



Summer Village of Ghost Lake Newsletter

www.ghostlake.ca

May 2015

Annual General Meeting – June 27th

The Village Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 27, 2015** at the Community Services Building. The meeting will commence at **1:00 pm** to discuss the civic business of the Village from the past year.

Minutes from last year's meeting are now available on the village website and the agenda for the 2015 meeting will be available after June 20th. Anyone who would like a copy of these items in advance of the meeting, is asked to contact the Village Office at (403) 554-5515 or download them from www.ghostlake.ca.

2015 Tax Notices will be in the Mail by May 20th

The tax rates have been set for 2015. The municipal portion of the taxes increased 4.7% in 2015. The Summer Village saw a 5.3% decrease in school requisition in 2015. **The overall 2015 Tax Revenue is decreasing by 1.4%**

This year's *municipal* budget will bring in \$82,681 in taxes and the *school requisitions*, determined by the Province and Calgary Catholic School Board will bring in \$115,628

Actual rate increases will vary from property to property depending on the assessment changes experienced on each individual property.

Please note taxes are due on JUNE 30, 2015.

There will be a 10% penalty assessed on all taxes that are received with a postmark that is after June 30th. We accept post dated cheques so if you normally pay at the end of June, you are encouraged to mail a post dated cheque dated June 30th and we will hold your payment until that date.

How to Pay Your Taxes

1. **By mail** - send cheque to the Village Office.
2. **Pay Online** at Telpay. - go to www.telpay.ca click *Telpay Online* -- click *Get Started* click

3. **Sign Up** The Summer Village of Ghost Lake payee account 0074397. *New account set up takes a few days to process.* Service fee \$.50 per transaction.
4. **In person** at any TD Canada Trust Bank. Take your tax notice with you and ask the bank teller to deposit your cheque into the bank account number shown on the bottom of your tax notice. Ask them to include your account number and name as reference (make sure to keep your receipt)
5. **TD Canada Trust Customers** – set up as a Payee on your web banking portfolio. If you are interested, please contact TD web banking and let them know you want to set up a personal payee *Village Bank Account details they require is listed on the bottom of your tax notice*

NOTE: When paying online and by telpay make sure your payments are made at least 4 days PRIOR to tax deadline date to allow for processing time. When paying by mail, make sure your envelope is postmarked on or before June 30th.

NOTE: If you have not received your Tax Notice in the mail by May 27th, please contact the Village Office

Council Meeting

Council held their 2015 Organizational Meeting on May 13th and set the regular Council meetings for the fall session. The Fall meetings will be held on **Wednesday, September 9, 2015** and **Wednesday November 18, 2015** commencing at 5:00 pm. The meetings will be held at the **Community Services Building at Ghost Lake.**

If you would like to speak with Council on a specific item, please forward your written request, either by mail, fax or email, stating the nature of your presentation, to the Village Office at least one week prior to the meeting in order to be placed on the agenda.

Village Office Box 19554 RPO South Cranston, Calgary, Alberta T3M 0V4 Phone (403) 554-5515 Fax (403) 206-7209
email admin@ghostlake.ca

Mayor: Brian Oblak (403) 275-5007 Deputy Mayor: Warren Wilson 403 803-9770 Councillor: Noel Betts (403) 881-3839

Reminder - all council and committee meetings are open to the public for observation – consider this your invitation.

Learn more about modified operations at Ghost Reservoir

Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD) will be hosting an Information Session on **Saturday May 23, from 1 pm – 2:30 pm** at Frank Wills Hall (Scout Hall) 405 1 Street East in Cochrane.

Following is a Question & Answer information Sheet from AESRD

1. Why are water levels at Ghost Reservoir so low?

The Alberta government has an agreement with TransAlta to modify operations at Ghost Reservoir for flood mitigation purposes. This agreement is based on a successful pilot in 2014 that involved holding the Ghost Reservoir at low levels during the high runoff season to maintain additional flood water storage. The 2015 agreement is similar but provides increased storage capacity.

2. How low do you plan to take the water level?

The normal operating level at Ghost Reservoir during May and June is approximately elevation 1189 metres. This increases to approximately 1191 metres in July.

