

## **Mayor's Message**



**June 15<sup>th</sup> 2020**

On June 12, 2020 the Government of Alberta announced the conditions for Phase Two of the re-opening and relaxation of the covid-19 health order restrictions. Albertans can now visit and enjoy a variety of businesses and services, including indoor recreational facilities.

It is noted however, that there are precautionary measures that remain in place, such as strict social distancing, sanitization protocols, the use of face masks and of course hand washing. Also noted is a careful eye on new covid-19 cases, contact tracing and access to covid-19 testing for any Albertan.

With Phase Two now a reality, this weekly messaging will be discontinued unless and until the Government announces new restrictions or health and safety measures. Residents can follow news related to covid-19 via local media.

On behalf of Council, I thank all local residents for their patience and cooperation during the earlier stages of this pandemic.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay apart.

**Gordon Drybrough, Mayor**

**June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Well the re-opening of Alberta and indeed Canada, is proceeding slowly and cautiously. If you view the daily covid-19 statistics, (new cases, recovered cases, etc.), you will see a flattening of the curve but we are not at that point of no new cases for any sustained period of time.

This merely suggests that we need to continue to be vigilant, practice social distancing, frequent hand washing, regular disinfecting and wear masks.

When I am out and about wearing my mask, I do it for you, to protect you, and not to protect me.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay apart.

Gordon Drybrough, **Mayor**

## June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020

Alberta is currently functioning under phase 1 of the staged re-opening process, with the next phase scheduled for about the middle of June. Free face masks (a package of 4 per person) are soon to be distributed via drive-thru outlets including A&W, Tim Hortons and McDonalds.

Meanwhile, please continue to practice good hygiene, frequent hand washing and appropriate physician distancing.

In an unrelated matter, the Village has received two separate reports of a person or person unknown placing rocks at the causeway in an attempt to impede the flow of water from the north to south basins of Sandy Lake. The Summer Village has no authority whatsoever on matters of the lake, as the regulatory and enforcement authority resides entirely with the Province.

Accordingly, the Village has referred and reported the matter to Alberta Environment and Parks. See their website for details of what you can and cannot do as an owner of lakefront property.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay apart.

Gordon Drybrough, **Mayor**

**May 25<sup>th</sup> 2020**

Alberta is now just over a week into the phased re-opening. We are now able to get haircuts and styles, dine in at a restaurant, golf and visit another family. At the same time the occurrence of new covid-19 cases is being watched carefully. We are not out of the woods just yet.

Council will continue to meet remotely and the Village Office remains open for one visit at a time. Resident can contact the Summer village by phone, fax or email [svsandyb@xplornet.ca](mailto:svsandyb@xplornet.ca) or 780.967.2873 also. Annual tax payments please strongly consider email payments please and if you can please pay by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

The lake level appears to be at the level in several years, so there is now the opportunity to enjoy a paddle in your canoe or kayak.

If you are feeling isolated, depressed or anxious, kindly see previous Mayor's messages for sources of assistance, including some help lines and on-line services.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay apart.

Gordon Drybrough, **Mayor**

**May 18<sup>th</sup> 2020**

It was nice to see how some residents were able to celebrate the Victoria Day weekend. From canoeists to kayakers - even a small fishing boat - on the lake, those lighting up the sky with fireworks and others sitting around the fire, while still respecting physical distancing and crowd size suggestions.

Alberta is taking a somewhat cautious and staged re-opening process that so far appears to be working. Let us all do our part. Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay apart.

Gordon Drybrough, **Mayor**

**May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Alberta has announced a slow and gradual opening of various sectors of our economy. Keeping social distancing in mind, Albertans can now go golfing, visit provincial parks, take walks or jog on various trails. There is a concern that if things are opened up too quickly the consequence may be spike in new cases of covid-19 as has reportedly occurred in some jurisdictions.

The current message that will likely be repeated is to stay apart - maintain the 2 metres (6 feet) distance from one another, maintain good hygiene, such as hand washing, not touching your face, and sanitizing surfaces.

Here in the Village we can walk, visit the day park, get out in the garden and enjoy the warm sunny weather. Stay safe, Stay healthy. Stay apart.

Gordon Drybrough, **Mayor**

**May 4, 2020,**

As you are now no doubt aware, the Provincial Government has announced a staged plan to reduce COVID-19 restrictions. This comes at a time when many of feeling the ill effects of "cabin fever". And with the improved weather, who does not want to be out and about.

Please remember that some restrictions continue. Caution, common sense and courtesy suggest that you continue to respect physical distancing, employ hygiene methods, particularly frequent hand washing, and take care of your physical and mental health.

Thanks to all residents for following the health order restrictions to date. We are not yet out of the woods, but with your continued cooperation we will get there.

Gordon Drybrough, **Mayor**

**April 27, 2020**

The covid-19 pandemic and the resulting physical distancing by now has fostered "cabin fever". This is likely made worse by the great improvement in the weather and our current spring conditions. And I am sure many Albertans are eager to get back to work, open up shops and businesses, get a haircut, grab a movie or have a meal in their favourite restaurant.

