

**SUMMER VILLAGE of ROSS HAVEN**  
**MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

**Prepared March 2010**

## **1. INTRODUCTION:**

### **1.1 Municipal Characteristics 2009**

The Summer Village of Ross Haven is located approximately 80 kilometers northwest of Edmonton on the north shore of Lac Ste. Anne in the County of Lac Ste. Anne. The Summer Village is both a rural residence for working families and retired persons and a four season recreational centre destination. There is a mixture of young families, working couples and retired seniors who make Ross Haven their permanent home. As well, there are numerous part time seasonal residents who come from all over the Province to enjoy the benefits of Lac Ste. Anne with their point of entry being the Summer Village of Ross Haven.

The Summer Village has a Council of three elected officials who own property in the village. The Council is very serious about being good stewards of the land and water and wants to leave natural habitat areas, developed walkways, parks, playgrounds and recreational areas. Community activities emphasize family, recreation, health, wellness and participation for all ages.

The Council and landowners within the Summer Village are not interested in becoming a town such as Alberta Beach but rather they want to provide for sustainable development within the limits and capacity of the Summer Village and are prepared to work with their municipal partners; those being the County of Lac Ste. Anne and the other eleven summer villages around Lac Ste. Anne, to ensure that the development around the lake is managed in an effective and responsible manner.

Quality of life is paramount to all landowners and they want to maintain their country setting while still enjoying the amenities offered in larger centers.

To that end this Municipal Sustainability Plan is focused on improving the quality of life of residents and the quality of the environment of their surroundings.

## SUMMER VILLAGE OF ROSS HAVEN STATISTICS

### Memberships in Regional Commissions and Associations

Highway 43 East Waste Commission  
North 43 Lagoon Commission  
West Inter-Lake District Water Commission  
Ste. Anne Regional Trail Use Committee  
Summer Villages of Lac Ste. Anne County East  
Alberta Summer Villages Association  
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association  
Lac Ste. Anne Foundation  
East End Bus Service

### General Statistics (2009)

Population – Full time 198  
Population – seasonal approximately 600  
Number of Lots within Summer Village 234

Total Village Positions: 3  
One Permanent Chief Administrative Officer  
One full time Maintenance/Public Works  
One part time seasonal grounds keeper

#### **1.1 Quality of Life Assets**

- Maintenance Shop & Quonset – this facility is being rebuilt and allows for 100% of in-house maintenance year round for the village including curbside garbage collection, snow removal and sanding of streets, public area grass cutting, weed control, deadfall removal, residential construction removal upon request and allows for the inside storage of all vehicles and equipment. Provides a lunch area, washroom facilities etc for maintenance staff.
- Gazebo – located in the main park. Equipped with picnic tables and portable fire pit. To be utilized for Village events and private resident functions. Canada Day celebrations are held here each year.
- Multi-purpose court – located in the main park. Hard surfaced enclosed court for year round use. Volleyball, basketball, tennis and hockey.

- Ball diamond – located in the main park.
- Playgrounds – The Summer Village has two modern playground facilities. The smaller one is located between 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> streets and the larger more advanced one is located in the main park adjacent to the multi-purpose court and the gazebo.
- Public Beaches- The Village does not have an official developed public beach area such as Alberta beach but does have numerous public beach and water accesses throughout the village. All are located off of public walkways and green spaces. Most are left in natural vegetation and some are cleared to make sand beaches. The largest public access areas are the ones located in the Bay between 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> streets and the other between 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> streets. These access areas are to allow for private boat docks, boat lifts etc. to be put in and taken out each year. There is no boat launch area in the summer village. We are adjacent to a County Road which is used in the winter as a recreational access to Lac Ste. Anne as well as access for emergency vehicles year round.
- Golf Course- the Ross Haven Golf course is a privately owned 9 hole facility which is currently being redesigned and rebuilt to allow for a more community based social year round gathering area. This facility in its current state has entertained hundreds of golfers throughout the season both local residents and county residents.
- Ross Haven Bible Camp – this is a privately owned facility that holds week long camps throughout the year and also hosts numerous village activities upon request such as the Annual Town Hall Meeting.
- Ross Haven Community League – this is a volunteer non profit organization created to promote social, recreational and fund raising opportunities for the Summer Village. There is no physical Community League building at present.
- Walkways/Green spaces – the village maintains a continuous walkway system that runs from one end of the village to the other with public green spaces connecting the walkway between streets. These walkways provide citizens with a means to enjoy safe enjoyable walks throughout the village without having to take the main road. The green spaces allow for recreation opportunities other than the main park.

