

March-April 2007

# The Villager

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## Important Dates...

**April 12 6:30 Council Meeting:** Silver Springs Golf Club. All residents are invited. To attend at 1600 Varsity Estates Dr NW Calgary.

**Village Council Elections-** Nominations for the three Village council positions take place in early July 2006 with the election four weeks later.

## Thank You

Thanks to the **Jess family** for their excellent work on the annual New Years Eve fireworks.

Thanks to **Russ Down** for his photo contributions in this newsletter. They are photos taken from the community centre raising.

Thanks to the 14 First Response Trainees from the following families: **Higgins, Auld, Palmer, Down, Pek, Jess and Stuart.**



## 14 Participants and Counting for First Response

This new village venture, to train first responders, is gathering steam. Fifteen residents have signed up for the free training so far. Participants in the program will receive the following training and equipment: Standard First-Aid, Level C - CPR (the highest level), Public Access Defibrillation (automated defibrillator operator training), personal first-aid kit to be kept at your cabin, small personal family radio service (walkie-talkie) for emergency communications. Many suggestions were made at the Feb 1 Council Meeting:

The local "walkie talkie radio band" for the first aid communications/emergencies be "9.11" The protocol would be to **phone 911 first; then administer first aid.** It was suggested that trained village residents might have some form of "flag" or "sign" outside their respective residence noting their presence and availability for first aid when they are present at their cabin. All these details will be worked out as part of the training. **Dates were set for the following weekends: April 21-22 at Alberta Health & Training Office at Marlborough Mall in Calgary; May 5-6 at Burnstick Lake.** If you are interested, or for more details please contact Kevin Palmer at [palmerkev@gmail.com](mailto:palmerkev@gmail.com) or Rick.



## Trees on their way...volunteers hopefully to follow

The recent Council meeting decided to order saplings from the provincially subsidized Alberta Tree Nursery. The following order was approved at the Feb 1 Meeting: 100 White Spruce for \$200 and 100 Lodgepole Pine for \$200.. This will be funded under the provincial infrastructure funding program. We will see how it goes this summer before ordering again next year. The volunteer tree planting will likely be on the weekend of May 12-13 or 19-20.

## Councillor Greg on the mend...

A few days ago Greg Pek suffered a major fall while working on his cabin at the Village. Greg remains in hospital. Mayor Diane visited Greg recently to pass on the entire village's thoughts, prayers and support to him, Wanda and the Pek family.



## Village Projects Rolling ....

### Bridge Laid This week

As agreed at the October 11 and discussed at the Feb 1 Village Council meeting, the bridge will be placed on the beach front pathway to protect key riparian area and people. This will be completed in the next few days at its location—on the beach pathway near Poplar Close. Thanks to **Shell** for its \$4,000 grant toward this project - **with the rest of funds coming from Alberta Infrastructure Grants.**

### Proposal to resolve reserve approved

Funding from the province has been approved this week to get some land use expertise to sort through reserve encroachment issues in a fair and reasonable manner. The grant took longer than expected to be approved so we may not have a plan ready for this summer.

### Poplar Drainage

A preliminary planning meeting for the Drainage project was held at the Village on site at Poplar Close on Saturday, Feb 17. Drainage project on Poplar Close will be costly. It will require approximately \$40-\$50,000 of the total budget of approximately \$165,000. We have had to significantly scale down the engineer-preferred design which would have been both intrusive and costly beyond the Village's affordability. Costs are still estimates; and all costs are expected to be funded from the Provinces infrastructure Grant Program.



## Did you know?

Association of Summer Village's has produced an excellent **Lake Stewardship Reference Guide**. The entire guide can be found on their web site at [www.albertasummervillages.org](http://www.albertasummervillages.org). This is an excellent resource for individual residents and the municipality in preserving the lake and its environment.

Residents were recently mailed, along with their assessment notices, all **property assessment roll information**. This has allowed residents to have better information to understand and determine the fairness of their assessment. Village assessors check residences and update their files regularly.

Residents wanting to stay in immediate touch on the latest happenings should get on Rick's e-mail distribution list!

Snow plowing costs were high this year (\$2,830) and our reserves have been depleted for future snow-plowing (from \$2,417 to Nil.). This will be discussed at the **April 12 Council meeting budget discussions.**

SVBL still enjoys one of the lowest Summer Village tax rates in the Province; and has been able to take advantage of significant grant dollars for capital projects using very few of its tax dollars if any. However, the Village is slightly below the average regarding its reserve balances.

*If residents have some digital photos they would like to have displayed in future newsletters, kindly e-mail them to Rick. Thanks again to Russ Down for this month's pics.*



*Photos above: Volunteers raising the roof (and above) lowering the floor of the "Village's Centre"*