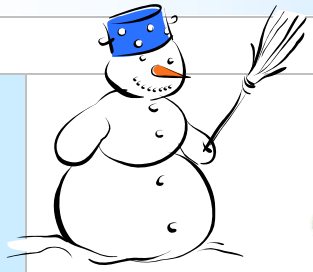
Spring Lake Newsletter

December 2008 - Issue 2

www.springlakealberta.com



Village of Spring Lake

Village of Spring Lake

990 Bauer Avenue
Spring Lake, AB T7Z 2S9

Phone: 780.963.4211
Fax: 780.963.4260
Email:
villageoffice@springlakealberta.com

Office Hours:
Monday – Wednesday, Friday
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Thursday – 8:30am to 6:00pm

Mayor
Scott Hayes

Deputy Mayor
Allan Hagen

Councillors
Cam MacDonald
Don Dobing

Administrator
Emily House

Assistant Administrator
Sandi Ledwon

Public Works
Walt Eliuk & Don Shtybel
(on a weekly rotation)

Newsletter Contents

Message from the Mayor and Council 1

Message from Administration 1

Holiday Announcements 2

Off Highway Vehicle ByLaw 2

Property Taxes 3

Village CleanUp 3

Animal Control and 2009 Dog Tags 3

Contributions

Environmental Advisory Committee Newsletter 5

Message from the Mayor and Council

Seasons Greetings from your Mayor and Village Council!

These past few months have seen some changes in your village, with our new administrative team moving forward. "Well done" Emily for your impressive start, and "welcome" Sandi to the team. Speaking of which, with Sandi retiring as Councillor to become our newest administrative member, we will soon be welcoming a new Councillor to our ranks. On behalf of Council I would also like to thank Walt & Don for their continuous efforts in public works; Sheldon too, your summer work did not go unnoticed. Our local Environmental Committee has been vigorous in the past few months – please refer to some highlights of the work they do on our behalf, in that section of this newsletter.

I would like to take this time to also welcome all new residents to our Village – we know you will appreciate the things that make Spring Lake so special to all of us. With our new developments at Spring Lake Ranch and Willow Peak, the dynamics of our village are changing. It has been a pleasure working with such a dedicated team of Councillors, who are constantly looking at new ideas while balancing all the good points that make the Village of Spring Lake the jewel it is. We on Council look forward to the challenges and opportunities that change creates.

Mark December 21st on your calendar! Santa is touring our Village to visit all of us folks, with treats for the youngsters. At this time we will be collecting for the food bank – any help is greatly appreciated.

Wishing you and yours a safe and Merry Christmas, with all the best in 2009 –

- Mayor Scott Hayes

Message from Administration

Well, it has been an exciting eight months since I have come on board. I have enjoyed meeting everyone that has come by the office and look forward to meeting everyone else in the months to come.

There have been a few changes in staff in the last couple of months beginning with the departure of Kathryn Kautz in September. We wish Kathryn all the best in her future endeavors however; the Village was once again short staffed. We had an overwhelming response to our ad for an Administrative Assistant resulting in the hiring of Sandi Ledwon. Sandi brings with her a vast knowledge of the Village history along with municipal and accounting experience.

It has been an exciting few months. We have been busy re-organizing the office to improve efficiency, adding to our website to ensure more comprehensive information is available (more to come in early 2009), and in general implementing and planning ways to enhance the community.

In closing, Sandi and I along with Walt and Don would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to drop by, give us a call or email us. We would love to hear from you.

-Emily House, Administrator

Christmas Office Hours

The Village Office will be closed on the following days:

- Dec. 24th, 25th, & 26th
- Dec. 31st @ noon
- Jan. 1st

Garbage & Recycling Christmas Schedule

The garbage and recycling pick-up schedule has been revised for the Holiday Season.

- Monday, Dec. 22nd - Garbage & Recycling Pick-Up
- Monday, Dec. 29th - Garbage & Recycling Pick-Up

Garbage and Recycling pick-up will return to its regular schedule on Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Proper Garbage Tote Arrangement

Stand-Stone has implemented a Service Notice to ensure the garbage totes are arranged correctly for their automated system. If there are any concerns with your tote, a notice will be issued explaining the problem. If you receive three notices, on the fourth occurrence, your garbage will not be picked up. If you require an information package explaining the guidelines, please contact the Village Office.

Christmas Decorating Contest

The 18th Annual Christmas Decorating Contest will be judged between December 10th and 19th. Please make sure that you have your Christmas display lit up between these dates from 6pm to 8pm.

