

Mayor Report
April 15, 2021

Covid-19 Update

Last week the Government of Alberta announced a return to Phase 1 of the pandemic restrictions. You can obtain further information on the Alberta Health Services website or check on our Summer Village website for those updates.

What this means is that Council meetings will only be conducted remotely – no in-person attendees – via the Zoom format. For detail on how to join the meeting see the SV website.

Council thanks all residents for their cooperation in following Provincial guidelines.

Firesmart

The crew from Alexander First Nation has completed our second vegetation mitigation project. According to the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA) consultant no further project would likely be approved for our Summer Village. We thank Alexander, Timber North, Andy Getsner and FRIAA in completing this important project.

The Firesmart Committee, past and present, made a number of recommendations to Council. Vegetation mitigation, new street signs, address locators and individual number house signs and signage for muster points, were suggestions that have now been completed.

What remains are two other important Firesmart recommendations. The first is to develop emergency egress roads from Lakeshore Drive and Westcove Drive. The second is to develop a “block captain” programme that would see volunteers within the Village available in an emergency to assist elderly and less mobile residents evacuate their homes, direct resident to the nearest muster point and furnish other important information.

The Firesmart Committee would still like to make a presentation to the community once the pandemic restrictions will allow for this.

FCSS Committee

Again during the pandemic in-person meetings have not been held and also no community programmes have been offered or run.

With the availability of technology it would be possible to offer some community programming via Zoom or some other internet platform. If there is any person or organization with such a proposal out there, kindly submit it to the SV office. The FCSS Committee can meet remotely I am sure.

Gravel Roads

Blue Heron and Westcove Drives were treated in the Fall with a new and less toxic hardening solution. At this point of the early Spring season it seems that both roadways have held up nicely, with few potholes. Do take some caution as the shoulders/edge of the roads appear to be a bit softer.

WILD Water Station

As will be observed by the construction to the immediate west of our SV Administration building, progress is being made on the WILD truck fill station. It is anticipated that the station will be operational by mid Fall 2021.

Wastewater Transmission Line

Lac Ste Anne County published in the two local weekly papers information concerning the proposed wastewater transmission line. Phase A, as published, shows a line from Alexander First Nation to the lagoon at Sandy Beach and thence to the Town of Onoway Lagoon.

Some time ago Alexander First Nation opted out of the project. At the March meeting of the Joint Lagoon Committee, the Summer Villages of Sandy Beach and Sunrise Beach opted out of the project as well. A letter to the County and the Darwell Lagoon Commission to that effect was sent in early April 2021.

The Summer Village Council decided that at this time paying the operation and maintenance costs of the line as well as the costs of rehabilitating or closing our current lagoon was too expensive a cost to be borne by our residents.

A Long Year

Yes, it has been slightly more than a year since the appearance of Covid-19 and various restrictions, closures and changes to what was our normal way of life. Not seeing our grandchildren children, neighbours or friends, not having barbeques, sit down dinners, birthday parties or the ability to share festive events with family and friends is a real hardship. Not being able to gather for group events, attend a theatre, live concert, a gym or yoga class seems to some as a violation of their Charter rights.

My personal opinion is that I wear a mask, frequently sanitize my hands and stay away from others so that I do not infect them with the virus. This is, as I view, the other side of the coin – responsibility.

Folks, please stay safe, stay healthy and stay apart.

Respectfully submitted

Gordon Drybrough, Mayor