

May-June 2009

The Villager

Volume 6, Issue 2

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May 7th — Village Council
6:15 pm— Assessment Appeal Board Hearing
7:00 p.m. Regular Council Meeting

At Cochrane RanchHouse,

All residents are invited.! Coffee and muffins will be served The Cochrane Ranchhouse is just north of intersection of Hwy 22 and 1A Turn left at the top of the hill entering Cochrane from the North or turn right after turning right at the Hwy 22 and 1A intersection in Cochrane.

A Full Council Agenda May 7th

Representatives from Sundre Forest Products will be in attendance at the May 7th Council Meeting as will John Armstrong, Manager of Foothills Natural Gas Co-op. John will be discussing the proposal to bring natural gas to the Village. In addition five assessment appeals have been received from Village residents. An Appeal Board Hearing has therefore been scheduled for 6:15 pm before the scheduled regular Council Meeting May 7th. Village Assessor Rodney Vikse will be in attendance at the hearing and Village Council will be hearing the appeals. Property values have generally increased by a percentage of 40-50% across all properties. Property taxes should therefore remain fairly stable except where individual properties have been significantly altered. The Village Council Meeting on May 7 will also consider general tax increases in keeping with inflation. The Summer Village remains one of the lowest taxed summer villages in Alberta. Council will also review the 2008 Financial Audit, our roads, drainage and Village emergency plan, and continued implementation of the recent village plebiscite regarding encroachments .

June 28 10:00—12:00 noon Annual Community Meeting at Burnstick Lake.

Residents will be given opportunity to discuss the Village’s road and drainage plan and other projects.

August 1 9:30 AM Annual Pancake Breakfast

Trees are available for planting April 30 ...

The Village’s annual sapling allotment will be available for planting April 30th. A total of 250 white spruce saplings have been provided at no charge thanks to the Federal Government’s Shelterbelt Program. These trees will be apportioned to each crescent who has a volunteer to ensure the trees will be planted on the reserve. **Trees may be picked up from Councillor Irene Dunsmuir’s home** at 6 Poplar Close (403-722-2905 i-g@telus.net). To ensure success and sustained plantings, trees should be planted by May 14th



Photo Credit: Adam Duckett

Encroachment policy implementation off to a great start

The Village is very pleased to report that all owners of **private encroachments** on the municipal reserve are cooperating with the Village and its objective of removal of all such encroachments by September 30. Surprisingly, there are still a few residents who have not yet responded to Village requests regarding **decks and stairways near the shoreline**. All these decks and stairways will be legitimized by agreements between the Village and deck/stairway owners. Owners are encouraged to let the Village know about their deck or stairway and the Village will work with them on a cooperative agreement. The Village is also pleased to announce the hiring of a part time contractor to help implement the encroachment policy. Tara McFadden will help us make sure **private encroachments** are removed and will help administer all the **shorefront decks and stairway agreements**. She will also complete this summer's **fire pit inspections** and will be **monitoring building permits and associated bylaw enforcement** issues going forward. Tara's contract is fully funded by grants recently received for the Village's Reserve and Pathways Renewal Project. Tara will attend the May 7th Village Council meeting to discuss her plans

The Village Encroachment policy was approved at last November's Council meeting which implements last summer's plebiscite.

Did you know?

! The Vogels are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary. A special celebration is being held May 2nd at the Seniors Drop In Centre in Caroline (5111—49th Avenue) from 1:00—4:00. "Burnstickakeians" are invited!



! **The Village has been working on the creation of a web site for the Summer Village.**

Residents who wish to donate pictures to the web site (and this newsletter) are encouraged to do so. Also, Village historians who would like to help Mayor Diane write the Village 's history are also encouraged to provide their support and info.

Photos credits : left -Adam Duckett ; right—Russ Down. Thanks everyone who contributed their pics. We are looking for more , please!

Please let Mayor Diane know if you have some information and please let Rick know if you have any pics to provide. The web site promises to be a nice low-cost site that will help residents and others know more about the Village.

! Here are the contacts for your Council Members

Mayor Diane Auld 403-286-3659 dmauld@telus.net

Councillor Harold Esche (403) 220-4465 esche@ucalgary.ca

Councillor Irene Dunsmuir 403-722-2905 i-g@telus.net

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