



Spring Newsletter

Message From The Mayor

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Special points of interest:

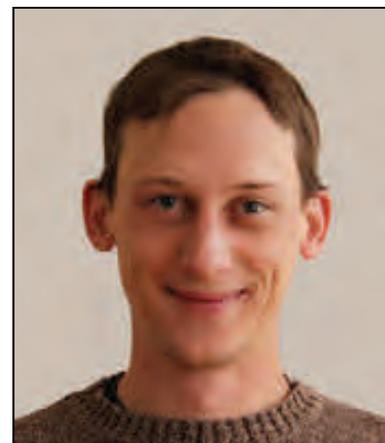
- Election Year 2013.
- Annual Open House Saturday, July 27th, 10:00 AM at the Firehall, West Baptiste.
- Nomination Day July 27th, 10:00 AM

SPRING AT LAST:

All that ice covering the lake is finally gone and we can look forward to Summer.

EXERCISE YOUR FRANCHISE:

It is an election year for Alberta municipalities, an opportunity for you to have your say at the polls and send a message to your elected officials. At our most recent regular council meeting the date for close of nominations was fixed as **Saturday, July 27th, 2013**, which is also the date scheduled for our 2013 South Baptiste Annual Information Meeting. The meeting will be held at the West Baptiste Fire Hall and Recreation Center and will run from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon that day. Nominations will close at 12:00 noon.



If you are inclined to throw your hat in the ring you should get in touch with C.A.O. Ed Tomaszuk prior to the meeting date to obtain your nomination papers so you can get them signed in plenty of time.

Election Day is set by law to be four weeks following close of nominations; hence, this year the election (if necessary) will take place on **Saturday, August 24th, 2013**, once again at the Fire Hall. There will also be an **Advance Poll** one week prior to election day, namely **Saturday, August 17th, 2013** for a period of four hours. Further details will be available at the meeting, on the notice board, and on the website.

There have been changes made to the provincial legislation governing municipal elections. Councillors are now elected for 4 year terms, up from 3. Eligibility and proving eligibility to vote has been clarified. Very briefly, if you are registered on title to a property in the summer village you are entitled to vote. If you are the spouse or adult interdependent partner of somebody registered on title, you are also entitled to vote. Finally, if you are adult and “resident” in the Summer Village within the meaning of the Act, you are entitled to vote.

There are identification requirements, and some or all voters may be required to complete a statutory declaration in front of the returning officer. Most identification issues can likely be resolved by producing a valid Alberta operator’s licence, but if in doubt feel free to contact our summer village administrator, who

will provide answers for your particular situation.

FREE YARD CLEANUP:

You may dispose of leaves and brush without cost at the Whispering Hills waste transfer site (during regular disposal hours) on May 18, 19, 23, 25 or 27 - yes, 5 days this year, up from the previous 1 day. Do not leave bags on the road or in the ditches, there is no free pickup. And don't try to sneak household garbage in with the yard debris, regular charges will apply except for leaves and brush.

FIRESMART:

The Summer Village has received a FireSmart Grant and have two years within which to complete the project. We are incorporating some clean up along Baptiste Drive and flammable fuel reduction in selected areas within the Summer Village. The Grant also includes funding for the replacement of address signs which are used to find locations in the event of an emergency. Let us know your thoughts at the Annual meeting, or by telephone or e-mail.

During the FireSmart project we will strive for minimal disruption to the community but will have to balance that with wildfire concerns and Provincial Government requirements. Once hazards and deficiencies are identified, (and there were) failure to respond appropriately leads to liability issues, increased insurance premiums, and (ultimately) higher taxes.

A copy of the Summer Village FireSmart Plan is posted on the Summer Village Website. (SouthBaptiste.com)

SEWAGE INVENTORY:

Council met most recently on May 11th. The agenda included a review of an inventory of private sewage systems commissioned to identify private sewage systems on all properties within the Summer Village.

First among the considerations was that the summer village should engage an independent private firm, suitably qualified, to conduct a preliminary inventory of all the properties within the summer village to determine and record what sorts of private sewage systems are presently in place.

After review of how the matter has been dealt with in other municipalities, meetings with government, review of proposals, and with significant input from potential contractors, Council has authorized engaging Chic's Contracting, as agent for and to assist our CAO to do the inventory. We expect that start-up will take place at some time within the next few weeks or so, and we wish by this letter to put residents and property owners on notice that it is taking place.

Chic's Contracting is authorized by council and will be attending at your properties to carry out the inventory. This will not require entrance into buildings at this stage, and no entry will take place unless invited. Chic's Contracting will carry and will produce appropriate identification upon request. Costs incurred at this inventory stage will be borne by the summer village. Please try to be as cooperative as possible. These people have the authority from Council and the CAO (consistent with Provincial Legislation) to attend at, be on, and inspect your properties for the purposes outlined herein.

SHORELINE MODIFICATION, VEGETATION REMOVAL:

Still think it's a good idea? Read the following Information Bulletin from the Alberta Government, reprinted

by me without permission but with the most honourable of intentions:

“Individual fined for unauthorized removal of shoreline vegetation:”

“The Provincial Court of Alberta has fined a central Alberta man \$20,000 for wilfully altering the shoreline of Gull Lake north of Red Deer.”

“Dale Andrew Mather was charged under the Water Act with removing aquatic vegetation from the bed and shore near his property on Gull Lake without an approval. This was done in an attempt to improve the view from his property. As part of the sentencing, \$15,000 will support a creative sentencing project to improve water quality in the lake and \$5,000 will be paid as a fine.”

ZEBRA MUSSELS - COMING TO A LAKE NEAR YOU???

Apparently its not just the terrorists that hide in boats. Alberta Environment has notified us that yet another scourge, hitherto found only south of the border, is on its way to wreak havoc on our lakes. Alberta Environment has pointed us to an excellent article on the invasive Zebra Mussel. We have posted the article on the website. Those of you who travel around (from lake to lake) with your boats should take heed to protect the fishery.

Thanks for reading. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the general meeting on July 27th. Have a good summer.

- Brad Padlewski

ZEBRA MUSSELS

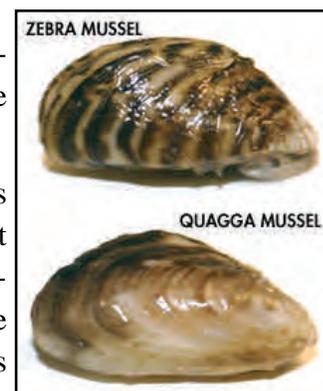
There is an increasing prominence of certain invasive species which are now the subject of serious deliberation in the development of trans-boundary agreements with the U.S. and between provinces.

Alberta lakes are not immune, and in fact, the nutrient-rich waters of prairie lakes may be a highly fertile habitat for two species of mussels. Lake users who transport their boats, water craft, water toys, etc. to out-of province destinations should understand the risks associated with boating etc. outside of Alberta, especially within the U.S. and the Great Lakes area and the potential risk they impose on Alberta lakes when they return to the province. Once introduced, there is no remedy for controlling the species under discussion.

So what's the big deal? Imagine your beach having so many shells on it that you had to wear water shoes to prevent your feet from being cut when you go in the water (not to mention the smell of rotting shells). Imagine taking your dock out each year only to find it caked with mussels. Imagine your boat hoist being unusable because the mussels on the pipes prevent the hoist from going up and down.

Provincial authorities are contemplating inspection stations with the goal of thwarting a mussel invasion.

The preceding information was provided by Albert Environment and there is additional information on the Summer Village Website.



Election Year—Notice of Nomination Day

2013 is an Election year and Nomination Day will be held at the Firehall 945 Baptiste Drive, West Baptiste, Alberta. The location is 3 Km north of the County Beach.

