



# Summer Village of Sunset Beach

## Spring 2024 Newsletter

### Mayor's message

#### MESSAGE FROM MAYOR MARK LINDSKOOG:

My council colleagues and CAO Kim Bancroft join me in extending greetings and warm wishes to all as we bid winter goodbye and look forward to the approaching summer. We hope you wintered well.

El nino has left a legacy of drought and wildfire potential. Administration has already given notice of a fire ban within the summer village and the County, apparently downgraded to a "fire restriction" effective May 7 which continues in effect at the time of this writing. We ask all Sunset Beach residents to make note of the fire status sign at the entrance to the summer village and act accordingly. For the boaters, remain conscious of the requirement that waterbomber aircraft will need unimpeded access to water from the lake to keep us and our properties safe. When you see fire aircraft overhead while boating get to shore to allow them to reload.

And finally a word of caution about fireworks: Setting off fireworks is not permitted within the summer village, NOT because it is prohibited by our bylaws but rather because it has never been permitted. In the present climate I expect that residents who ignore this caution may find themselves answering to the RCMP.



#### NEW AND ONGOING PROJECTS:

**Centennial Park:** The gazebo, funded by provincial infrastructure grant, was acquired and constructed last summer. The project continues. We have ordered and are arranging installation of a bear-proof garbage receptacle and a seasonal "porta-potty". Not sure if the latter two will be in place for the summer village AGM June 15, but we're trying.

**Neighborhood Watch:** Local resident Derek Hall continues working on a "neighborhood watch" program. In March a questionnaire went out to residents and all were asked to respond. We hope to be able to advise further in due course.

**Defibrillators:** A health-conscious and forward thinking previous council purchased 3 AED units, 2 of which had actually managed to find a suitable (if temporary) residence to be located at. The machines are fully serviced and operational, but were designed to be used at temperatures warmer than that which we normally experience through the winter months. Outdoor heated cabinets have become available but were designed to be "plugged in" to an indoor weather-protected transformer. Leaving doors unlocked for unimpeded resident access is dangerous and unfeasible. So we have purchased the cabinets and have engaged a local electrical professional to modify them to be plugged in to a standard outdoor electrical outlet (winter months), ready for immediate use notwithstanding the season.

One unit is set up at my cabin, 515 Willow Drive. We are still looking for a location to the north (possibly in the 700's?) and one in the south (400's or 300's?) reasonably accessible and with access to nearby outside power. We will pay towards anticipated power consumption. If you can help us out please get in touch with Administrator Kim Bancroft.

#### TAXES:

Your new tax notice is included with this mailout. I am advised that the numbers have not gone down. We do really try to limit spending, where possible, but regrettably nothing we are required to pay for has gone down in price. School taxes increased significantly this year and we have also decided that the Summer Village should work to increase our reserves slowly. Note that taxes remain due by August 31 unless you have already switched over to monthly payments due the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

(continued on next page)



### COUNCIL

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## **ANNUAL MEETING AND POLICY INPUT:**

Something new this year, weather permitting: This summer's annual meeting will be on **Saturday, June 15, 2024**, commencing at 10:30 a.m., OUTDOORS at our very own CENTENNIAL PARK. Bring your own sunscreen and lawnchairs, we will not have meeting hall chairs to use. The summer village buys the coffee and doughnuts. In the event of inclement weather we will assemble at the West Baptiste firehall.

Those of you who attended last year's meeting will recall an issue arising concerning permissions ("a policy?") for members of the public regarding setting up private docks from summer village public ("road allowance") lands. A few of you have subsequently addressed this with me from the perspective of boat "launching".

While the issue has yet to be formally addressed at Sunset Beach we are looking into ways to formalize a policy. This will affect residents neighboring lakeside public lots and backlot owners looking to access the lake. Give it some thought. Do we need a public meeting? Can we rely on written submissions? We won't decide anything on June 15 other than setting up a mechanism for input. If you care about this let us know!

## **HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE MEETING, HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!**

Mark Lindskoog

### **RESIDENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

As previously discussed, Fred Black and Derek Hall have been investigating options for a Sunset Beach Crime Watch in coordination with the RCMP.

The goal is to create a resource for all Sunset Beach owners and residents:

- on safety information and best practices for property owners,
- to help and advise the Village Council and operations if requested,
- to share information on incidents in the Village and area, and
- to update and maintain the emergency contact database.

Look for updates in future newsletters, and don't hesitate to email us if you have any questions or concerns - [SVSBwatch@gmail.com](mailto:SVSBwatch@gmail.com)

Thanks - and we look forward to hearing your ideas!  
Fred Black & Derek Hall

### **RESIDENT FACEBOOK PAGE**

There is a Facebook page to encourage community communications. This page will be open to residents only. You will be required to provide your name and lot number when signing up so they can confirm you are indeed a resident of the summer village.

The purpose of this page is for the neighbors of Sunset Beach to communicate regarding suspicious activity, local crimes, property damage, property concerns, lake levels, missing / found items including pets, community events and meetings and to foster a supportive and safe summer village community.

This is a closed group meaning your membership is public but all posts are private and only visible to group members.

Council encourages all residents to join, however please note that this is a page operated and monitored by residents only. It is not intended to request administrative assistance. Should you require administrative assistance, you will need to contact administration directly at the contact options provided. Administration will not be monitoring this Facebook page.

To sign up, please visit the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1988584451441257/> and send a private message to the administrators with your address.

### **CRIME IN THE SUMMER VILLAGE**

Crime can be an ongoing issue in all summer villages. Residents are advised to make sure they secure their homes properly, especially when leaving for the winter. It is a good idea to ensure that administration has your emergency contact information as well as possibly a neighbor that can alert you to any problems. Here are some RCMP suggestions for summer villages;

- Install 3M Security glaze on windows
- Plant gnarly bushes, such as roses, under windows
- Well lit properties
- Well secured doors and windows
- Remove firearms, electronics and expensive items during the winter months
- Do not keep keys in any vehicles
- Do not hide keys to your buildings in easy to find locations

### **SLOW DOWN IN THE SUMMER VILLAGE**

We are asking that residents please slow down when driving through the summer village. This is for everyone's safety.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please make sure that administration has your current phone number and email address. This is how you will be contacted in the event of an emergency.

### **AED—AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS**

One AED is currently located at 515 Willow Drive. We still need volunteers for the other 2. Please contact Kim if you would like to volunteer.