Spring Lake Newsletter

June 2008
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www.springlakealberta.com

Village of Spring Lake

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Office Hours:
Monday – Wednesday, Friday
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
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Mayor
Sandi Ledwon

Deputy Mayor
Scott Hayes

Councillors
Cam MacDonald
Don Dobing
Allan Hagen

Administrator
Emily House

Assistant Administrator
Kathryn Kautz

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

Sheldon Postnikoff
(Summer)

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Message from the Mayor and Council

Welcome to Summer 2008!. This year, summer came fast to the Village of Spring Lake. Since our last newsletter in December 2007, a lot of changes have taken place.

In January of this year our Chief Administrative Officer, Pricilla Taylor, went on sick leave. After a quick but stressful search, Council hired an energetic young lady to train as CAO in Ms. Taylor's absence. Unfortunately, due to illness in the family, by the time April arrived, Council was again searching for a CAO for our Village.

By now, we were onto our third round of interviews in six months. With personal effort from the Councillors, we headhunted to locate promising future CAO candidates for Spring Lake to interview. The final decision was difficult, but from it we now have an Acting Chief Administrative Officer, Emily House, and an Assistant Administrator, Kathryn Kautz.

During this time, I spent about six weeks in the office helping sort through a mountain of files and paperwork. While waiting for Emily's first day, I worked with Kathryn, helping residents and developers. We learned everything we could about planners, engineers, development officers and more to help both staff and Council come up with a starting point for the future direction of the Village of Spring Lake (… you can imagine).

Both ladies are showing great promise in working towards the positive future goals which current Council has envisioned. (Thank You Emily and Kathryn) As both ladies are new to municipal administration and will be going back to University to upgrade over the next few years, please be patient with our Village office during this time of transition and training. I know that if Administration has an inquiry that they can't answer, I have faith that they will find out what you need to know and help you to the best of their ability.

Take the time to read our newsletter that includes some of our newest changes with the Village, including but not limited to our new website. I am excited to be moving forward and hope this year is as promising to you, the residents of Spring Lake, as it is to myself and Council.

- Mayor Sandi Ledwon

Message from Administration

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone that both Kathryn and I have met for the warm welcome that we have received so far.

Kathryn Kautz started the beginning of April as the Assistant Administrator and I started a month later. We both come from Administrative backgrounds, however, there is much to learn about running a municipality and we would like to thank everyone for their patience while Kathryn and I are on the learning curve.

We both are very excited to be part of the Village of Spring Lake and as such want to ensure we are giving you, the residents of this wonderful community, the support and help that you expect. If you should have any questions or inquiries, please come by and see us or give us a call. We have adjusted our office hours to accommodate the residents that work during the day by staying open on Thursdays until 6:00pm.

In closing, I would like to encourage everyone to visit our new website **www.springlakealberta.com** frequently as we will be constantly updating it. One of the goals we have set out for our new Administration is to make sure that the residents of Spring Lake have access to the most current, up-to-date information available to them.

We look forward to meeting everyone and working with you to help maintain and improve the Village of Spring Lake.

Sincerely,

Emily House, Administrator

WWW.SPRINGLAKEALBERTA.COM

Our new website is online!

The Village of Spring Lake, is proud to announce the launch of our new website – www.springlakealberta.com This is not only a great achievement for us but fantastic news for the residents of Spring Lake, as we now have an effective communication tool to keep everyone informed about what is happening in our community.

Some special features you will find on www.springlakealberta.com are:

- Calendar of events and meetings.
- Directory of Community Associations, Village Contacts, and Local Businesses.
- Pictures and stories about the history of Spring Lake and area.
- Council Meeting Minutes.

We will constantly update this website so please check back frequently for news and announcements.

The Village of Spring Lake would like to thank Allan Hagen for all his hard work and dedication in getting our website up and running. The Village recognized a need for an effective way to keep our residents informed and Allan was instrumental taking our idea to the next level.