## **2. BUILDING A COMMUNITY PLAN:**

### **2.1 Community Sustainability Plan Overview**

In May 2005, the New Deal for Cities and Communities (NDCC) between Canada and Alberta was signed to transfer federal gas tax funding to Alberta Municipalities. Subsequently, each Alberta municipality was invited to join this program and signed an agreement with the Province of Alberta outlining the requirements and benefits under the program. The NDCC provides financial assistance to municipalities to support the sustainability of capital municipal infrastructure. Through this investment municipalities have the opportunity to maintain or enhance economic, social and cultural opportunities and well being, while protecting and improving the quality of the environment. Funding under this program supports the development of public transit systems, water and wastewater systems, solid waste management community energy systems and community capacity building. Included in the list of eligible projects are design and engineering services, vehicle purchases, construction and rehabilitation. In addition, the program may include barrier-free transportation initiatives to improve accessibility for seniors and persons with disabilities. As part of the agreement, municipalities are required to develop a Community Sustainability Plan by 2009. This long-range plan has five dimensions – environmental, governance, cultural, social and economic – to be developed through public consultation and will provide direction to their Multi-Year Capital Infrastructure Plan. This Plan is intended to be a guiding document to provide direction to village staff as they prepare capital and operating budgets to reflect the funding and resources required to accomplish the goals of Council. The Integrated Community Sustainability Plan will be reviewed annually as part of the budgeting process and administration should measure how and when the initiatives are being accomplished.

## 2.2 Purpose of the MSP

The purpose of the Summer Village of Ross Haven MSP is to provide a policy framework and implementation strategy to enhance the quality of life for members of the community. Specifically the MSP has been developed to:

- Act as a policy foundation for all further planning initiatives that will be required as the Summer Village of Ross Haven continues to grow into a full time residential and recreational area.
- The MSP will guide planning activities within Ross Haven as they relate to promoting, preserving and enhancing Ross Haven's social, economic, cultural and environmental identity.
- Direct the planned phasing of land use and servicing, required to accommodate future development in the community.
- Ensure that the Summer Village of Ross Haven conforms to Provincial requirements thereby ensuring eligibility for future grants and investment programs.
- Provide a clear prospective on the Summer Village of Ross Haven's preferred direction with respect to future land uses, infrastructure servicing, social investment and environmental protection.
- The MSP will serve as a guide for the preparation of a financial strategy and service delivery strategy to clearly identify where the Village's priorities should lie
- Serve as a platform for greater integration of the Summer Village of Ross Haven's interests into regional initiatives and activities.

## 3. MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY

### Key Results, Strategies and Actions

#### 3.1. Governance Strategies

##### 3.1.1 **Initiative:** Obtain Approval to Annex/Amalgamate

**Key Results:** The Village will obtain approval to either Annex or amalgamate

**Strategies:** Council will continue to lobby for Government changes to The MGA to allow Summer Villages to grow/expand.

Council will approach neighboring communities/residents regarding opportunities for amalgamation/growth.

- 3.1.2 **Initiative:** Improve Community Communication  
**Key Results:** The Municipality will distribute a newsletter on a more frequent basis.  
The Municipality will develop a website  
**Strategies:** Determine the best way and frequency to distribute newsletter to village residents.  
Start process of creating website  
Up date Ross Haven website monthly once created.
- 3.1.3 **Initiative:** Review, Update or Create Agreements with other Surrounding Municipalities  
**Key Results:** The village will have a more cost effective and Workable means of delivering services.  
**Strategies:** Work with other Summer Villages around Lac Ste. Anne and the County to develop a Municipal Services Package
- 3.1.4 **Initiative:** Improve Corporate Governance  
**Key Results:** The Municipality will update its Key policies, procedures and bylaws.  
**Strategies:** The Council and the Chief Administrative Officer will undertake a review of all key policies, procedures and bylaws
- 3.1.5 **Initiative:** The Municipality will be financially sustainable  
**Key Results:** A multi-year operating and capital budget is prepared.  
**Strategies:** Council will approve a multi-year capital plan.  
Council will remain fiscally responsible

## 3.2 Environment & Infrastructure Strategies

- 3.2.1 **Initiative:** Develop Water and Waste Water Services  
**Key Results:** The municipality will have properties serviced with water and waste water services  
**Strategies:** Continue to work with Government and other municipalities on cost effective measures.