The modified operating level is approximately elevation 1185 metres. Water levels are slowly being lowered and should reach approximately 1185 metres by May 22. Water levels may fluctuate as the Alberta government reassesses both flood risk and drought risk, but the reservoir will not drop below the minimum level of 1185 metres.

3. Will it be this way all summer?

No. Modified operations at Ghost Reservoir will be in place until July 7. Water levels will be slowly raised after July 7 and Ghost Reservoir should return to normal levels (1191 metres) by the third week of July. It is also possible that the Alberta government may begin slowly raising the water level at Ghost Reservoir in late June or early July, based on an assessment of flood and drought risk.

4. What impact do low water levels have on fish?

Fish in the northwest bay were moved so they would not be cut off from the main reservoir as water levels were lowered.

5. Aren't there other options to provide flood protection?

There are a number of important flood mitigation projects either planned or recently completed to provide flood protection to the City of Calgary. However, Ghost Reservoir is the best option to store flood water on the Bow River upstream of Calgary.

6. Where can I find the latest information on water levels at Ghost Reservoir?

Daily updates on water levels at reservoirs across Alberta are available on the Alberta Environment and Sustainable Development website. Go to <http://environment.alberta.ca/forecasting/Reports/index.html> for the latest information.

Questions?

If you have questions regarding modified operations at Ghost Reservoir, please email MitigationSecretariat@gov.ab.ca or call 587-580-7509.

Consider joining a Committee...

If you are looking for any opportunity to *Make A Difference* at Ghost Lake join a Village committee. There are opportunities available to to meet a variety of interests.....

- Fire & First Response
- Emergency Services
- Communications & Village Social Life
- Natural Environment & Lake Stewardship
- Public Works

Looking for Photos...

Help make this year's photo montage presented at the **Volunteer Appreciation Social on October 3rd** even better – start collecting pictures of having fun at Ghost Lake and if you can capture any pics of volunteers in action that would be awesome!!

Send your pictures to Brian Oblak
boblak@telus.net

Help Wanted Seasonal Labourer

The Village has an opening this summer for a seasonal labourer to cut grass and perform maintenance work on Village property. Flexible hours. Anyone interested in this position is asked to submit a resume to the Village Office by **May 30th**.

The competition is open to all.

Rate of pay: \$14.00 per hour.

Supervisors for Seasonal Labourer

Although we are no longer receiving funding under the STEP employment program, the Village would like to have a supervisor for the summer worker under the Work Alone regulations. The past few years it has proved quite successful having individuals take turns one week at a time supervising. If you are interested in helping out this year, please contact the Village Office 403-554-5515 or admin@ghostlake.ca and let us know which week(s) you are available to help out.

The work program is flexible, so work schedules can be tailored around what works best for both the worker and supervisor.

Getting to know the Osprey

Spring at Ghost Lake welcomes back many migratory birds to the area. Council is supporting the efforts of Ghost Lake residents, Connie Beaton and Bruce Macdonald as they start researching opportunities for getting an Osprey pole installed at Ghost Lake.



Here's a few interesting facts about Osprey

- Ospreys are superb fishers—fish make up some 99 percent of their diet.
- Ospreys hunt by diving to the water's surface from some 30 to 100 feet (9 to 30 meters) up. They have gripping pads on their feet to help them pluck fish from the water with their curved claws and carry them for great distances.
- In flight, ospreys will orient the fish headfirst to ease wind resistance.

- Ospreys are sometimes confused with bald eagles, but can be identified by their white underparts. Their white heads also have a distinctive black eyestripe that goes down the side of their faces. Eagles and ospreys frequent similar habitats and sometimes battle for food. Eagles often force osprey to drop fish that they have caught and steal them in midair.
- Osprey typically lay three eggs, which both parents help to incubate. Osprey eggs don't hatch all at once, but are staggered in time so that some siblings are older and more dominant.

Are you wondering how safe your drinking water is?

Alberta Health Services offers testing for private home owners through the Provincial Laboratory of Public Health and Alberta Centre for Toxicology. Chemical testing will test for many different things including bicarbonate, calcium, chloride and magnesium.