Date: Saturday, July 27, 2013

Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon.

Place: 945 Baptiste Drive, West Baptiste, AB (West Baptiste Firehall)

Nominations for three (3) Councilors will be open for two (2) hours 10:00 AM – 12:00 noon.

An Election, if required, will be held within four (4) weeks after Nomination Day, (August 24th). The tentative date for the Advance Poll is August 17th, 2010.

Nomination forms for those interested in running for Council are available from our Administrator, Ed Tomaszuk (780 675 9270) or Email tomaszyk@mcsnet.ca.

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 and freezers and 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

Fireworks

Pyrotechnic devices (better known as fireworks) are designed to burn and explode and can cause serious injuries such as burns, lacerations, amputations, and blindness. Children are particularly susceptible to injury. A simple “Sparkler” can burn as hot as 1200 degrees Fahrenheit.

The use of fireworks is governed by regulation.

The Law

Part 5, Section 5.8 of the Alberta Fire Code, governs fireworks.

- There are two types of fireworks: “low hazard” which are the type you will use and, “high hazard” which are the type only licensed professionals may use.
- You cannot store more than 10 kilograms (gross weight) of low hazard fireworks in a dwelling unit. They must be stored in a secure container and in a cool dry place away from open flame, excessive heat, or spark producing equipment. No person is permitted to store high hazard fireworks in a dwelling unit.
- When you transport fireworks, you must do so in accordance with the **Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act**.
- When you discharge the fireworks, you must have a fire extinguisher with a 2-A rating available for immediate use at the discharge area. You must wet down the ground where you will discharge ground level fireworks immediately before the discharge and you must aim projectile fireworks no more than 15 degrees off perpendicular. Before the discharge, you must also have the consent of the property owner or occupant, if it is not you, and any neighbouring property owners where there is a possibility the debris from the discharge could fall on their lands.
- Fireworks cannot be purchased or discharged anywhere in Alberta without a permit. If you are discharging on public lands or within a forest protection area as defined by the **Public Lands Act** or the **Forest and Prairie Protection Act**, you must obtain a permit from a Forest Officer. In every other case, you must receive a permit from the municipality before you can use, sell, possess, purchase or discharge any type of fireworks in that municipality.

Any failure to obtain a permit or to follow the permit conditions could result in the cost of any damage or fire suppression activity being assessed against you.

To obtain a permit you should call the Fire Chief of the municipality where you intend to buy or discharge the fireworks. The Fire Chief can advise you whether you need a permit from a Forest Officer once he or she is aware of the location you intend to use for discharge.

If the municipality does not have a fireworks permit process or does not otherwise provide permission for discharge, you cannot legally discharge the fireworks in that municipality.

The use of Fireworks in the Summer Village of South Baptiste is illegal.

Monthly Payment of Property Taxes — Pre-authorized Installment Plan

It is still possible to register for the monthly payment of property taxes. Participation in the plan is voluntary and those choosing to participate must authorize the Summer Village to automatically withdraw funds each month from the bank account you designate. Payments would be applied to your property tax account. There is no surcharge for the plan.

Application Forms can be obtained from the Summer Village Administrator by phoning 780 675 9270.

Installation of Radar Controlled Speed Sign

The Summer Village has purchased and will be installing a radar controlled speed sign in the vicinity of the mail boxes at the South East end of Baptiste Drive.

The speed sign has traffic logging capabilities and when operated in “Silent Mode” does not provide any feedback to drivers who may be exceeding the speed limit. As a consequence it records the number of vehicles, speed, time of day and other parameters associated with vehicular traffic. It is probably not a good idea to exceed posted speed limits within Summer Village boundaries.

