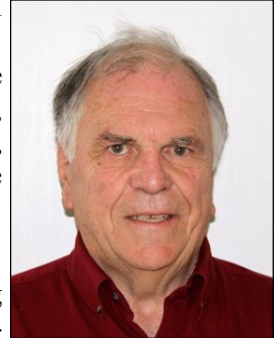


## Spring Newsletter

### Message from Mike Isaac, Mayor

All the best from your summer village Council, we trust that you all had a good winter season.

Activities for Council are typical for this time of the year. We have had a number of matters to address, such as the annual budget, taxes, road maintenance, recreational vehicle parking, bylaw enforcement, FireSmart, and other matters that have arisen over the course of the year.



#### **Budget and Taxation.**

Council, along with our CAO, spent a great deal of time developing the annual Summer Village budget. The 2015 Budget contains expenditures totaling \$251,257. Every effort has been made to keep property taxes as close as possible to last year's levy. Of a total of 88 taxable properties in the Summer Village, 27 will see a reduction in taxes. As a result, the overall tax increase will be less than 1.5% this year - an average increase of \$33.00 per taxable property. We have a balanced budget.

#### **Road Maintenance.**

The road maintenance plan involves road work every year. This summer we will continue to maintain the main roads and the arterial roads in the Village. In particular, we plan to apply asphalt to a number of service roads. This should greatly reduce the dust in residential areas.

#### **Safety.**

We want everyone (children, joggers, bikers, visitors, etc.) to be safe on our roads and in our community! Enhanced policing services to enforce the speed limits and bylaws is supported by the Summer Village. With the summer season almost upon us, we ask that you be mindful of bylaws and respect the rights of your neighbors.

Obey the speed limit in our village - **40 km/h**. There is also a speed limit for ATV's. Do not drive ATV's in ditches. We also ask that you remind your guests about the importance of responsible conduct. Be considerate and respect the rights of your neighbors regarding excessive noise, late parties, fireworks, trespassing, dogs running at large (please use a leash), and putting garbage in garbage bins. **Discharge of Fireworks is illegal.**

#### **Storage of Recreation Vehicles.**

The Summer Village Land Use Bylaw provides for a maximum of two RV's per residential lot. There are several properties in the Summer Village with multiple RVs, in contravention of the Land Use Bylaw. There are a number of excellent trailer facilities in the Summer Village capable of accommodating the overflow of trailers currently on residential lots. A preponderance of trailers with additional vehicles involved detracts from the overall appearance as well as the worth of nearby properties.

#### **Sewage Disposal.**

We are keenly aware of the potential for sewage contamination from some standalone trailers discharging grey water on to the ground. This practice is environmentally detrimental and is also a contravention of Provincial Safety Codes and also the Summer Village Sewage Bylaw. Please consider this an appeal that you bring your property into compliance. **It is preferable that property owners voluntarily comply rather than face the consequences of bylaw enforcement.**

It has come to our attention that several property owners have recently upgraded their sewage systems to comply with Summer Village Sewage Bylaws. We would like to compliment

#### **Inside this issue:**

Mayors Message 1

Annual Open House Saturday, July 11, 2015, 10:00 AM, Baptiste Firehall & Recreation Center. 2

Summer Village Contact Information. 2

#### **Special points of interest:**

- Website.
- Annual Open House
- Contact Information.

## Mayor's Message—Continued

these people. Our goal is full compliance for all property owners to minimize deficiencies of improper sewage disposal. On the same subject, the Summer Village in consultation with Aspen Health Services, has recently taken water samples of spring runoff in selected locations throughout the Summer Village. Samples are being tested by Alberta Provincial Labs for Ecoli and Coliform. Test results will be a good indication of the urgency with which deficient sewage systems require upgrading.

### New Firehall.

The Summer Villages on Baptiste and Island Lakes, in cooperation with Athabasca County all contributed capital funds for construction of a New Firehall located at Island Lake. The Volunteer Fire Department has made a commitment to all local Municipalities to operate both the Firehall at Baptiste Lake (in West Baptiste) and the new Firehall at Island Lake. We anticipate that the new facilities will significantly reduce response times in the event of any emergency.

### FireSmart.

The Summer Village, in cooperation with Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development is involved in FireSmart, a Provincial program dealing with forest fire prevention. A Contractor was hired to remove Flammable vegetation in the Summer Village in areas recommended by Sustainable Resource Development. The Flammable fuel reduction component of the FireSmart Project was done last winter. When undergrowth begins recovery later this summer we expect an improvement in the overall appearance of the Summer Village in addition to a reduction of risk due to wild-fire.

Lastly, please observe Fire Bans and Advisories. We believe that it is good practice to avoid using ATV's in wilderness areas during Fire Bans. The use of ATV's in the forest contribute significantly to risk of Wildfire. **At all times, be mindful of sparks from your exhaust which can start a fire. Make sure your ATV is clean and clear of debris.**

### Speed Sign.

The speed sign that was installed last summer was vandalized shortly after installation. Brad Padlewski along with our administrator have ordered replacement parts. As a consequence we expect the sign to be working shortly.

We have had our cottage for 38 years and on a recent trip to the Lake my wife and I did a complete tour of the Summer Village. I must say that with exception of multiple recreation vehicles stored on residential lots, I have never seen the Summer Village look better. It is a reflection of a commitment by the Community as well as Council to improving the appearance of the Summer Village.

Our sincere thanks to the residents of the Summer Village, Council colleagues, Emergency Response Personnel, our CAO, and all volunteers who have expended his or her time to make our summer village a pleasant place to live. Have fun this summer and be safe!

Mike Isaac, Mayor

## Annual Open House.

The Annual Open House will be held at the Baptiste Firehall and Recreation Center on Saturday, July 11, 2015, beginning at 10:00 AM. The Firehall is located at 945 Baptiste Drive, West Baptiste.

### Website

The Summer Village of South Baptiste Website is located at <http://www.southbaptiste.com/>

## Administration

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