1st Prize - $40.00

2nd Prize - $25.00

3rd Prize - $10.00

Please watch the bulletin boards the notice announcing the winners.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town ...

along with Mrs. Claus and all their elves.

Santa and Mrs. Claus have let the Village Office know that they have time to stop by again this year. They will be touring the Village, starting at 5 p.m. in Beachview Crescent on Sunday, December 21st. Watch for the elves to come by your house to announce their arrival.

They will also be accepting donations for the food bank, if you wish to donate.

The Santa Run will be held with weather permitting ... we wouldn't want Santa to catch a cold before the big day.

Off-Highway By-Law

The Village of Spring Lake passed By-Law #303 at the September 2008 Council Meeting to ban Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV's) including ATV's and snowmobiles on all roadways and Village owned land. This bylaw was the result of the plebiscite conducted last year where 73% of the respondents indicated they wanted OHV's banned.

If you have a complaint and would like to file a report, please contact the RCMP with the license plate number of the OHV and they will issue a ticket. If you require any further information, please see By-Law #303 on www.springlakealberta.com .

Garbage and Recycling

Parkland Transfer Station

We have had a number of calls at the Village Office regarding the Parkland Transfer Station located on RR 11 south of Highway 16A.

In the past Parkland County was very lenient on who used the transfer station, however, in the last few months they have established a few restrictions.

Spring Lake residents can still use this transfer station, however, charges will apply.

As part of the County's recycling program, the following items will be allowed at no charge:

- Milk Jugs, Glass Jars, Tin Cans, Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Cardboard
- E-waste including monitors, televisions, computers and accessories, printers, etc.

For more information, please visit www.parklandcounty.com

Stony Plain Recycling Centre

Stony Plain will also allow, Spring Lake residents to utilize their recycling facility located at 4505-50th Ave. The following items will be accepted:

- Blue Bag Recycling: Milk Jugs & Cartons, Plastic Containers, Glass Jars, Tin Cans, Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Cardboard.
- Compost: Organics including Leaves, Grass & Food waste

For more information, please visit www.stonyplain.com.

Waste Pick-Up Survey

We have had an overwhelming response to our waste pick-up survey with about 95% of the respondents wanting the garbage pick-up to go to a bi-weekly service in the winter. We are presently in discussions with Stand-Stone Waste Services on different options that the Village has available to ensure that we provide the proper level of service to the residents while being fiscally responsible. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the Village Office.

Skating Rink – Volunteers Needed

This year the Village has not been able to get the volunteers needed to operate the skating rink. Without proper supervision of the rink, our liability insurance policy will not allow us to open it. We ask that any residents interested in volunteering to please contact the Village Office.

Spring Lake Ranch

Spring Lake Ranch would like thank all the residents for their continued support. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our Winter Carnival in February 2009.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Property Taxes

We want to thank all residents for their patience this year as we worked feverishly to get the 2008 Tax and Assessment Notices generated and sent. We were a few weeks' late sending out the notices but it was a pleasure to see pro-active residents give us a call to inquire about the status of them which also gave us a chance to meet some of you.

For those residents that are on the Monthly Tax Payment Plan, thank you for reading your notice and contacting us to provide your information so we could ensure that we had a current list and all the necessary paperwork. Going forth, those registered on the monthly program will receive a form with your Tax and Assessment Notices in the Spring notifying you of your monthly amount. If those residents already registered have not received a notice yet stating your amounts for January to June 2009, please contact the Village Office.

We would also like to let all residents know that the Village Office, *as a courtesy*, has sent out letters this year and will continue to in upcoming years reminding any residents that have an outstanding tax amount to pay their balance before the December 31 penalty is applied.

Village Clean-Up and Clearing of Land

We would like to thank all residents for pitching in to help clean-up the meadows and municipal reserves this fall. We still have a few problems with trailers and vehicles being parked in the East (Main) Meadow, so we would like to ask those residents to please remove these vehicles. We will be holding a controlled burn in the upcoming weeks to deal with any remaining brush piles in the meadows and will be planting grass next spring to fill these areas in.

We all care about the community we live and work in, as well as, the environmental concerns and responsibilities that come with living in a community surrounding a lake so please be conscious of the impact you may have on the lake as it is a valuable resource and we all would like to keep it that way.

Council thanks everyone who is mowing the boulevards, ditches and road allowances next to their property. The improved appearance of our Village is noticeable.

Please note: The Village has a bylaw stating that no person shall permit accumulation of dirt, stones, old implements, automobiles, scrap iron or any other rubbish so as to cause any unsightly condition, hazard or nuisance.

