

July-August 2009

The Villager

▶ Volume 6, Issue 3

rickbutler@xplornet.com
403-932-3866



June 27 Community meeting (not the 28th!)

The Village's annual community meeting takes place on **Saturday** of the Canada Day long weekend—as always. That's **June 27th**—not as wrongly advertised for the 28th. Topics include the Foothills Natural Gas Co-op Proposal. John Armstrong, General Manager will be discussing the proposal to bring natural gas to the Village. A minimum of 25 village residents is required to provide a **refundable deposit of \$400 (Plus GST = \$420)** each by June 27th. The estimated cost of the complete hook-up to natural gas is up to \$4,000 per residence. Residents may bring their form and deposit to the Meeting. Anyone with any questions, are please asked to call John Armstrong at 403-556-3007 Ext: 205 or e-mail at jarmstrong@foothillsnaturalgas.ca.

Besides the above proposal, we will also be discussing road & drainage planning, fire protection planning, emergency address signage and encroachment and shoreline decks & stairways policy update, and fire pit inspection plans for the summer.

Village Website is launched! ...

The Village has joined the digital age and launched its web site. The site is at <burnsticklakesummervillage.ca>. Please check it out and let us know your suggestions. The Village site gives residents easy access to Village news, maps, council minutes, agendas, bylaws, building permit information, financial statements and much more. The site also includes your pictures. Please send us more! Also, check out Mayor Diane's history of Burnstick Lake featured on the site. The web site will also resolve that annoying problem several residents have had with Rick's mass mailings where attachments were not received. The web link to the newsletter will be e-mailed and residents can simply click and read.

Saturday, June 27 10:00 - Annual Public Meeting at Burnstick lake Community Centre

Residents will hear about the Natural Gas Proposal, roads and drainage project, fire protection plans—and various other projects including answers to your every question about the Summer village.

August 1 9:30 AM Annual Pancake Breakfast

Don't forget this seventh annual community event.

Thank You Tree Planters

The May tree planting went very well. 200 White Spruce and 200 Colorado Spruce saplings were planted throughout the reserve. Thanks **Irene Dunsmuir** for coordinating this spring's efforts.



Photo Credit: Adam Duckett

Resident Al Clark has been doing some “figuring” on natural gas

Burnstick lake Resident, Al Clark has been crunching the numbers on natural gas (NG) versus propane and wishes to report the following. The Alberta Government Remote Area Heating Rebate Program provides villagers a rebate on 25% on heating costs when there is no cheaper NG available. This program has been extended until at least 2011.

The Village understands that if Foothills natural Gas Co-op does not get enough costumers to go ahead with its proposed NG service, residents who did not sign up for NG will no longer be eligible for the Remote Area Heating Rebate. The province wants to curb dependence on the rebate and encourage natural gas service - thus this "incentive" to go to or at least sign up for NG. Al has added up his propane cost for the past two years and calculated what costs would have been if he had NG from Foothills. The NG would have been approx. 36% less then propane (after all propane rebates) or 51% less if there were no rebates. Al figures the payback (based on a \$4,000 installation cost) is about 8 years (if propane rebates were to continue) or 4.5 years (if there are no propane rebates). Al says—“Combine this with the convenience of NG and the added value in the long run to have NG makes him a supporter. Residents will hear further details of the proposal at the **upcoming community meeting on Saturday, June 27 10:00 at the Burnstick Lake Community Centre.**

Did you know?

! Residents should not put their old barbeques, propane tanks, mattresses and furniture in the dumpsters. Please; the three transfer stations are meant for household waste not home renovation waste.

! **While on the dumpster** old propane tanks etc left by the dumpsters must be removed by the owners. They cannot be picked up by our contractor and are creating a problem and eye sore where they are.

!. The deadline to remove all private encroachments from village municipal reserve lands is September 30th.



Photos credits : left - Russ Down; right—Greg Pek who calls it winter recede. Thanks everyone who contributed their pics. We are looking for more , please!

Decks and stairways along the shoreline are of course exempt under the encroachment policy. Agreements will be arranged with deck and stairway owners.

! 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

Rick Butler Administrator 403-932-3866 rickbutler@xpolornet.com

Tara McFadden Encroachments (403) 836-9956 tara.mcfadden@gmail.com

Don't forget our new website at burnsticklakesummervillage.ca

Fire pit inspections

Regular fire pit inspections will begin in July. These are required under the Summer Village Bylaw in order to help prevent wild fires. This is especially critical given the extremely dry conditions being experienced in the area. . The initial inspection will be on Saturday, July 18, with a further inspection on Saturday, Aug 15th for those who did not pass or were not ready for the first inspection. Here are the requirements (Please go to the Bylaws page on our web site to download the full Bylaw:

- **Fire Pits** - Three (3) meters from any structure; Non-combustible bottom in fire pit; Ring of cement or steel on fire pit, and; Ring of cement or steel on fire pit 30 centimeters high. In addition, all combustible materials, including moss, roots, dead needles and dry grass must be routinely removed within 1.5 meters of the pit.
- **Fire Incinerator** –7 millimetres or smaller mesh on incinerator openings, 1.5 metres clearance from flammables or structures horizontally from the bottom of incinerator, and 2.5 metres vertically from the top of the incinerator.

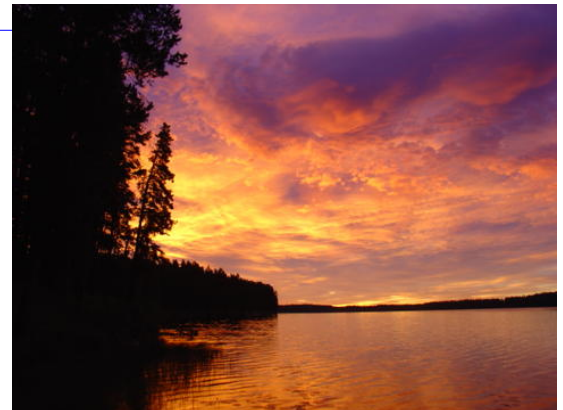
All those fire pits and incinerators that meet these requirements will be given a fire pit inspection certificate. This helps all residents ensure fire smartness, and your insurance companies appreciate it too

If you have any questions, please call Tara McFadden @ (403) 836 - 9956 or e-mail her at tara.mcfadden@gmail.com.

Did you know?

! The implementation of the village encroachment policy is well begun. Many residents have already fulfilled their part with the removal of property from village lands. Tara has been in contact with all the owners of decks and stairs and the agreement process will be beginning in July. If you have a deck or stairs at the lake and haven't been contacted, please call Tara McFadden at (403) 836-9956 or e-mail her at tara.mcfadden@gmail.com

! Engineers and surveyors are out and about planning the **drainage and road work for the village**. There plan and cost estimates will be brought



Photos credits : left - Adolf Becker, right—Al Clark

...to the Village's Capital Planning committee then Village Council this fall for likely construction next spring and summer.

! You can be Proactive Regional Land Use

Any one who wants to help the Village be pro-active regarding land use in the area, please check the SPOG website www.spog.ab.ca regarding updates related to all the proposed drilling and servicing of wells that companies send to SPOG. Some companies, including forestry companies, are not part of SPOG but this is a helpful site for information. In addition the ERCB also has a public website tool, Integrated Application Registry or IAR at www.ercb.ca to look up **all proposed development**. We would encourage interested residents to check this site out once in a while.