



# SUMMER VILLAGE OF WHISPERING HILLS

May 2021

## Mayor's Message

Greetings to everyone in Whispering Hills!

What a beautiful village we live in. When you turn on the news, there is not much positive to look at. Here, we have a place to escape from the rest of the world's troubles. Here is where we can put our feet up and relax, let the stresses of this world drift away.

I would ask everyone to drive with extreme caution around the village. You are sharing the roadways with quads, golf carts, bikes and whatever else people can find to ride. Children and adults are playing, Drive Slow!

This year's AGM will be held virtually because of provincial guidelines and restrictions. Hopefully next summer we can have our family picnic!

The new development is finally moving forward and people are excited about getting their own lake life stories started.

As far as the budget goes, provincial and federal government are cutting back and asking us to pay more, sound familiar. Our goal is to maintain a beautiful well run village.

We have recently had bear and cougar sightings, remember we share this land with them. Keep your distance, they are usually just passing through.

After 25 years of commitment and service as councillor and mayor, Dennis Irving is stepping down. He has done an amazing job and will be greatly missed! We want the very best for you and Marg in the future. Luckily they are only minutes away for advice and council.

We raise our glasses to you! Cheers!

Be safe out there, consider others. Live each day to the fullest. Keep planting flowers. Enjoy lake life.

Mayor Curtis

## Annual General Meeting / Annual Picnic / Fireworks

This year the summer village will not be hosting our annual picnic due to covid. We are going to attempt to do an online annual meeting via zoom. The meeting will be on July 14, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The links to join the meeting will be on the website homepage. If there are any specific topics you would like us to discuss, please email [bancroftkim@hotmail.com](mailto:bancroftkim@hotmail.com). We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and hopefully we will be able to resume our annual picnic in 2022.

## Land Use Bylaw

The Summer Village is in the process of revising our Land Use Bylaw. The new draft is available on the website on the public participation page. Please have a look and if you have any comments please have them in by the end of May to [bancroftkim@hotmail.com](mailto:bancroftkim@hotmail.com).

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*In an effort to go paperless, newsletters will be digital only and available on the website.*

*If you would like to receive an email copy, please make sure that we have your updated contact information on file. Newsletters will be done in Spring and Fall each year.*

## **Landfill and Transfer Site—Summer Hours**

Please visit the landfill website or give them a call for hours of operation. Covid-19 has affected opening hours for many businesses including the landfill.

## **FireSmart Spring Clean Up**

Athabasca County, in cooperation with the Athabasca Regional Waste Management Services Commission (ARWMSC) and the area summer villages; is planning a FireSmart project again this May to help property owners with their FireSmart spring clean-up. The project will include the “Free Hazardous Fuel Disposal Weekend”; all waste transfer sites will waive the fees to ratepayers for disposal of waste brush and trees for a week around the long weekend in May. This program has been a very cost-effective way of encouraging FireSmart practices.

ARWMSC will conduct this FireSmart initiative, around the May long weekend holiday (21<sup>st</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup>). The program will be advertised in the newspaper and on the web, prior to the May long weekend.

Note: this includes appliance disposal and residents can use the Town of Athabasca facility as well.

## **New Development**

As many of you are aware, we have been selling lots in the new area this spring. We now have several new residents in the summer village, please make them feel welcome. We are planning more lot sales in the future. If anyone knows anyone who might be interested please contact Kim at Bancroftkim@hotmail.com to have them added to the waitlist.

## **Monthly Property Tax Payments**

We have had several inquiries about whether or not you can pay your property taxes monthly. You can pay property taxes monthly, but only if you are pre-paying for next year. Current amounts due are still payable by July 31 and anything owing as of that date is subject to interest. Once you have cleared off the current taxes you can make pre-payments on next years taxes in whatever amounts you would like.

## **Election**

2021 is an election year. Nomination day is June 19. Please contact Kim if you are interested in running to get a nomination form. Nomination forms will only be accepted by appointment due to covid. If there is an election required it will be held on July 17.

## **Bears and Cougars**

Bears are an issue most years in the summer village. Fish and Wildlife officers are recommending that we stop feeding the birds and other wildlife and to make sure our garbage is stored securely. Please do not approach wild animals!

## **ATV Drivers**

We ask that all ATV drivers respect the speed limits in the summer village. Also, please keep the noise to a minimum. Be a good neighbor!

## **Library**

For your summer enjoyment there is a free library located at 10 Ella Mae Cr..

Take a book and leave a book, or just take a book!!

## Parks and Recreation

We are very happy to Announce our Playground equipment has been purchased and will be gratefully picked up by a Village Resident in Edmonton. Big thanks to Solid Ground Contracting for offering to complete the prep work for the playground we ask that you stay clear of the park area while the crew is in completing this work. Weather depending we are planning to assemble the playground equipment starting Saturday June 26, 10:00am expected completion will be 2-3 days of assembly. Please reach out to Andrew Stepanuk at 780-714-0479 if you are able to assist in the assembly.

Lastly keep up the Recycling donations we ask that you put your recycling in large garbage bags if possible it really aids in the collection process.

Thanks Parks and Rec Team!!

If anyone is interested in helping out please reach out to us at [s.v.whisperinghillsparksrec@gmail.com](mailto:s.v.whisperinghillsparksrec@gmail.com)



## Tables and Chairs

Just a reminder that the village has 2 party tents, 8 tables and 70 chairs available for residents to borrow for any special outdoor event. Please contact Curtis (780-220-4897) for more information or to reserve for your event.

## Council Members

Mayor Curtis Schoepp

780-220-4897 or [curtisschoepp@gmail.com](mailto:curtisschoepp@gmail.com)

Deputy Mayor Ed Scantland

780-916-9145 or [edscant@gmail.com](mailto:edscant@gmail.com)

Councilor Dennis Irving

780-689-9366 or [dirving@mcsnet.ca](mailto:dirving@mcsnet.ca)

## Administration

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ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL WISH YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER !!