



## DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER SUMMER VILLAGE OF SEBA BEACH

### Mayors Message – Doug Thomas Greetings from your Mayor

As 2014 draws to a close we need to remind ourselves about how lucky we are to have Seba Beach as our little piece of paradise. A great deal of time and effort has been spent this year in attempting to find a strategy that will allow our community to thrive and prosper without affecting our ability to enjoy the serene tranquility that so many of us enjoy as both permanent and part time residents of Seba Beach. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 12 residents who have agreed to form our strategy committee for their time and commitment in assisting council with finding solutions to the many issues that affect our summer village.

Over the course of the last 12 months I have had the opportunity to attend a couple of presentations on the quality of Lake Wabamun and the effects that the Wabamun Watershed has on the ecological well-being of our lake. A study is currently being prepared by Stantec Engineering which we hope will provide us with some guidance on what we need to do to ensure the long term health of our lake. The experts keep telling us that we need to be forever vigilant in reducing the harmful nutrients that enter this beautiful body of water so please make sure you have taken the necessary steps to be part of the solution. This includes eliminating fertilizers and other harmful chemicals from entering the lake. It also includes making sure your septic system is working properly and making sure it gets pumped out regularly.

Sue Evans and her team continue to do a tremendous job of looking after the affairs of our summer village. We expect to close out 2014 with another small surplus in our operating account and to move into 2015 in a strong financial position. Hopefully the Provincial Government will keep our school requisition for 2015 at its current level so that taxes do not have to increase. Keep in mind that the school requisition is something we have no control over. I would be remiss in my duties if I did not thank all of the employees who commit time and effort in making Seba Beach a special place to live. This includes the countless hours spent by the many volunteer fire department members. These people all deserve our respect and our gratitude for the work that they do. I sincerely hope that everyone has a very safe and happy holiday season. Please continue to be respectful and considerate of your neighbors and their property. Happy New Year!

### A Councillor's Insight – Councillor Rick MacPhee

I have been on Seba Beach Council for almost a year now and I can honestly say it has certainly been interesting. Although I have spent my summers at Seba my whole life, and since retiring a couple of years ago I have spent May through September at Seba, I have gained a much better insight relative to the operations of the Village and what goes on behind the scene. It surprised me how many interactions the Village has with various outside sources. There are several governmental departments, at many levels, both provincially and federally, several departments within surrounding towns and municipalities, the nearby Sundance Plant and Keephills Mine, RCMP, the surrounding campgrounds and RV parks and of course the residents of Seba themselves. There is very little idle time within the village office.

It was also revealing to see the varied activities that the Public Works crew are involved in. Most residents see the garbage removal, road repair, landscape and brush maintenance in summer and snow removal in the winter. Bill and Dan spent considerable time in the spring shoring up and rebuilding the south wall of the Pavilion and a couple of months in the fall redeveloping the north wall, replacing and expanding the deck

and adding a cover over the deck. There are always extra duties and activities for these dedicated individuals to tackle that generally go unnoticed.

There have been many issues facing the Village over the past year, some of them routinely managed by Council, however there have been some larger more far reaching issues that we felt greater input was required. To that end, we set up a 12 member Planning Committee, composed of lake front and non-lake front residents from throughout the Village. This group met on three occasions and discussed and reviewed many topics. I felt this was a very positive process to get valued feedback from several residents. Further information on these items will be forthcoming in the New Year.

I had the opportunity to attend the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta annual conference in October and it was interesting and enlightening. It was interesting to hear that many of the 51 Summer Villages within Alberta share many of the same issues, specifically; public access to lakes through the summer villages, piers and hoists, fireworks enforcement, noise pollution and policing & law enforcement. These are all relevant topics within Seba and we spend considerable time addressing them. Finally, as we get into the holiday season and we are all busy with many activities, I encourage everyone to pay attention to safety. We recently lost a lifetime summer resident at Seba and a very dear friend, John Binder, to an unfortunate accident. Please, take care and be safe. The very best of the season to all.

**The Seba Beach Administration Office is a drop off point for FOOD BANK AND SANTAS ANONYMOUS donations. Cash donations are also accepted for Christmas Hamper items. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to help local families in need. Your generous donations are most appreciated.**

Regular meetings of Council are held the third Thursday of each month. Meeting dates are posted at the administration office or call 780 797-3863 for confirmation of dates. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you wish to address Council, please call ahead and request that your item of discussion be placed on the agenda.

Administration Office is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Office telephone number is 780-797-3863 or Fax is 797-3800 (use of the fax is available to the public at reasonable rates) Please note our email address is [svseba@telusplanet.net](mailto:svseba@telusplanet.net). Visit our website at [www.sebabeach.ca](http://www.sebabeach.ca) Please ensure that you provide the administration office with any change of address, new telephone numbers and email contact information that you may acquire.