Continue working with Lagoon Commission to ensure effectiveness and longevity of the lagoon.

**3.2.2 Initiative:** To be good stewards of the land and water  
**Key Results:** Have good quality water and shore lines.  
**Strategies:** Investigate aeration project to clean up the lake  
Educate landowners in and around the village as to proper usage of fertilizers, vegetation removal etc.  
Work with DFO and Alberta Environment to ensure proper regulations and procedures are followed.

**3.2.3 Initiative:** Improve Highway access to the Community  
**Key Results:** Range Rd 34 south of Highway 43 will be upgraded and paved.  
**Strategies:** Lobby Alberta Transportation and the County and work with neighboring residents to undertake the reconstruction of Range Rd 34  
Work with Alberta Environment to ensure that upgrading of the Range Rd is not harmful to the environment.

**3.2.4 Initiative:** Develop a direct multi faceted walkway within the village  
**Key Results:** A pathway where cyclists, golf carts and walkers can travel along the main traffic corridor/  
**Strategies:** Work with appropriate government departments to obtain funding. Consultation and input from villagers.

### **3.3 Social Strategies**

**3.3.1 Initiative:** To get all residents involved  
**Key Results:** A much more active participation in activities within the village and a more family oriented  
**Strategies:** continue to work with the Community League to develop programs/activities to engage more of the municipality.  
Continue to work with the owners of the Golf Course to develop a more village square (gathering place) atmosphere for all residents.



### **3.4 Cultural and Recreational Strategies**

#### **3.4.1 Initiative:** Improved Lake front access and shoreline

**Key Results:** Improved water quality

Better access for all

**Strategies:** Improved public area signage including installing: public/private property line marker posts; upgrade benches, install garbage receptacles, picnic tables. Educate property owners and users of rules and regulations regarding riparian areas and vegetation control

#### **3.4.2 Initiative:** Regional Trail System

**Key Results:** A regional open space concept is prepared to limit environmental damage and allow for more usage.

**Strategies:** Continue to work with the County and other municipalities and stakeholders to develop a multi purpose trail system

### **3.5 Economic Strategies**

Since the village is a residential municipality only, with two private commercial operations, there is really no opportunity to increase revenues other than through taxes and the current council strives to keep the fiscal spending limited and under control and the raising of taxes is only done to offset the increase in operational costs.

**Initiative:** to keep costs down so that residents can continue to live in the summer village of Ross Haven economically and sustainably.

## **4. IN CONCLUSION**

The MSP's goals were drafted in conjunction with the guiding principles (2.2) and also respond to issues raised through discussions with the community. The goals are a set of strategies which are designed to provide the broad context within which appropriate land use decisions can be made.

Implementation of the Summer Village's MSP will be directed by the following set of goals.

- Establish a distinct identity for Ross Haven which included an emphasis on culture, uniqueness and families.
- Establish a Summer Village for all seasons, all ages, all peoples, in all phases of life.
- Preserve and enhance Ross Haven's small village character and charm
- Recognize the important role each generation plays in the community's future sustainability and plan for the development of facilities and programs oriented to the key demographic groups
- Plan for smart growth where integrated thinking on land use, infrastructure and financing is instructed by the care for the environment. This approach will provide the foundation for sustainable community growth while at the same time being good stewards of Lac Ste. Anne
- Maintain and preserve our integrated network of pathways, trails and usable green space linking the community's residential areas with the goal to enhancing Ross Haven's walk ability.
- Ensure that Ross Haven is accessible to all residents and all persons visiting the area
- Facilitate transportation linkages throughout the community that focus on upgraded roads, walkways and improved traffic safety
- Monitor quality of life indicators developed by the community to measure the success of Ross Haven's planning efforts and investments.