

November 2017

Issue 2



Inside this issue:

Strategic Plan Feedback	2
Nuts and Bolts	2
Parks and Rec	3
7 Villages Return	3
Wastewater Plan	Insert
Police	4

“Council has approved a new street snow removal contract. The contractor is willing to incorporate private driveways into his route, but residents will need to negotiate their individual arrangements. Phone or text Mr. Bill Leeming at [780-718-1768](tel:780-718-1768).”

CRYSTAL SPRINGS HAS A PLAN

“WASTEWATER UPDATE”

On November 14th, after two months of intensive study and numerous meetings to review environmental, legal, technical, human and financial issues, Council approved a comprehensive plan to complete the public wastewater property connections. The system is expected to be fully operational by the fall of 2018. A public wastewater system has been worked on by numerous Council’s for decades and Mayor Rawlinson gives the former Councillors “full marks” for foresight, perseverance and the building of a financial reserve to help offset homeowner costs.

The plan includes participation through incentives rather than compulsory legislation. As the sewer is a SYSTEM rather than a group of individual projects and based on issues arising from the use of multiple service providers, the municipality also approved the use of a single contractor who has been selected to provide the lowest cost and highest quality service that will include tank inspections and complete installation within specified engineering standards and supervision.

The costs will be subsidized and partially financed by the municipality from reserves and loans. Unless existing tanks require replacing, homeowners are expected to experience modest personal cost and minimal disruption in the short term, with substantial savings, significant convenience and most importantly improved ecology over time.

Details regarding the plan and the implications for all Crystal Springs residents are detailed in a two page insert to this newsletter. We recommend that residents save that document for future reference.

THE CRYSTAL SPRINGS COUNCIL
cordially invites you to a
HOLIDAY APPRECIATION SOCIAL
December 09
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
AT THE HOME OF COUNCILOR
MARGARET GAGNON
#304

Please join us for an informal afternoon of wine, cheese, and conversation. No R.S.V.P. is necessary.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Your views are important to us. Council is now developing its Strategic Plan for 2018 and beyond. At this time the “working paper” includes over 30 initiatives derived from our numerous conversations with you during the election last summer.

If you have an important issue let us know. The draft “*Strategic Directions*” document is expected to be considered for approval at the December 12th meeting of Council. It will then be posted on the web-site and sent directly to those of you that have agreed to our use of your e-mail to gather your input, with final approval scheduled for the January 9th meeting.



The plan includes key priorities like lake ecology measures, wastewater system maintenance, municipal road repair, paving of the access roads, parks improvements, new “community building” activities and much, much more.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN IS OUR GUIDING DOCUMENT FOR WHAT YOU WANT TO OCCUR IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Please watch for the plan after Dec 12th and be sure to share your ideas, concerns and recommendations. On behalf of Council, thank you and Seasons Greetings.

Ian Rawlinson,
Mayor



CONSTRUCTION SAFETY CONCERNS

An independent audit of *Fusion's* construction safety practice commissioned by Council has resulted in improved barricades around excavation, the marking and flagging of holes and improved signage throughout the community. The report was undertaken in response to community concerns, and Council and the CAO are regularly inspecting sites to ensure compliance. Residents who observe any seemingly unsafe locations are asked to contact the Summer Village office rather than *Fusion* employees. The contractor continues to assure Council that work (except for the repair of landscaping) will be completed by year-end.



ROAD CONDITIONS

Yes, the road is horrible, unfortunately we will have to endure this situation for most of next year. Council has begun an examination of paving options, cost, and resources. In addition, Council initiated contact with the County and neighboring Summer Villages regarding the paving of Range Roads 11 and 12. Planning meetings to consider strategies, funding and timing began on November 02, 2017. Details will be provided as decisions are made.

OLD “GREEN STORE “ DEMOLITION

The planned demolition of the old green store at the west entrance to Crystal Springs had to be delayed to ensure that the necessary demolition agreements and repayment arrangements were in place. Unfortunately, an agreement with the property owner failed and an order for demolition has been issued pursuant to section # 545 of the Municipal Government Act. The legislation provides for “orders to remedy unsafe and unsightly property.” An excavation contractor’s tender has been approved and clearing of the site is expected before the end of November. The underground fuel tank removal and re-zoning proposed by the previous Council will also receive a careful assessment for potential contamination and liability issues.



A RETURN TO THE 7 VILLAGES

“We are back in”

The Joint Services Committee that oversee the common administration of the south Pigeon summer villages met on November 15th and approved a five-month trial partnership with Crystal Springs.