Development Permits are required for most improvement developments affecting your property. Tony Sonnleitner is the Development Officer so if you have any questions just give him a call at 780 718-5479 or fax 866 363-3342 or email [pcml@telusplanet.net](mailto:pcml@telusplanet.net)

**Snow Removal – Snow Removal Waiver Forms are maintained on file so if you have completed one in the past the information shall remain in your property file. Driveway clearing rates are currently set at \$ 25.00 per clearing. Senior Citizens receive this service free of charge. Please advise the administration office if you require this service. When it snows, please move your vehicles off the street to allow for clearing. Thank you for your cooperation!**

**The “Light Up Your Life Campaign” – This marks the 23rd year for this fundraising campaign for Parkland Palliative Care. The Program “Lights Up” the communities of Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Wabamun and Seba Beach in different ways. In Seba Beach the “Wave Of Hope” sparkles on the Seniors Center. A donation of \$ 10.00 will light a clear bulb on one of the community symbols and will glow in memory of someone dear to you. The names of those remembered in this way will be published in the local newspapers after the Christmas Season. Donations may be made at the Seba Beach Administration Office or the Seba Seniors Thrift Shop. Thanks to all of you who have shown your support.**

**Garbage pick-up** – takes place Mondays, sometimes extending into Tuesdays. All garbage must be stored in proper garbage containers kept in suitable garbage stands capable of keeping the containers from tipping over. Regulation size garbage cans must be used. Please Note that a \$ 50.00 fee will be charged to any property owner who is in violation of garbage regulations. Any property that requires the services of our public works employees to clean up scattered garbage will be charged for the service.

**If you are dropping off items at the Seba Beach Transfer Station - Don't forget that you need to present your access card to the attendant at the station in order to enter the facility. If you misplace or lose your card, Parkland County has implemented a card replacement fee of \$ 25.00.**

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT – Community Peace Officer Jason Welin**

As I write my winter submission for our newsletter, we're having one of the first big blizzards. That being said, winter home and road safety came to mind. Here are some hints for working, playing and travelling in cold temperatures:

Check on older friends, relatives and neighbors who live alone. Be careful when using fireplaces, stoves or space heaters to stay warm. Carbon monoxide poisoning and home fires are very real winter hazards. Dress in layers of warm, dry clothing, so that you can adjust to changing conditions. Be sure to wear a warm hat that covers your ears and a pair of loose-fitting gloves or mitts - Up to 40% of our body heat is lost through the head and hands. If exposed skin surfaces develop frostbite, warm affected areas gradually by wrapping or placing the affected area next to warm skin or in warm water. Do not rub areas of frostbitten skin. Recognize the symptoms of hypothermia: confusion, dizziness, exhaustion and severe shivering. If these symptoms are present, seek immediate medical attention. Severe hypothermia can be life threatening.

Eat high-energy foods along with warm beverages and soup. Avoid drinking alcoholic beverages. Older adults and very young children should avoid prolonged outdoor exposure. Avoid fatigue and exhaustion during cold weather. Overexertion, such as shoveling snow or pushing a car, can strain your heart. If you develop chest pains or shortness of breath, call 911.

Use particular caution on slippery surfaces during winter weather. Many injuries are caused by falls on ice-covered sidewalks, steps and driveways. Keep these areas clear of snow and use salt or sand on ice. Wear winter footwear with good treads, foot traction aids and/or ice picks on canes. Reschedule outings or appointments on days that are particularly slippery. During periods of extreme cold weather or icy conditions, offer to shop for older friends and relatives. When traveling by automobile, monitor weather conditions carefully and adhere to travel advisories.

#### **Winter Travel**

The best safety precaution during severe weather conditions is to avoid traveling. However, if you must drive, be prepared. Tune up your vehicle and keep the tank full of gas, and plan your trips in advance and drive well-traveled roads. Always tell family and friends of your route, departure, and arrival times. And if driving conditions become serious, turn back or stop at the side of the road.

#### **Things to do if you are stranded:**

Park completely off the traveled portion of the road.	Set out warning lights or flares.
Turn on 4-way flashers.	Stay in the vehicle and keep dry.
Run the engine sparingly for heat.	Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow.
Avoid long exposure and over-exertion	Use a candle in a coffee tin for heat.
Don't let all occupants sleep at once.	Keep watch for searchers and other traffic.
Warm up in the vehicle by vigorously moving your legs, arms and hands.	
Wear a hat as you can lose up to 60% of body heat through your head.	

