the Assessor to first discuss the matter of your assessment – Dan Kanuka – (780) 939-3310.

Note: The 2018 and 2019 Assessments are on the Municipal website under Taxation.

Property Taxes – Due June 30, 2020

The Summer Village collects taxes annually to meet the projected costs of providing services to the community. These revenues are received through grants and municipal taxes. Other amounts collected on your annual tax bill are collected on behalf of the Lac Ste. Anne Foundation and the Alberta School Fund.

Dogs at Large and Dog Feces

Council requests your cooperation in ensuring dogs are kept on-leash as per our Bylaws. Over the summer, some residents have contacted the Village with concerns about large dogs running loose in the Village, posing a threat to small dogs and kids.

Further, Administration has received numerous complaints about dog owners not cleaning up after their pets. Please be a responsible dog owner.

Emergency Contact Information

In the past couple of Newsletters, we have asked residents to provide emergency contact information. Our emergency contact list is growing, but we still do not have the contact information for all properties in the Village. If you wish to provide an emergency contact number/email, or if you prefer to receive your Ross Haven Newsletter by email, please notify cao@rosshaven.ca

Public Works

We would like to thank the residents for their cooperation in bringing only leaves and grass clippings to the compost yard. By eliminating the large branches, we have been able to reduce the cost of our landfill fees.

The Village is trying to negotiate a reduced fee for the disposal of our compost materials at the land fill. By ensuring we only have compostable items such as grass clippings and leaves, it furthers our negotiating with

the Highway 43 East Waste Commission. If you have large loads, they can be hauled directly to the landfill, or contracted through the Village for removal at a fee for service. Council would also like to thank residents for using proper garbage cans, and a garage must be in bags. Please be reminded that the maximum weight of garbage, including can, shall not exceed 40 lbs. (18.1 kg.). This year we have experienced more garbage being strewn around by birds, foxes and skunks, etc. Please ensure your garbage is put out in "critter" proof containers.

Contacts

Municipal Administrator

Tony Sonnleitner

Email cao@rosshaven.ca

Mayor Louis Belland

Email: louis.belland@yahoo.com

Deputy-Mayor Bruce Stonehouse

Email: bstonehouse@telus.net

Councillor Position – Bill Saunder

Email:

billonrosshavencouncil@gmail.com

Development Permits

Tony Sonnleitner

780 718-5479

Safety Code Permits

Superior Safety Codes Inc

780-489-4777

Onoway Regional Medical Clinic

780-967-6477

**Open late on Wednesdays for
appointments**

RCMP

Emergency 911

Non-emergency 780 968-7200

Stony Plain Detachment

Fire/Ambulance 911

Non-Emergency Fire

Onoway Regional Fire Services

24-hour dispatch 1-855-710-FIRE

Operation Centre 780-777-4688

**Permits are required for all Fire Works
that will be set off in the Summer
Village of Ross Haven. Contact the
Village Office for the application forms.**

**Note: Only licensed pyrotechnicians will
be granted a permit.**