We welcome comments and suggestions on how to improve our website. You can email us through our website or at springlake@cruzinternet.com

"I remember especially the bartering that was so common during the depression due to the lack of money. The farmers or customers would bring eggs and homemade butter in exchange for their groceries. The price of a pound of butter at that time was a nickel; eggs were selling for six cents per dozen, and a package of five cigarettes sold for five cents. The Provincial Government tried in many ways possible to aid. They tried to boost the economy by issuing script money. This was pay for the working class and this script money could not be passed to another person without a special stamp that had to be affixed to it."

Excerpt from
The Beach Corner Story
by George H. Fuhr

Visit **www.springlakealberta.com** for the rest of the story.

Superior Safety Codes

The Village of Spring Lake is pleased to announce that we have secured the services of Superior Safety Codes as the sole provider of permits including electrical, plumbing, building, etc.

If you are planning on building or renovating, we encourage you to visit Superior Safety Codes on-line at www.superioursafetycodes.com You can also come by the Village Office to pick up a booklet that explains processes, procedures and other useful information to consider when building or renovating.

Friends of Spring Lake

Thank you, to all of the volunteers that helped with the skating rink in the winter time. Your volunteered time was appreciated by all of the community - young and old alike! We realize it is early in the year to be thinking of the skating rink, but we always need more volunteers to help with supervision and if you are interested in helping this year please call Anita at (780) 919-3639.

Unfortunately, our lights on the skating rink didn't quite make the full season. As with all older structures the light system has to be replaced (they don't even make the bulbs for it anymore) and so we are not sure if they will be working for the 2008/2009 skating season. This being said, the shack will be open during the daylight hours (with the help from volunteers) but will have to be closed once daylight disappears. If you know of a good lighting solution and perhaps a donation or two to have the repairs and installation complete--please contact the Village Office with the information. As with all public areas certain electrical codes and criteria have to be met.

Thanks again for all of the help in the past years.

Anita
Friends of Spring Lake
Skating Rink

Sorenson Development

Jamie Sorenson would like to express his thanks to the Mayor and Council for their assistance in finalizing approval for his subdivision.

Spring Lake Ranch

Spring Lake Ranch would like to thank the Spring Lake community for its continued support of our unique development. The past year has been a tremendous time of growth and progress. Phase One roads are nearing completion, the lots are ready to build on, and our west coast-style Show Home displays the high-quality design we are quickly becoming known for.

The beauty of Spring Lake and its surroundings have been an inspiration for our team since our vision began to take shape. We have taken several steps to ensure the integrity of the landscape among a time of change. We have planted a variety of tree species, protected every water area with environmental fencing, and through the help of Ducks Unlimited, have made new homes for the bird life that graces this community.

As Spring Lake Ranch continues to evolve we welcome you to come by and see the newest addition to this wonderful village.

- Spring Lake Ranch

2008 Taxes

Council continues to work at controlling expenses, which are continually on the increase. Your municipal property taxes are used to provide services to the citizens of our community. You may experience an increase in your property tax bill as a result of an increase to your individual property assessment.

Assessment is based on market value which basically reflects the price that a property would sell for on the open real estate market, modified by the physical characteristics and condition of the specific property.

Also, you may have an increase in assessed value as one **area** may have an increase in valuations whereas another **area** may have decreased.

The municipal service tax includes: fire and ambulance requisitions, insurance, professional and consulting services, library membership, policing and animal control, assessment services, waste transfer, utilities and street lights, planning services, building debenture, roads, recreation and capital purchases. In most cases you will notice an increase in school requisitions by the Province. A brochure on Education Property Taxes is included with your Tax Notice this year.

Taxes are due August 10, 2008. Payment may be delivered to the office by this date, placed in the mail slot in the small door of the Quonset building prior to this date or date stamped at the Post Office prior to this date.

If your 2008 taxes are paid by December 31, 2008 and you wish to make monthly payments on your 2009 taxes, please call the Village Office for details.

