

Mayor Report May 21st, 2020

COVID-19 has dominated media reports and personal conversations for over the past two months and we have all been subject to the various closures and restrictions imposed under a general health order. During the past several weeks the Government of Alberta has reached out to municipalities and conducted a series of teleconferences to announce news, reports and updates. I have participated in these teleconferences and appreciate the efforts of our provincial government.

I would encourage Summer Village residents to access the information now contained in the guidance statements related to the re-opening of business and industry in Alberta. There is a document entitled “Workplace guidance for business owners”, which applies to all businesses. You may also be interested in glancing through the “Guidance of private and municipal campgrounds” as well as “Guidance for outdoor recreation”. This information is available at BizConnect (alberta.ca/BizConnect).

I hope that Summer Village residents remain healthy. To those who are currently ill, please get well soon. To those of you who have lost a loved one for whatever reasons, kindly accept my condolences.

The matter of whether persons who have a primary residence elsewhere should be allowed to access/visit their summer home/cottage/cabin is not currently a regulation, although some summer villages are encouraging part-time residents to stay away. The issues as I see really remain to use common sense and maintain appropriate social/physical distancing.

It is likely that some summer events in the Village, such as Canada Day, will be cancelled or postponed, as again the Summer Village will follow the recommendations of the Provincial Officer of Health in regard to the size of social gatherings.

Onoway Wastewater Line

We have received correspondence on May 8th, 2020 that the wastewater line from Sandy Beach to Onoway will proceed. The ninety percent Provincial funds have already been received and we were advised that the wastewater line will likely be operational in 2021.

WILD Water Line

Recently some preliminary surveying has been completed and the route for the line is being finalized. As part of the process there may also be a need to either purchase land or secure right-of-way access. It is anticipated that actual construction will commence in Spring 2020.

Public Works

You are aware that Public Works completed the 2020 Spring Roundup in early May. Road work on Blue Heron Drive and West Cove Drive will commence in a few weeks, including environmentally friendly dust control measures. Regular public works activities have been on-going and will continue over the Spring and Summer.

Tax Relief

Property owners will shortly receive their tax notices. Council has offered some sensible relief, such as not raising property taxes, deferring the payment date by three months to September 30th, 2020, and reducing the penalty for tax arrears.

On the other hand, the Village would appreciate that those property owners who can afford to pay taxes in full to kindly do so.

Respectfully submitted

Gordon Drybrough, Mayor