



# Spring/Summer Newsletter

## Message From Your Mayor

Hello from your summer village council, we trust that you enjoyed the winter season.

Activities for council are typical for this time of the year. This year the ice remained on the lake until May 9 which is normal for Baptiste Lake. The ice has remained on the Lake as late as May 19 in years when we have had a very late spring.

This summer we will be continuing our three year plan to maintain the main roads and do the required up keep to the arterial roads in the Village. The road maintenance plan involves road work every year.

Council, along with our CAO spent a great deal of time reviewing the summer village budget (expenses) and every effort has been made to keep the taxes as close as possible to last year's levy. The average land assessment increased 40 - 45% this year. Average improvements increased between 10 to 15%. Significant increases in requisitions, such as Greater North Foundation, Ambulance, and Fire protection, together with increased costs for road maintenance have provided a challenge. Snow removal costs were up this last winter due to the heavier snow fall.

Last year we received several complaints with regard to people operating Quads in restricted areas, on other people's property with out permission and speeding on the roads in the Summer Village. Council has had to deal with complaints related to Excessive noise, late parties, fireworks and dogs running at large.

Please respect the properties of other residents and obey the bylaws in our village. With the summer season almost upon us we ask that you respect your neighbors' property rights and the use of the lake.

We appreciate all of you who observe speed limits. It is 40 kmh throughout the Summer Village. Please remind your guests about the importance of driving within the limits.

**When using an ATV in the forest, be mindful of sparks from your exhaust which can start a fire. Make sure your ATV is clean and clear of debris.**

We have requested additional policing services to enforce the speed limits and bylaws particularly during the week-ends when the traffic is heaviest.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the councilors, emergency response personnel, our CAO and all volunteers who have expended their time to make our summer village a pleasant place to live.

To all of you I hope that you enjoy a pleasant summer season.

Tom Dolan, Mayor

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### Special points of interest:

- Baptiste Drive Re-construction.
- **Annual Open House Saturday, July 5, 1:00 PM at the Firehall, West Baptiste.**

## Landfill Operation

Summer Village residents are served by a solid waste transfer and recycling station located at Whispering Hills and a number of other locations throughout the County. The waste is collected at transfer stations and is then hauled to the Athabasca Regional Waste Management Services Commission Regional Landfill Site.

For more information regarding waste management, contact the Athabasca Regional Waste Management Services Commission (ARWMSC) at (780) 675-1117.

The Whispering Hills transfer site will accept; household waste as well as non-toxic burnable material, scrap metal, appliances, intact refrigerators, freezers, tires agricultural pesticide containers (please deliver large quantities directly to the Colinton Transfer site).

Recyclable materials such as milk containers, plastic jugs, plastic tubs and pails, plastic bags, tin cans, clear glass, cardboard, newspaper, office paper, fluorescent light tubes, TV's and computers, oil jugs and pails, Ni-cad rechargeable batteries, ink jet and toner cartridges, lead acid batteries and more.

Paint – unused paint may be delivered only to the Athabasca Transfer Site or the Boyle Landfill from April 1st to October 31st.

Used Oil - may be delivered only to the Athabasca Transfer Site or the Boyle Landfill year round.

**Items prohibited at all sites are:** industrial solids or ash, biomedical waste, liquids or sludge of any type, radioactive waste, explosives, dangerous oilfield waste, dead animals, automobile bodies or heavy equipment

## Whispering Hills Recycle and Transfer Site (Hours of Operation)

**Location:** NW 35-66-24 W4

<b>Open :</b>	<b><u>Summer</u></b>	<b><u>April 1 – September 30</u></b>
	Saturday & Sunday	10:00 am – 6:00 pm
	Thursday	12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
	<b><u>Winter</u></b>	<b><u>October 1 – March 31</u></b>
	Saturday	Closed
	Sunday	10:00 am – 4:00 pm
	Thursday	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**Directions:** From intersection of TWP RD 670 and Hwy 2 go 1 km South and 1 km west

## Development Permits

Development Permits must be obtained prior to commencement of construction OR REMOVAL OF EXISTING STRUCTURES. When major construction takes place or a building is removed from a lot, previous “grand-fathered” bylaw inconsistencies are not allowed and the current bylaws are to be followed. Contact the Administrator. Remember once your development permit is received, you are still required to obtain all related Safety Code permits- building, electrical, gas, plumbing and applicable environmental permits such as septic system, lake shore stabilization, etc. You can obtain most permit applications from the Summer Village CAO..