We would also like to remind residents that no one has the right to go beyond the boundaries of their own property when clearing land. It is the responsibility of each resident to know their legal property boundaries. Residents who proceed with clearing trees from park reserve, Village, privately owned or Accreted land may be liable in court for trespass and damages.

Animal Control and 2009 Dog Tags

We would like to remind all residents that currently own dogs, to please purchase your 2009 Dog Tags. The dog tags are available at the Village Office at a cost of $15 each. If your dog does not have a current tag, you may face a fine under the Animal Control Bylaw.

Our current Animal Control Officer is Tom Puffer and he may be reached at (780) 491-7283. If you have any problems reaching him, please feel free to contact the Village Officer during regular office hours. If it is an emergency, you also have the option of phoning the RCMP. Residents can also drop off any stray dogs at the Parkland County pound without involving the ACO.

Fire Fighting Services & Permits

Fire fighting services are provided by the County of Parkland and the Town of Stony Plain. Both Fire Departments list the Village as being **6 miles from the nearest fire hall.**

Fire Permits are available at the Village Office at no charge. **A Fire Permit must be obtained for all fires** and are required for any fire not in a contained pit. Only untreated wood, paper and leaves should be burned in these fire pits and a covering screen with holes no larger than 13mm is recommended. **All fires are to be within the property lines of the person the fire permit was issued to.**

Fines can be imposed if the Fire Department feels adequate caution was not taken while burning or if they respond to a fire on your property resulting from a deliberate fire set without obtaining a permit.

Council Meetings

The Village Council meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm unless otherwise posted. If you have an item you'd like added to the Agenda, please submit it to the Village Office by noon the Friday before the meeting. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Coins

Centennial coins with the Village logo on them are still available at the Village Office for $3.00 each and would make a good stocking stuffer.

Traffic Speed Limits

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!!! The speed limit in the Village is **30 km/hr**. The only exception is that part of **Range Road 20** that is posted **50 km/hr**.

Our children, our pets and we, ourselves, are too important to be targets of careless drivers speeding through the Village!

Address Change

Please remember that it is **YOUR** responsibility to ensure that the Village Office has your correct mailing address.

Parking

The Village Land Use Bylaw states that each property must have two off-street parking stalls. Please ensure that your vehicles are parked on your property. If from time to time, this is not possible, do not impede traffic flow or block access to any other lot. Any unlicensed vehicles parked on roadways may be towed by the Village at owner's expense.

Snowplowing for Seniors

As in previous years, the Village will assist senior residents with driveway clearing after the main roads have been plowed. Any qualifying residents should contact the Village Office to be added to the list. There is a $1.00 fee for this service.

Aerial Photos

The Village has obtained a CD through AirScapes which contains 66 aerial views of the Village. We will burn copies of this CD for interested residents at a cost of $10.00 each.

Alberta First Call

Call before you dig – 1-800-242-3447

You must give at least two or three working days notice and have your legal land description available when you call.

Street Lights

If you notice a street light in the Village that has burnt out, please contact **Fortis at 780-310-4300** and provide them with the number on the pole (if available) and the municipal address closest to the pole.

Crime Watch

Some of the benefits of belonging to the Stony Plain & District Crime Prevention Association are interaction between residents to get to know your neighbors and receipt of fan-out messages of interest to the community. If you would like more information, please contact Constable Barb Roy at 780-968-7210.

Bulletin Boards

There are seven bulletin boards throughout the Village, most of them close to your mail boxes. Council and Administration do post important information from time to time so please check them when you pick up your mail.

Residents are welcome to post notices on these boards, but please remember to **date** notices to prevent their premature removal. All notices will be removed after two (2) weeks.

Development Permits

A Development Permit **must** be applied for before obtaining a Building Permit necessary for new construction, additions, decks, demolition, excavation (HOLDING TANKS & CISTERNS) and home occupations.

Our Development Officer, Tony Sonnleitner, can be reached at 780-718-5479. A Real Property Report, showing the location of existing buildings and the proposed development must be submitted when applying. Application fees must accompany all Development Applications.

NOTE Singlewide mobile homes are **NOT** allowed in the Village and holiday trailers **MAY NOT** be used to stay in on your property.

Safety Code Permits

We would like to remind residents that we secured the services of Superior Safety Codes as our sole provider of permits including electrical, plumbing, building, etc. You must apply for these permits

If you are planning on building or renovating, you must obtain the proper permits before commencing work. We encourage you to visit Superior Safety Codes at www.superiorsafetycodes.com. Permit forms and information booklets are also available at the Village Office.