Waste Pick-Up Survey …

we want your input

Council is investigating changing the garbage pick-up schedule from every week to ***every second week*** for the winter months as a cost-saving measure. Please give us your opinion, yea or nay by

- phone 780-963-4211
- fax 780-963-4260
- email springlake@cruzinternet.com
- website www.springlakealberta.com

Animal Control

The Village Animal Control Bylaw will be revised to allow an unspecified number of dogs to be registered by current and future residents who own more than two dogs.

This is ***NOT*** an 'end run' around the current bylaw, but rather a co-operative approach to control the number of dogs within Village limits. It is intended that, as nature takes its course, the number of dogs per household will stabilize at two.

In practical terms, this means that if you currently own four dogs, you will register all four but will not replace them beyond the two permitted in the bylaw. **Please come to the Village Office to register your dogs by September 1, 2008**. If you do not register your dogs, you may face a fine or removal of any dog that you can not provide a valid dog tag for to Animal Control. You are required to purchase a tag for each dog at the beginning of the year with the current cost being $15 per tag.

Events and Activities

The Environmental Advisory Committee will be hosting a Large Item Swap Meet on Saturday, September 6th in the Village office parking area. Plan on taking advantage of this opportunity to get rid of unwanted large appliances. The Lakeshore clean-up mentioned in the EAC Newsletter (*back page*) will also be held September 6th.

Administration is working on a possible agreement with the Town of Stony Plain to allow residents of Spring Lake to participate in their E-waste and Household Hazardous Waste Round-up in October. Please visit www.springlakealberta.com *for updates*

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** 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.

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. If you have an item you'd like added to the Agenda, please submit it to the Village Office by the Thursday before the meeting. All residents are encouraged to attend.

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.

What Does "In Camera" Mean?

There have been some questions from residents about *'in camera'* sessions and what criteria are used to determine when the public must be excluded from Council meetings. Hopefully the following excerpt from the Municipal Government Act will address those questions.

Public presence at meetings
197 (1) Councils and council committees must conduct their meetings in public unless subsection (2) or (2.1) applies.
(2) Councils and council committees may close all or part of their meetings to the public if a matter to be discussed is within one of the exceptions to disclosure in Division 2 of Part 1 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*
(2.1) A municipal planning commission, subdivision authority, development authority or subdivision and development appeal board established under Part 17 may deliberate and make its decisions in meetings closed to the public.
(3) When a meeting is closed to the public, no resolution or bylaw may be passed at the meeting, except a resolution to revert to a meeting held in public.
1944 cM-26.1 ss197,738;1995 c24 s23
Right of public to be present
198 Everyone has a right to be present at council meetings and council committee meetings conducted in public unless the person chairing the meeting expels a person for improper conduct.
1994 cM-26.1 s198

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!

Did you know …

Canada is an Indian word meaning" Big Village".

Library Membership

The Village is a member of the Yellowhead Regional Library Board and a portion of our membership fees are distributed to the Stony Plain and Spruce Grove Libraries. This contribution means Spring Lake residents can purchase a membership at these libraries at the same rate as residents of Stony Plain and Spruce Grove.

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.

Clearing of Land to the Lake

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.

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.

Grass Mowing

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.

Coins

Centennial coins with the Village logo on them are still available at the Village Office for $3.00.

Parks

There are four paths allowing access to the meadow and the Village maintains four gazebos with benches inside where you may rest and enjoy the surroundings. For information on the exact location of these paths, please check the maps on one of the bulletin boards. The three playgrounds in the Village are also shown on the map.

Administration will be replacing all maps on the bulletin boards as soon as we have accurate, updated information.

Please ensure that the gate to the meadow is locked after each use.

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

Art Club

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

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.

Village Clean Up

The Stony Riders 4H Club did their usual splendid job at the annual Spring Cleanup in May.

Did you know …

In England the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak

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.

Address Change

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

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.

Did you know …

An ant always falls over on its right side when intoxicated.

Landfill Site

Residents are now entitled to take their own extra garbage, including leaves, to the Stony Plain Transfer Station. The Landfill site is open 9:00am – 4:30pm. For more information, you can contact them at 780-963-6880.

