

May-June, 2008

Volume 5, Issue 3

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# The Villager



**June 28— 9:30 Annual Summer Village Community Meeting at the Community Centre.** All residents are invited. Doughnuts and coffee will be provided. We will discuss the five-year capital improvement plan for the Village along with the proposed plebiscite on encroachments .

## Thank You...

Hazel Higgins for agreeing to add transfer station pick-up liaison to her other volunteer job of community water well testing.

Patricia Knight for taking a seat on the Burnstick Lake Management Plan and providing an excellent report to the April 17th Council meeting..

Pete Jess, Jerry Knight and Diane Auld for agreeing to sit for a 4-year term on the Development Appeal Board. This is a difficult and thankless job. So thanks again!

Harvey Barrer for great snow clearing this winter and fixing the community centre freeze-up at very little cost to taxpayers.

Many residents who provided great pictures. This newsletter features pics from Jennifer Ranger

## Village's Capital Improvement Plan Resumes

We will soon be ready to go with the next phase of our capital improvement plan for Burnstick Lake. The Capital Planning Committee of (Councillor **Irene Dunsmuir, Dean McKenzie, Glenn Gray, Morris Butler and Gordon Bussey**) will meet on May 22 to consider the capital plan and "go forward" projects for the next several years.

Projects completed to date include the walkway bridge; drainage improvements on Spruce and Poplar Close; and aerial photography and the legal survey of the municipal reserve. Possible projects going forward include: major upgrade to Burnstick Drive and other roads, reserve & walkway improvements, additional drainage improvements, fire first response plan/infrastructure, electric baseboard (back-up) heating for Community Centre. The following were added at the April 17 Council meeting for consideration: road improvements in several of the cul-de-sacs; up-grade of fencing and road at boat launch; increased electrical capacity and better plug configuration for community centre. The Committee's plan for all this **will be discussed at the annual community meeting June 28th at the Community Centre.**

## Encroachment Policy— Residents will have the final say

Eleven proposals were received from residents regarding encroachment policy. The 38 pages of suggestions were summarized and distributed (along with copies of each of the proposals from residents) to those attending the April 17 Council meeting. Mayor Diane outlined the proposed process for going forward as follows: **First, residents should review the summary of proposals and provide any comment to Rick as soon as possible or by no later than May 7th** (We have provided electronic and hard copies to those who were not in attendance at the April 17 Council meeting). **Secondly, Council will meet in mid May to draft questions for a plebiscite, which would be administered by mail to all Village electors.** Residents will hear more about this at the June 28 community meeting.

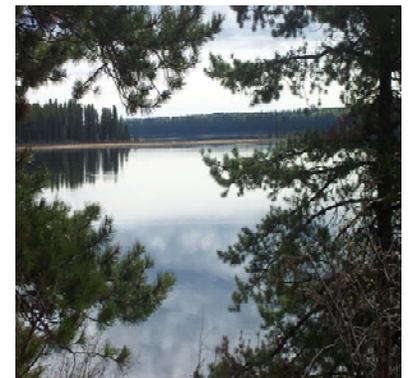


Photo Credit: Jennifer Ranger

## 2008 Tax Rates Set— Village remains with good balance sheet.

The proposed 2008 Budget was discussed at the April 17th Council meeting. Here are a few highlights: 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 none of its tax dollars. However, the Village remains slightly below the average regarding its reserve balances. There appears to be continued capital dollars in the future for the many projects that the Village is planning. However, these funds will not help offset all operating costs. In fact, new capital projects often “push” the operating budget beyond inflationary increases. Although we considered a tax rate increase greater than inflation, the budget and tax rate bylaw holds to inflation of 6% for a total of approximately \$2,000 increase in property taxes going to the municipality. It is expected that we will continue to leverage our limited local tax dollars against other sources of funding.

The Audited Financial Statements were also distributed at the April 17 Council Meeting. Here are the highlights in that regard: Municipal financial position has increased from \$130,703 in 2006 to \$157,066 in 2007. This is due largely to additional capital assets of the walkway bridge and drainage at Poplar and Spruce paid for completely by provincial and other non-Village funds. Net operating costs fared slightly better than budgeted at \$1,252 required from the accumulated surplus. Village Reserves remain consistent at its total of \$35,400.

### Did you know?

**! Third Waste Transfer Station** will be on site starting May 12<sup>th</sup> through October. It is hoped, however, that residents will refrain from using this as a waste station for construction material and old couches.

**! Free Trees for Planting on the Reserve** - We have arranged for trees at no cost to the Village through the Federal Government. This year will see 200 Scots Pine ready to plant on the **May 10-11 weekend**.



*Photos credits Jennifer Ranger. We will have other great pics from other residents in future editions of the Villager. Thanks everyone who contributed. We have a few months supply but are always looking for more. In fact, there is a Province-wide summer village 'sun rise' photo competition. So send us your favorite sun rises.*

**Irene Dunsmuir** kindly volunteered to pick up the free trees and coordinate the planting by local volunteers on May 10-11. Now that we are on the “approved for free tree” list we will order many more trees for planting in future years. Planting will usually be the first or second weekend of May.

### Tax notices are in the mail...

2008 Property Tax Notices have been sent to all residents. The average tax increase will be 6% for Village property taxes (about 40% of the tax bill) and provincial School taxes will be slightly less. If you had a major improvement to your cottage, You will pay more than these increases while others will pay less. We hope Burnstick Lake Village residents will keep to their provincial best payment-on-time record! **Cheques are to be to the Village by July 1.**