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The Villager



January 21 — 7:00 p.m.

Village Council Meeting

Cochrane RancheHouse,

We will discuss the draft 10-year capital plan for the Village, implementation of the plebiscite and emergency planning . 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. Silver Springs isn't available for a few months.

Partnerships with Clearwater

Under discussion

There are a number of important partnerships being discussed with Clearwater County. On the fire protection front, the County is encouraging the Village to consider the Capital Planning Committee's option of draft water lines from the lake. This would support a **local first response** and be used by the County in its follow-up capacity. Dry wells or pumps ready for the pumping of water from the lake would also provide necessary water capacity for County vehicles fighting fires in the area. The next Council meeting on January 21 will hear more details from the Capital Planning Committee. Clearwater also suggested addressing signage for the Village. These would be the standard county signs which are white on blue, retro-reflective approximately 67 cm wide and 20 cm high. The addresses used would be consistent with our addressing system (e.g. 7 Poplar Close, 11 Burnstick Drive, etc). Council agreed in principle and asked the capital planning committee to review the details.

Clearwater County is also willing to assist the Village as its "emergency preparedness agent." Although Village Council will still "own the emergency" and be responsible for declaring the emergency and marshalling a local response, this will be shored up by Clearwater County with its additional capacity and expertise. We expect to have a draft agreement to discuss with Council at its Jan 21 meeting.



Land use in the area Residents can get involved

Residents have a number of ways to get involved in land use in the greater Burnstick Area. Our representative on SPOG, George Dunsmuir, regularly reviews the "new development log" that is handed out at the SPOG Community Affairs meetings and reports to Council as appropriate. SPOG's "new development log" is available to all residents on the SPOG website site http://www.spog.ab.ca/new_projects.html . This is a great method for residents to stay informed.

The ERCB also has a public website tool, Integrated Application Registry (IAR) www.ercb.ca to look up proposed developments in the area. We encourage interested residents to go on this site occasionally to check things out. In addition to the above individual efforts, Council recently designated Councillor Harold Esche to be Council's contact and lead on such area land use these matters. Harold will liaise with George Dunsmuir on SPOG and Patricia Knight on the Burnstick Lake Area Advisory Committee to make sure the Village is proactive on land use matters that effect the Village.

It should also be noted that the waste recycling plant proposal that was discussed last fall has since been withdrawn by the proponent.

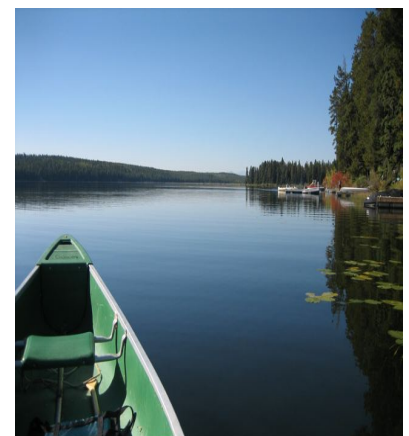


Photo Credit: Adolf Becker

Encroachment policy approved

The Draft Encroachment policy, which implements last summer’s plebiscite, was unanimously approved by Village Council at its October 9th meeting. Comments from residents led to a number of clarifications and a change to the time that encroachments would need to be removed. September 30, 2009 was set as the deadline for the removal of all encroachments.

There was also some discussion on the matter of “grandfathering” of encroachments and reference was made to the 1993 SVBL Bylaw that referenced non-conforming land use. It was pointed out that there was no reference in any file to any agreement related to grandfathering of encroachments onto the reserve. If there had been any such agreement, it would appear in individual property files or in some other formal bylaw or resolution. It is only through bylaws, formal Council resolutions and formal agreements that a municipality can act and operate. The following definition of “Non conforming use” was then read from the current SVBL Bylaw which has not changed from 1993: *NON-CONFORMING BUILDING OR USE – a building that was **lawfully constructed**, or is lawfully under construction, or a use being made of, or intended to be made of land or a building, that do not or will not comply with the land use bylaw or land use bylaw amendment on the date that the bylaw or amendment comes into effect. This clause would references such matters as changes to property setbacks; but was never intended to allow building on to the Reserve.*

Here is the implementation schedule for the encroachment policy: November 2008 – Letters will go to all property owners regarding encroachment policy and outline the known private encroachments to date. This will include the latest list of encroachments including those identified in the legal survey of November 2007. March 31, 2009 - Owners of 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 a written statement as to when they plan to remove the encroachment. By Sept 30, 2009 – All encroachments are to be removed other than decks and stairways (and temporary storage of docks) near shoreline. By August 4, 2009 - The Village will respond to resident’s proposals for shore line decks and stairways with formal encroachment agreements.

Did you know?

! **Third Waste Transfer Station A** third bin or transfer station was placed on site starting in May. With lower use in the winter, the bin will be padlocked and chained until May. This is cheaper than removing and re-installing the bin each year.

! **Bill Post** has taken the job of liaising with the Natural Gas Co-op regarding possible gas to the Village. Contact Bill for more information. ! It was agreed that the Village exercise its option to extend the current contract to Harvey Barrer by one year and that the snow ploughing contract be tendered again in 2009.



Photos credits - Kimberly Meetsma (Rowland) Thanks everyone who contributed their pics. We are looking for more .

Roads & Drainage Plan Underway

Council approved at its October meeting the capital planning committee’s recommendation for a comprehensive storm water and runoff management plan. The plan will address cross lot drainage, right of way requirements, standard lot approach road requirements, and a design for a system of walkways. The report is expected to be presented to Council in March 2009. A major upgrade of Burnstick Drive and other roads would then be considered and planned more properly after the above drainage study is completed. This would be considered along with the other possible capital projects on the horizon. In the meantime, we are making efforts to perform short term repairs to the existing pot holes on Burnstick Drive. If anyone has any recommendations in this regard please let Council or members of the Capital Planning Committee know. We don’t want to go to a lot of interim expense if the road will be fully upgraded as early as 2009 or 2010 .