**Winter survival kit**

Ice scraper and brush	Sand or kitty litter	First aid kit
Flashlight and extra batteries	Candles and coffee tin	Compass or GPS
Booster cables	Matches/lighter (in a waterproof bag)	Extra toques and mitts
Shovel and tow rope	Blankets/sleeping bag/warm clothing	Cellular phone & Charger
Flares or other signal aids	Granola bars, candy, sugar cubes	Gas line antifreeze

**Some helpful links:**

Alberta Road Reports - <http://511.alberta.ca/>

Alberta Emergency Alert - <http://www.emergencyalert.alberta.ca/>

Alberta Blizzard Watch - <https://www.facebook.com/AlbertaBlizzard>

**FIRE SERVICES – Merry Christmas from Parkland County Fire Services**

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Kim Mozak and I'm your District Deputy Fire Chief for Fire District 7 which is the Fire station located in Seba Beach. Did you know that since the governance of the Seba Beach Fire department went to Parkland County, a few things have changed to benefit our residents? The fire districts of Seba Beach and Tomahawk are now combined. What this means is when we are dispatched to an emergency call, units from both fire districts respond to the emergency. As a result, you get more available personnel and resources. Since we are a combined fire district, our personnel train together weekly, building our skills while continuing to grow our organization. Now that it's cold out an important issue that many are concerned with during this time of the year is a chimney fire. No one wants to ever experience a chimney fire or worse a fire in the chimney that spreads to the home. Even a small chimney fire that doesn't spread is never a good sign and it is very important to know how to recognize one as it is occurring and to prevent them from happening. Many times homeowners learn that they had a chimney fire after the fact, usually during the next chimney cleaning.

**Common Causes of Chimney Fires**

- infrequent sweeping and cleaning
- burning unseasoned wet wood
- overnight burning or smoldering wood for long periods in wood stoves
- buildup of creosote along the chimney lining

**Warning Signs of a Chimney Fire**

- excessive, dense smoke
- embers falling back into the hearth
- walls of the chimney breast or adjacent walls becoming very hot to the touch
- flames showing from the top or flames /dense smoke may shoot from top of chimney
- loud cracking & popping noise, can be detected by neighbors/people passing by
- an intense, hot smell

**How to Prevent Chimney Fires**

- properly maintain your chimney, clean and perform needed repairs

**What to Do If You Think You Have a Chimney Fire**

- evacuate your home safely
- call 9-1-1, explain your situation

I would like to extend an invite to the community to stop in and say "Hello" at our Fire station when you see us there. We will always be more than happy to give you a tour and answer any questions you may have.

Page 5 ...

From Parkland County's fire family to your family we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Safe Holiday Season. All the Best for a Happy New Year in 2015!

#### SEBA BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY – Judith Watts-Mott, Library Manager

The library has NEW technology and some NEW books, movies & TV series to share! We have 2 new iPad Air tablets for use in the library. The Roblox APP is available so that our local gamers can play one of the most popular games. Our Wi-fi has been upgraded to 5.0 GHz so try it out by selecting Library Wireless or Library BYOD (Bring Your Own Device). HOOPLA is a new service for downloading or streaming digital movies, TV shows, music, and Audio books. Even if you have a Netflix subscription, our HOOPLA will provide MORE digital titles to choose from for kids & adults PLUS borrowing from over 3 million items in more than 150 libraries. All of this is included in a \$10/year Family membership (2 or more people) or a \$7/year Adult membership. Remember that if you are 60 years or older you can get a FREE Seniors' Membership at our library. If you have a baby you can get a free membership for your child. We've added to our online magazine collection with titles such as: Teen Vogue, Seventeen, How It Works Illustrated (science mag for kids & parents), WIRED, Thrasher Skateboard Magazine, Snowboarder, Hockey News, SELF, Canadian Living, Love Patchwork & Quilting, Weight Watchers, etc.

Some new fiction books for adults include Jeffrey Archer's "Be Careful what You Wish For" (4<sup>th</sup> book in the Clifton Chronicles series), "The Girl who saved the King of Sweden" by Jonas Jonasson, the latest Women's Murder Club Series title "Unlucky 13", or Lee Child's "A Wanted Man". Some Non-fiction books of interest are: "iRules: What Every Family should know about Selfies, Sexting, and Growing Up", "Smarter than you think: How Technology is Changing our Minds for the Better", "The Paleo Diet"... and National Geographic's "How to be the World's Smartest Traveller...".

Some new TV series are: The Vikings, House of Cards, Adventure Time, Castle, Supernatural, etc. New movies are: 12 years a Slave, Anna Karenina, Push, Water, The Queen, Prairie Home Companion, Gravity, Bobby, and War Horse.

You can contact our library at tel: (780)797-3940, e-mail [sebabeachlibrary@yrl.ab.ca](mailto:sebabeachlibrary@yrl.ab.ca), go to [www.sebabeachlibrary.ab.ca](http://www.sebabeachlibrary.ab.ca), or like "Seba Beach Public Library" on Facebook.

Merry Christmas to all!

#### FARMERS MARKET – Carol Blake and Margy LeGrow, Managers

Holiday Greetings from Carol, Margy and our dedicated vendors. We all hope you were able to enjoy the people and products this summer. We averaged 35 vendors each week. We are just about at full capacity for activities (new this summer, Children's Day) if anyone has something to suggest for the market please let us know. We hope you have a great winter season and are looking forward to seeing you in 2015.

#### SEBA BEACH SENIORS – Diane Coulthard, Communications

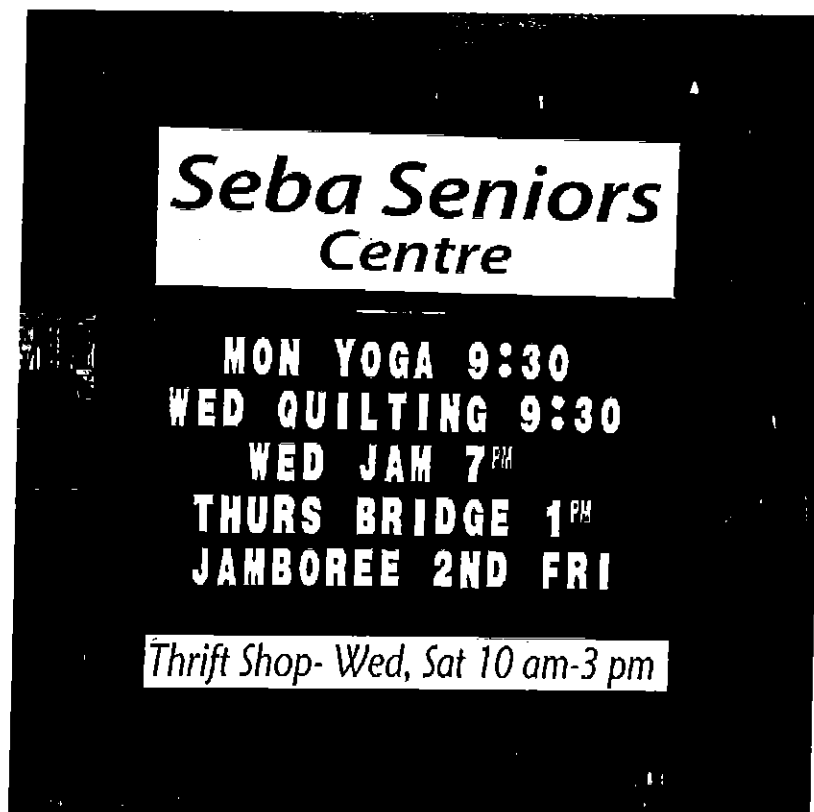
Winter is really upon us, and as I write this the Seba Seniors is all ready for their Annual Christmas Craft Sale, Tea, and Christmas Store in the Thrift Shop - all happening on November 29th. The Christmas Store in the Thrift Store will remain open until the Store closes for a well deserved break on December 24th -- reopening on January 3rd at 10 am. There is an active following for our socials and scheduled activities at the Centre. Members and the public are enjoying Yoga (Mondays 9:30 am), Quilting (Wed. 9:30 am), Music Jam Sessions (Wed. 7pm), and Bridge for Everyone (Thurs. 1 pm). If you would like more information about these programs, please phone Lynn Berg - 780-797-3054. There are Jamborees held at the Centre on the second Friday of each month too -- more information from Toni Yurkewich at 780-797-4233.

Page 6 ...

The Holiday season will bring many different emotions to different households - sadness, loneliness, great joy, and celebration. When I recently asked my 21 year old grandson what he would like for Christmas, he said 'I could use socks or a gift card, but I'm always just excited to see family, have dinners and laugh together - that is what I like about Christmas'. I was so proud of his wisdom. I hope that everyone who reads this will also enjoy dinners and laughter with their families and friends. And in the New Year, come to the Seba Seniors Centre and enjoy making new friends and renewing old friendships - you will be made very welcome. Memberships are open to everyone over 55.

Season's Greetings to All from the Seba Beach Seniors Club.

PS - Have you notice the new sign on our front lawn.



***Seba Seniors  
Centre***

**MON YOGA 9:30**  
**WED QUILTING 9:30**  
**WED JAM 7<sup>PM</sup>**  
**THURS BRIDGE 1<sup>PM</sup>**  
**JAMBOREE 2ND FRI**

*Thrift Shop- Wed, Sat 10 am-3 pm*