

March-April, 2009

Volume 6, Issue 1

rickbutler@xplornet.com
403-932-3866

The Villager



May 7th — 7:00 p.m.

Village Council Meeting

Cochrane RancheHouse,

We will discuss the 2008 Financial Audit, the immediate to 10-year capital plan for the Village including roads and drainage, the emergency plan, and continued implementation of the recent village plebiscite regarding encroachments. All residents are invited. Coffee and muffins will be served. The Cochrane Ranchehouse 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.

Assessment Notices - Increases consistent across properties

2008 assessment notices have been mailed with this newsletter. All property values have generally increased but by a similar percentage of 40-50% across all properties. Property taxes should therefore remain fairly stable except where individual properties have been significantly altered. It is also important to note that the effective date of the assessment is set by provincial legislation at July 1, 2008. This date is of course before the general downward trend in the local and global economy. Village assessment may therefore not reflect the current market value but the market as at July 1, 2008. The Village Council Meeting on May 7 will consider general tax increases - likely only in keeping with inflation. The Summer Village remains one of the lowest taxed summer villages in Alberta. However, its financial reserves are somewhat below average and should be built up wherever possible.

July 4 9:00—11:00 am Annual Community Meeting at Burnstick Lake.

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

Other notes ...

! Owners of shoreline stairways and decks are reminded that the Village needs to hear from you in order for us to establish agreements for these structures. Please contact Rick if you have not already done so. ! Dog owners are reminded that they should keep their dogs from running freely throughout 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

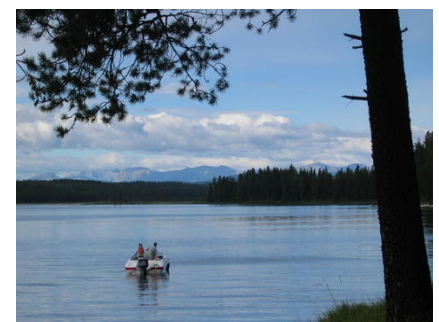


Photo Credit: Al Clark

Encroachment policy deadlines approaching

The Village Encroachment policy was approved at last November’s Council meeting. It implements last summer’s plebiscite. **Here is the implementation schedule for the encroachment policy:**

By March 31, 2009 - Owners of all private encroachments are to provide to the Village either a report of the action they took to remove the encroachment and restore the reserve to its original state or provide a written statement as to when they plan to remove the encroachment. Private encroachments include all improvements beyond resident’s property lines, on Village reserve land. The only “encroachments” that will be allowed are decks and stairways to access the lake and the temporary storage of docks near the shoreline.

By August 4, 2009 - The Village will respond to resident’s proposals for shore line decks and stairways with formal encroachment agreements.

By Sept 30, 2009 – All encroachments are to be removed (other than decks and stairways and temporary storage of docks near shoreline) .

There are still a few residents who have not responded to the letters/e-mails that were sent to them regarding their private encroachments. **There are also many owners of shoreline stairways and decks that we need to hear from in order for us to establish agreements for these structures.** Please contact Rick for further details.

Did you know?

! The **Village has a Sustainability Plan**. The January Village Council meeting approved a sustainability Plan for the Village. This is a requirement for certain federal funding that the Village is receiving. For further information check out our new Village web site or contact Rick.

! The January Council meeting directed that **hazardous trees** be removed from the Village Reserve. Alfred Schmutz was contracted by the Village to do this and completed his good work on Feb 12th.



Photos credits : left -Kimberly Meetsma (Rowland); right–Russ Down. Thanks everyone who contributed their pics. We are looking for more , please!

! **The Next Generation of Trees** ... 250 free / no charge white spruce saplings have been committed for the Village by the Federal Government’s Shelterbelt Program. These trees will be apportioned to each Crescent by Councillor Irene Dunsmuir who is picking up the trees and coordinating the distribution. Please note that before a crescent receives their share of the saplings they must have a person designated who will be responsible for their planting.