Art Club

The Art Club meets Monday evenings in the Council Chambers. For more information, please contact the Village Office.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WINTER 2008 NEWSLETTER

Information Please….

It's that time of year again where winter brings the time to turn the aerator on.

The purpose of winter aeration of water in Spring Lake is to ensure an increase in oxygen levels and this helps to keep the rainbow trout a viable sport fishery year-round. The Alberta Conservation Association is responsible for paying the monthly power bill to run the aerators in the winter. A local Parkland County volunteer is responsible for the installation and maintenance of the aerators.

Compost Anyone?

The EAC is in the process of putting together a composting workshop to be held in March 2009. We have a few people interested in taking this workshop already, so if you are interested and as yet not contacted the EAC, please call Bonnie at 780-934-6677 and leave a message, or email her at bonniefromdevon@hotmail.com and she will put you on the call list. Once a definite date is set, you will be contacted with the date, venue and time. Topics covered will be: seasonal composting, types of compost bins (along with some blue prints to build your own), information regarding worm composting, what can and cannot be composted, what compost can be used for, along with information as to where to get more composting information. We will also offer information in regards to rain barrels and recycling Mother Nature's elixir for all of your plants, indoors and out.

Did You Know…the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (the CBC) has started a program called "One Million Acts of Green". This program helps people determine how environmentally friendly they are. Logging onto their web site takes you to a check list of things you can do to be more environmentally friendly. They have lots of ideas of what people can do year round to cut back on energy being used. The web site is www.green.cbc.ca.

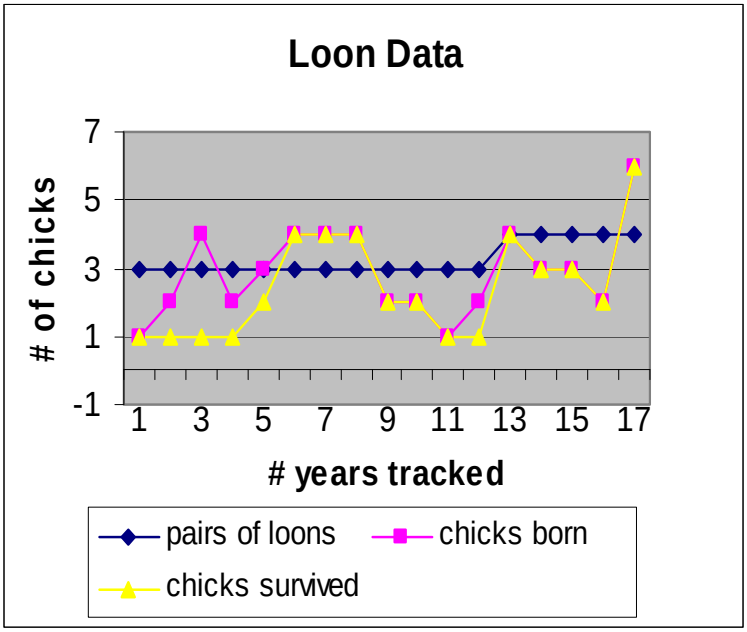
Shoreline Clean-Up – This took place on September 6th. A group of volunteers came out and helped clean up the lake. Unfortunately, due to the level of the lake dropping this summer, there were a few items that volunteers were unable to get to as the water level was either too low to get it from the lake, or the shoreline was too soft to reach from the shore side. Hopefully next year the water levels will be up again, so these items can be retrieved from the lake side. Thank You from the EAC to those who came out to lend a hand (and a boat) with the clean up this year.

Large Appliance Swap – This too took place on September 6th with support of the staff from the Village Office. The garbage bin ended up 2/3 full! There were a few residents who did do a swap and took away a few items to recycle. From the feedback received, this went over well. The EAC will plan on offering another swap of this sort in the future.

Loons at Spring Lake

Rene, who has been co-chair of the EAC from the start, has been observing and recording data on the loons who live at Spring Lake. He has been compiling this data over the past 17 years for Birds Studies Canada. As you can see, Spring Lake has been a good breeding ground for the loons, as the number of surviving chicks keeps increasing. This is partly due to the residents of our community respecting the spring nesting habits of all of the water fowl we are so lucky to have nesting on our lake.