Six south Pigeon Villages operate with a common administration at Ma-Me-O Beach. There were seven until last Spring when the Crystal Springs municipality was asked to leave following the resignation of the CAO from the partnership because of continuing conflict and the related demands on administrative staff. The expulsion was for two years with a review at that time. The previous Council was required to find new offices, staff and somehow maintain the local municipality through continuing disputes and complex issues such as the wastewater initiative. Operating as an independent entity proved to be incredibly expensive and demanding; essentially unsustainable.

Unwilling to wait two years for reinstatement, in October Council initiated a proposal for Joint Services Committee to consider a re-instatement of Crystal Springs on a five-month trial basis. The decision is an important one for Crystal Springs from the perspective of good governance and financial responsibility. The 5 month trial allows both sides to re-evaluate the arrangement and ensure it is a fit for all parties.

Council thanks the neighbouring villages for their trust in our council and reinstating us at such an early date.

PARKS & REC PLAN APPROVED

The first year of a proposed multiple year plan of Parks improvements and new community activities from the new Parks and Recreation Committee was endorsed by Council at their November 14th meeting. The Committee will now attempt to facilitate Alberta lottery funding for implementation in 2018. The “community facility enhancement” plan includes early spring shoreline cleaning, removal of dead and decaying trees; renewal of the Day Park including a repaired, expanded and more useable “community center” with power, lighting, a fire-pit and inclement weather protection. Children’s playground improvements, a walking path for the “mobility challenged” and volleyball nets in the “triangular park” are also proposed. The “community facility enhancements” will depend upon Alberta Environment and Alberta Culture & Tourism consultations and funding. A fountain and a swim platform, replacement of the west end bridge and improvements at the boat launch are also being contemplated.



In addition, the group is proposing expanded community-building activities like “Meet & Greet” sessions with a BBQ already planned for May 26th and additional events in July and August. They have also endorsed the Dec 9th Council sponsored “Holiday Appreciation Social” and plans for newcomer welcoming.

In the new year, the group will continue their work on a multiple year plan for the remaining parks and land reserves. Some options include shoreline improvements, tree and underbrush clearing and walking path improvements – dependent upon resident suggestions and preferences. Residents with questions, concerns or recommendations **and in particular those who are willing to work on the planned activities** are invited to contact Vi Iles violeti@telus.net 780-871-8972 regarding recreational activity or Arnold Moerth Arnold.moerth@shaw.ca 780-451-9117 regarding parks improvements. **PLEASE CALL THEM.**

WE WANT YOUR EMAIL!

We have over 125 on our email list already!

You will receive any newsletters electronically as well as any updates from council.

If you want on the list simply send me an email - ian.rawlinson@wolfcreek.ab.ca

We are on the web

www.crystalsprings.ca

NEW WEBSITE- Coming Soon!

Contact Information

Mayor

Ian Rawlinson

ian.rawlinson@wolfcreek.ab.ca

403-896-7897

Deputy Mayor

Ron LaJeunesse

ronlajeunesse@ionline.ca

587-409-4719

Councilor

Margaret Gagnon

margaretjgagnon@gmail.com

780-231-2548

Office Hours and

Locations:

UNTIL NOV 30TH

Box 6C Village Drive,

Westrose, AB T0C 2V0

Phone: 780-586-2500

Email: info@crystalsprings.ca

AFTER DEC 1ST:

605 2nd Avenue, Ma-Me-O Beach

AB, Box 100 Ma-Me-O Beach AB, T0C 1X0.

Phone 780-586-2494.

info@crystalsprings.ca

Hours of operation

Monday to Friday 9:00 am - Noon.



Shout Out

The last four years were at times difficult for former Councilors Grant Churchill, Kevin Pratt and Doris Bell, with tough issues sometimes comes tough decisions and disagreements. Although their term ended with a Municipal Affairs "Inspection Report" that made 39 recommendations for improvement, if one looked behind those recommendations they would also see caring, dedicated folks who worked to the best of their ability to serve our community.

Notwithstanding the recommendations, the inspectors concluded that all of the Councilors were *"deep rooted and committed to the community, had a strong financial position, committed staff, a robust regional network and an engaged public."*

These three folks worked hard and acted within their own beliefs as to what they felt was best for the community.

We want to thank Grant Churchill, Doris Bell and Kevin Pratt, for four years of dedication to community.

POLICE & SECURITY SERVICES



With the end of the summer season comes increased cottage absences and therefore greater concern for security.

In that context,

Councillor Gagnon met with the RCMP reviewing statistics and the specifics of the municipalities "enhanced services" contract. Although local statistics are not available, county wide crime is high and on the increase. Several options such as camera's, citizen education, citizens on patrol and County "peace officer" partnerships will be examined in the months ahead. Forward your ideas to Councillor Gagnon at

margaretjgagnon@gmail.com