## Notice Board

Current information of interest to residents is posted on the Notice Board located at the south end of Baptiste Drive at the intersection of Lakeside Drive. The notice board is also intended for your use. Please follow the policy that is posted on the notice board.

Minutes of Council meetings will no longer be posted on the notice board but will be available for download on the Summer Village Website located at <http://www.southbaptiste.com/> or by contacting your CAO.

## Annual Open House

The Summer Village Annual Open House will be held on **Saturday, July 5, 2008, commencing at 1:00 PM** at the West Baptiste Firehall and Recreation Center, 945 Baptiste Drive, West Baptiste, AB.

Date: Saturday, July 5, 2008

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Baptiste Firehall & Recreation Centre

Should you require any additional information in relation to the open house please contact Ed Tomaszuk by Email or telephone 675 9270.

## Baptiste Drive Maintenance

Baptiste Drive wintered quite well with only a couple of areas requiring immediate attention. Notably the potholes caused by the water running down CNRL road across Baptiste Drive. The Texas gate on the CNRL road will be replaced this year which should alleviate this problem in the future. Also, the approaches to the bridge which was replaced last year have finally settled and can be paved. This too should be done this Summer.

## The Summer Village of South Baptiste Municipal Office is Located:

2.6 Km North of the County Beach along Baptiste Drive with an old Threshing Machine next to the Driveway.

### Administration

Ed Tomaszuk  
Chief Administrative Officer  
724 Baptiste Drive  
West Baptiste, Alberta  
T9S 1R8

Phone: 780 675 9270  
Website: <http://www.southbaptiste.com/>

E-mail: [tomaszyk@mcsnet.ca](mailto:tomaszyk@mcsnet.ca)

### Members of Summer Village Council

#### **Email Addresses:**

**Mayor, Tom Dolan** [tdolan@telusplanet.net](mailto:tdolan@telusplanet.net)

**Deputy Mayor, Ron Wasel** [rkwasel@mcsnet.ca](mailto:rkwasel@mcsnet.ca)

**Councilor, Chris Taylor** [cntaylor@mcsnet.ca](mailto:cntaylor@mcsnet.ca)

## Lake Stewardship

The Baptiste Lake Watershed Working Group will be holding public meetings during the year to review a final draft of the Baptiste Lake State of the Watershed Report. The public meetings will also provide an update of Lake Stewardship activities to further BISL (Baptiste, Island and Skeleton Lake Stewardship) objectives. Watch for advertisements in advance of the meetings.

The Summer Village of Whispering Hills has purchased a Solar Bee Circulator for installation near the first Bay at the North end of Baptiste Lake. The circulator will be installed when regulatory approval is obtained from Government. The equipment is intended to alleviate the formation of Blue Green Algae in the vicinity of the installation. More information is available at the following Website: <http://www.solarbee.com/>.

## Newbrook Fire

The county of Thorhild had ordered their residents to flee Friday, May 19, 2008, when a brush fire – fuelled by dry conditions, heat and high winds – threatened to overrun the community.

Topped by crews from Sustainable Resource Development and British Columbia, a total of 150 firefighters fought the flames – and unpredictable shifting winds – over the long weekend.

The fire spread to a maximum of about 2,000 acres and destroyed two homes north of Newbrook, before fire crews succeeded in surrounding it.

We sometimes take for granted the commitment of all the volunteers and the firefighters — the emergency response personnel — who are dedicated to our safety. In addition to our support we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Photos: Courtesy of Greg Boyachuk, Alberta Sustainable Resources, Athabasca..

SRD investigates any wildfire in Alberta that is deemed to be human-caused. Trained wildfire investigators use various techniques to determine when, where and by whom a fire starts. There are more than 40 SRD employees trained to find the cause and origin of wildfire in Alberta who complement the three provincial SRD wildfire investigators, who are peace officers.

If you have seen any suspicious activity that may have led to a wildfire, please call Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