YEAR	PAIRS OF LOONS	CHICKS BORN	CHICKS SURVIVED
1992	3	1	1
1993	3	2	1
1994	3	4	1
1995	3	2	1
1996	3	3	2
1997	3	4	4
1998	3	4	4
1999	3	4	4
2000	3	2	2
2001	3	2	2
2002	3	1	1
2003	3	2	1
2004	4	4	4
2005	4	3	3
2006	4	3	3
2007	4	2	2
2008	4	6	6



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WINTER 2008 NEWSLETTER

Bird Feeding Information

Bird feeders can be made out of a variety of materials you have at home that you can recycle into a feeder such as pie plates for tray feeders, 2 litre pop bottles or milk cartons for use as tube feeders, coconut shells cut in half, or even small plastic pails with holes cut into the sides with small perches attached. If you choose to build a feeder out of wood, rather than painting or varnishing the wood which may make the birds ill, treat the wood with vegetable oil.

Birds enjoy a vast array of foods, which you have at home. You can make your own suet or peanut butter balls by melting peanut butter or lard and mixing in a variety of seeds such as flax, sunflower, ground nuts, peanuts, pumpkin, cantaloupe, melon, or apple. These can also be served on their own on tray feeders. Ensure the nuts are unsalted. Once you have the mixture made, pine cones can be coated with the mixture and hung out for the birds, or you can devise a type of wire basket to hold the solidified treat in. Make sure there are no sharp pieces of wire sticking out to hurt yourself or the birds on.

There are many books at the library on bird feeders and what type of food to put out in regards to the type of birds you may want to attract to your feeders. Rest assured, no matter what you put out, you will also attract the squirrels as well.

We Will Be Up and Running Soon!

The EAC will be set up on the Village of Spring Lake web site in the New Year. If you are interested in seeing past issues of the EAC newsletters, finding out a bit about the history of the EAC, or if you are interested in joining us, this can all be found on the EAC link from the Village web site. The web site should be interesting to peruse anyway, just to find out a bit more about our community.

Our Accomplishments!

To date, there have been a number of initiatives that we as the EAC have undertaken since we started up 3 years ago. Some of them are:

- On going stewardship of the lake – this was started at our first meeting with discussion generating ideas as to how this can be carried out by the EAC
- Annual shoreline clean-up – this has taken place for the past two years with great success
- By-annual newsletter – this comes out every Spring and Winter along with the Village's Newsletter
- Creation of our first Environmental Survey – this was devised and sent out to all residents the winter of 2006. The information from this survey gave not only the EAC a working base for some of the activities we have undertaken, but has also been feedback to Village Council to undertake some activities along with the EAC.
- Speed limit signs for lake speed control – an example of an activity that came out of the survey from 2006. This summer there have been six 12 KM speed limit signs installed at various points along the lakeshore to remind all boaters that there is a posted speed limit on the lake that <u>everyone</u> is responsible for obeying.
- Reduced environmental impact of boaters – this is still in the works in trying to have the lake's motorized lake status changed to being designated electric motors only. Posting more of the speed limit signs was the first step in achieving this initiative.
- Tree planting – there has been active tree planting activities over the last three years by several residents and the Village. Some free trees have been passed out from the Spring Lake Store to encourage other residents to help replenish what Mother Nature brings down.
- On-going recommendations to Council – as concerns arise from discussion at the EAC meetings or from feedback from the residents, the EAC takes these to the monthly Council meetings either through the Council Representative on the EAC, or else the co-chair will present them to Council.
- Waterfowl survey – as mentioned in the previous article with respect to the loons, there are also other observations being discussed at the EAC meetings such as the shortage of songbirds some years, and the increase in the beaver population.
- Waste water initiatives – the EAC is working with Council in getting more information on this topic, as well as the monitoring of the waste water in our community
- Composting – offering tips in various newsletters and currently working on presenting a workshop in early 2009
- Recycling – helped with getting a recycling program within the Village with the new garbage collection company
- Advocating for ongoing responsibility of ATV usage near the shorelines and on the meadows. The Village has now passed a by-law prohibiting ATVs within the Village limits
- Ongoing file data base – which is at the Village office. There are extra copies of some pamphlets available for residents to get by contacting the Village office or a member of the EAC. There are copies of pertinent newspaper articles regarding issues that pertain to Spring Lake as well.

Who we are:

Scott Hayes	780 – 968 – 3974 council rep. and co-chair
Rene Morrissette	780 – 963 – 0556 co-chair
Archie Naismith	780 – 946 – 6125
Morey Madsen	780 – 940 – 5820
Bonnie Hall	780 – 963 – 6709
Adam Ledwon	780 – 963 – 1453

From us to you – have a safe and happy winter season!