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 neighbours 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.

VILLAGE OF SPRING LAKE

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ENVIRONMENAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SUMMER 2008 NEWSLETTER

Did You Get Some?

The Spring Lake **Environmental Advisory Committee** was pleased to offer to our residents and surrounding acreages, pine tree seedlings free of charge. The trees were at Spring Lake Store over the long weekend in May for whoever was interested in taking some and planting them. This tree give-away was sponsored by:

Strathcona in Bloom, Shell Canada, Alberta Pacific, Tree Canada,
ANNS (Alberta **N**aturalization **N**etwork **S**ociety**), Communities in Bloom**

Follow-Up…..

As you may recall, the Spring Lake Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) conducted an Environmental Survey with Village residents in December 2006. As a result of this survey the EAC presented seven recommendations to the Village Council based on residents' feedback.

One key area of concern arising from the survey was that periodically motorized power boats speed on the lake and that there are environmental consequences to several species of nesting aquatic birds.

The issue was acknowledged as a concern by the Village Council and we hope that in the future the process of involving the appropriate government agencies to review the 'motorized boat status' of Spring Lake is addressed. This is a lengthy and complicated process, but in the interim, we continue to advise all boaters that Spring Lake has a maximum **speed limit of 12 KPH**. *New and additional speed signs will be posted to reinforce this speed limit* and we would remind all residents to stress the speed limit mandate with any one that you see who may be putting a boat onto the lake.

Our Common Loons and Red-Necked Grebes will have an increased chance of reproducing in an ever-challenging environment.

It's Fishing Time Again!!

The lake was stocked again this past May with 10,000 Rainbow trout. We were fortunate enough to have a second stocking last fall of 8,000. Whether there will be a second stocking again this fall, no one will know until the truck pulls up to stock.

The fishing over the winter was pretty good, with spring fishing going well too. There have been quite a few 2 lb. trout come out of the lake this spring. So, for those of you who are avid fisher people…..Good Luck and Happy Fishing!!

Still Problems….

There are still problems with residents cutting down trees on private property and Crown land. The Village and the EAC have been trying hard to educate residents whose properties lie along these boundaries to ensure they do not trespass and damage property that do not belong to them. It seems letter writing and reminders are not doing the job. Let's work together as a community and if you see your neighbors cutting trees on Crown land (or private property), please talk with them and remind them it's not their land, or notify the Village, or if you know the private property owners, notify them. If this illegal cutting continues, then in no time at all, all of the land around the lake will be stripped bare and the environmental impact it will have on the wildlife, aquatic life, and all of us will be devastating. So please….let's be a responsible community and **STOP** the few selfish residents who are damaging our environment from destroying our wonderful, peaceful surroundings here at Spring Lake.

New Recycling Program

Along with trash removal the contractor that Village Council has hired, also offered a recycling program. In looking around the Village on every second Tuesday, it appears there are many residents who are taking advantage of the new recycling program. Thank you for being so diligent and taking advantage of this new service the Village brought in for us. It is helping to keep our environment productive and much cleaner.

Anyone Interested???

Along the lines of the above item, the EAC is planning a Composting Workshop in early 2009 for residents who are interested in getting a composting system set up in their yard. If you would be interested in attending this type of workshop, call Bonnie at 934-6677 and leave your name and number or email her at bonniefromdevon@hotmail.com. She will contact you and put your name on our list and you will be contacted early next year when the workshop date is confirmed.

Fall Clean-up…..Are You Coming?

With last year's Fall Clean-up being such a success, we are hoping we will have as good a turn out again this year. The Clean-up is slated for Saturday, September 6, meeting at Spring Lake Resort office at 10 a.m. sharp!

HAPPY ANNIVERSAY TO US!

This November the EAC will have been functioning for 3 years. We have 5 of the original 7 members still on the Committee. We would like to have another two residents join us. If you are interested, please contact the Village Office or Councilor Scott Hayes and leave your name and number. Someone from the EAC will then contact you.

Have a Fun and Safe Summer….From the members of your EAC