Responsible Use of ATV's

Off highway transportation is always a concern for safety and respect for your neighbors. When you are traveling in the Summer Village be considerate of others and most of all, be safe. Abide by the 30 km/hr speed limit and restrict the use of your ATV's after ten at night. Please respect private property ownership. Drive your off road vehicle on the road on your way to the trails. **Do not drive in ditches.** The Summer Village has a by-law allowing ATV's on the main road but not in the ditches. This will reduce environmental damage to grass in ditches and also the possibility of being hit by a vehicle in a private driveway.

Reserve Area Encroachments

Council continues to attempt to work cooperatively with residents to reduce encroachment on reserves. Reserves are owned by the Summer Village, however, their use is restricted by the *Municipal Government Act*. When reserves are used for unauthorized purposes, we begin with the least adversarial approach that will bring about compliance. Where that approach doesn't work, we are quite prepared to take formal mechanisms to achieve compliance. A part of that process is advising residents that reserves are not intended for personal use. Please remove personal items stored on reserves and road allowances. If you require storage facilities phone 780-689-6306/780-689-7636 to secure a space for your boat or trailer.

Approved uses for Environmental Reserves must be consistent with Section 671 of the *Municipal Government Act* which states: “environmental reserve must be left in its natural state or be used as a public park.”

Sewage Bylaw

The sewage by-law, a by-law to control and regulate the treatment and disposal of sewage in the Summer Village of South Baptiste, was adopted in 2007. The by-law requires that on or before December 31, 2010, an approved system shall be installed and maintained on all properties which are being used for residential, recreational or commercial purposes within the Summer Village of South Baptiste.

The *Alberta Safety Codes Act* and the Alberta Private Sewage System Standards of Practice referenced, as they relate to most properties, require that every residence must be connected to a septic tank or sewage holding tank. There may be some instances where fields are allowed, but they are regulated for location, soil type, property size and location relative to the lake and other water bodies.

Grey water pits and outdoor showers, not connected to proper holding tanks, are illegal.

A copy of the Bylaw can be obtained from <http://www.southbaptiste.com/> in the links and downloads section of the website.

Whispering Hills Recycle and Transfer Site (Hours of Operation)

Location: NW 35-66-24 W4

Open :	<u>Summer</u>	<u>April 1 – September 30</u>
	Saturday & Sunday	10:00 am – 6:00 pm
	Thursday	12:00 pm – 6:00 pm
	<u>Winter</u>	<u>October 1 – March 31</u>
	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. 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. Contact the CAO for most permit application forms. See <http://www.southbaptiste.com/> in the links and downloads section for a copy of the Land Use Bylaw.

Are you Moving?

Please inform the Municipal Administration if you change your address including your Email address. If we cannot find you, not only do you miss out on the Village News, but Tax Notices and other information will be mailed to your last known address. There are penalties for late payment of taxes and the fact that you forgot to tell us you moved is usually not acceptable justification.

Important: “Please ensure that your civic address signs are properly installed and visible from the road for use by Emergency vehicles that may be seeking a specific location within the Summer Village.

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

The Summer Village Annual Open House will be held on **Saturday, July 27, 2013, commencing at 10:00 AM** at the West Baptiste Fire Hall and Recreation Center, 945 Baptiste Drive, West Baptiste, AB.

Date: Saturday, July 27, 2013
 Time: 10:00 AM
 Place: Baptiste Fire Hall & Recreation Centre

Should you require any additional information in relation to the open house please contact Ed Tomaszuk by Email or telephone 780-675-9270.

Baptiste Drive Maintenance

Baptiste Drive wintered quite well with a minimum number of areas requiring immediate attention during the summer. There will be the Annual road inspection with David Gray sometime in the near future to assess the condition of roads and to identify those areas in need of repair.

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
E-mail: tomaszyk@mcsnet.ca

Website: <http://www.southbaptiste.com/>

Members of Summer Village Council

Email Addresses:

Mayor, Brad Padlewski

Brad.Padlewski@hotmail.com

Deputy Mayor, Mike Isaac

mikeisaac@shaw.ca

Councilor, Steve Hamilton

Steve.Hamilton.1960@gmail.com