Bacteria testing will check for:

- E coli bacteria (shows if water is contaminated with sewage or fecal matter) and
- Total coliform bacteria (shows in water is contaminated with non-sewage pollution from the environment)

Bottles can be picked up at the Cochrane Community Health Centre 60 Grande Blvd in Cochrane Monday-Friday between 8:30 – 4:30.

If you are dropping off your water sample in Cochrane, water **must** be drawn on Monday morning and can only be dropped off on MONDAYS between 8 am – noon.

If you are dropping off your water sample at another location, please read the instructions that accompany the water bottle and contact your drop off centre for instructions on when to draw water and when to drop off samples.

If you do not follow the instructions for drawing and dropping off samples, your bacterial tests will not work.

For more information and instructions please contact the Cochrane Community Health Centre at 403-851-6002.

Reminders:

False Alarms

If you have a security monitoring system and the Fire Department is called out – costs associated with responding to a false alarm will be billed back to the property owner.

Landlords

Please ensure that your tenants are aware of the Village rules and regulations. Also ask them to register with the Village Office, their phone numbers for the Emergency Broadcast Service and their emails to receive Village news.

Fire Insurance

Reminder - if there is a fire on your property and fire trucks are called in from the MD, Cochrane and other fire depts, Council may forward the cost of firefighting to you. Please check with your fire insurance provider to determine if you have adequate coverage. Cost of firefighting can add up to thousands of dollars – please make sure you are adequately protected. Also make sure your insurance provider is aware that the nearest MANNED fire department to Ghost Lake is at the Town of Cochrane.

Driving on boulevards

Please refrain from driving your vehicle on the boulevards, especially during the spring thaw and in rainy conditions. *Violators will be asked to reclaim the damage made to the boulevards.*

Clean Up After Your Dog

Remember to take along a doggie bag and pick up after your pooch when off your own property

Development in the Village – Plan Ahead

Are you thinking of some improvements to your place? Most improvements will require a development permit and/or a building permit.

For development permits please contact Planning Protocol at (403) 230-5522. If you happen to commence development without the appropriate permits you could be faced with double permit fees or the expense of removing the development if it does not meet land use specifications or building code regulations.

For more information on applying for building, gas, plumbing, sewage and electrical permits, check out the following website:

<http://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/Public/Pages/CodesPermits.aspx>

Off Road Vehicles

Please note that off highway vehicles (including ATV's) are not permitted on public lands except

- for the sole purpose of servicing a boat in the lake or launching a boat or
- removing a boat from the lake,
- solely for gaining access to or leaving the frozen waters of the lake by way of the boat launch or
- when working with a Village sanctioned work crew on a project.

Signs

Please refer to the Village's Sign Bylaw prior to installing any signs on public lands and/or road right of ways.

Burn Pile

Please place your trees and branches on the burn pile *not* in the garbage bins or in the compost pile. No construction debris and definitely no nails or spikes (many of your fellow neighbours that have volunteered to look after the Burn Pile have had to repair tires because of nails and spikes founds in the debris.)

Also, do not place ashes in the burn pile. If not completely cooled, the ashes can cause an unexpected fire putting your home and your neighbour's home at risk.

Be sure that all ashes have thoroughly cooled before you dispose of them. A

suggestion is to place ashes in a lidded metal container to prevent a possible fire and provide a sturdy place to store them. Ashes make good fertilizer in gardens, flowerbeds, etc.

Garbage Bins

Disposing of garbage at the garbage bin site at Ghost Lake Village is restricted to **only household garbage** and only when **placed into the garbage bins**. Do not leave any garbage along side the regular bins. The contractors will not pick up those materials and your neighbours end up having to clean up after you!

Compost Pile

When disposing of grass clippings or leaves, please place them on top of the existing compost pile instead of beside it to avoid making the compost area larger than needed.

Recycling

The Cochrane Eco Centre is open to Ghost Lake Residents located at 50 Griffin Industrial Point Wed-Sat 8 am – 6 pm (closed holidays)

The Cochrane **Waste and Recycling Hotline** is available 24/7 at 403-851-2277