By all means get out in the garden and let the children play in the yard. But please continue to follow the recommendations of our provincial health officials. As eager as we may be to be out and about, social distancing, constant hand hygiene, not touching your face, eyes, nose or mouth, remain best and safest practices.

Be patient, maintain daily routines, get exercise and a good night's sleep.

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay home.

Gordon Drybrough, **Mayor**



**April 20, 2020**

I have participated in each of the weekly Premier's teleconferences for municipal leaders. Alberta has rolled out financial aid packages to individuals and businesses, as has the federal government. Your Summer Village Council has approved a thoughtful deferral plan for 2020 property taxes.

It seems Alberta, and indeed Canada, have taken a cautious approach to easing physical distancing and other restrictions. We all need to be patient and strong in our resolve to get through this pandemic.

Continue to phone, email or participate in face time with friends, neighbours and relatives. Look after yourself and those closest to you. Please stay safe, stay healthy and stay home.

On another matter Sandy Beach express its profound empathy with the tragic events that unfolded in Nova Scotia. Please support the Blue Ribbon Campaign [Blue Ribbon - Nova Scotia](#) which is on our website under NEWS.

Gordon Drybrough, **Mayor**

**April 13, 2020**

Adapt. Improve. Overcome.

Words used to describe military actions (and taken from an old Clint Eastwood movie about US Marines). Anyway, as I see on the news youngsters using their 3-D printers to churn out face masks, and other children sewing home-made surgical masks, and then all the car cavalcades celebrating drive-by birthdays, and yesterday indoor, family only Easter egg hunts - I am reminded of the tremendous adaptability and resilience of Albertans as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Be safe. Stay healthy. Stay home. And think of ways to improvise at home when performing your daily routines.

Gordon Drybrough, **Mayor**

**April 6, 2020**

For those of you in the Village who are essential workers - truck drivers, delivery people, grocery and pharmacy employees, hospital staff, and first responders - thank you for your service in keeping us all safe, fed and protected. If you are maintaining contact with your neighbours by phone or face time, and assisting in delivering needed food and medical supplies, let me offer a very big thank you.

And to those who are simply staying at home, avoiding contact with others, thank you for keeping us safe.

Being isolated from others and out of our regular daily routines is difficult to accept and challenges us to develop new, novel and useful coping strategies. If you are experiencing real difficulty, contact one of the many agencies/services. There is the Province wide mental health line at 1-877-303.2642, **or contact Anxiety Canada, and now in Edmonton you can contact at the University of Alberta the Centre for Online Mental Health Support.**

We all need to be apart for now so that down the road we can get together. Be patient, be healthy, take care of yourselves and your families.

Gordon Drybrough, **Mayor**

**March 30, 2020**

For Albertans and indeed for Canadians, the current **COVID-19** pandemic means this is not business as usual.

For those residents who have experienced a recent job loss or reduction in hours, I am sorry for your situation. Both the federal and provincial governments have issued information on financial assistance available to employees who have suffered a job loss as well as for small and medium size businesses. For assistance in paying monthly rent or mortgage payments, check with your financial institution and your landlord. Again, some provincial assistance may be available and includes deferral on utility payments (interest free) and low or no interest charge bank loans.

Thank you for respecting contacting the Summer Village only by phone, fax or email. Council will be meeting electronically and information on how members of the public can join those meetings will be published once we have confirmed a viable method for electronic meetings.

In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy. Stay at home, but do take time to be outdoors in your yard for some fresh air and sunshine. If you do venture out, maintain physical distancing (2 hockey stick lengths) from others. Wash your hands often, and wash with soap and warm water after 5 applications of hand sanitizer (it builds up on your hands and becomes ineffective). You can visit Alberta Health Services website and complete a diagnostic test. If you are experiencing any symptoms of the **COVID-19** virus, contact 811, provide your information and follow their instructions.

Be patient as government services, call centres and websites, are extremely busy.

Again, if you or a neighbour needs assistance in obtaining groceries or medicines and are without friend, family or neighbour support, contact the Summer Village office and we will attempt to connect you with the necessary assistance.

As Albertans we have experience in managing through tough times. We are in this together. Be patient, be cooperative and above all, be kind to each other.

Gordon Drybrough, **Mayor**

## **March 23, 2020**

We are all receiving information from the federal and provincial governments as well as the health department concerning the **COVID-19** virus. As the Village has posted this information on our website, we will continue to provide updated information as it becomes available. It is important to practice basic precautions, such as frequent hand washing and maintaining safe social distancing. Most recently we have all been urged to increase self-isolation and I recognize that this may be difficult in a community such as ours.

Within our Village we likely have individuals who are either ill or wish to stay at home, and this may also include some returning snowbirds or other travellers who are self-isolation.

As neighbours and friends, I am asking that if you are aware of such folk, to kindly contact them by telephone or Internet, and offer to run errands on their behalf, obtain their prescriptions, medicine, groceries or other necessary items, and deliver it to their home.

We can and should maintain reduced face-to-face contact but please continue to have regular contact with your family, neighbours and friends, using social media and telephone. Thank you for your understanding during these difficult times. The Village will update you on a regular basis.

Gordon Drybrough, **Mayor**