



Summer Village of Ghost Lake Newsletter

www.ghostlake.ca

September 2018

Bears in the Village

Fall is here and that means increased bear activity as they look for those last big meals to pack on the weight before hibernation. There have been recent sightings of bears in the Village so take a moment to remind yourself of these tips for living in Bear country.



- **Keep your garbage and recyclable bottles and cans in bear-resistant, airtight containers.**
- **Keep your compost indoors.** Outdoor compost attracts bears. Look into using an indoor composter.
- **Remove bird feeders from your yard in the months when bears are active** – usually from the beginning of April until the end of November. Be sure to clean up any spilled bird seed from the ground.
- **Clean your barbecues.** Scrub your barbecue clean after each use and store it in a bear-resistant building, such as the garage or shed.
- **Consider removing fruit trees and berry-producing bushes from your property.** Bears are attracted to the fruit and berries. If you must keep the trees, pick the ripening fruit as early as possible and store them in secure, airtight containers.
- **Never leave food out for wildlife.**
- **Talk to your neighbours.** Let your neighbours know if you've seen a bear in the community and talk to them about being BearSmart at home.

How can I keep my pets safe?

- **Always keep your dog on a leash.** Keeping your dog on a leash keeps it under your close control. It also prevents the dog from sniffing out and provoking a bear into an encounter.
- **Feed your pets and store pet food indoors.** Keeping pet food outside can attract bears. If you must feed your pets outdoors, bring in the

pet food and feeders overnight when bears are most active.

What should I do if I see a bear in my backyard?

- **Do not panic. Do not run.** Quickly and calmly collect your children and pets and go indoors.
- **Notify your nearest Fish and Wildlife office.** Call 310-0000 or 1-800-642-3800 if it's after regular business hours.
- **Once the bear has left the area, remove anything from your property that might attract a bear.** Ask your neighbours to do the same. If food sources in the area remain available, the bear will likely return.

How do we prevent problems between bears and people?

- **Remember that bears are clever, curious and live to eat.** Bears are in a constant search for new food sources. **Once they have discovered a new food source it is extremely difficult to keep them from returning to it.** To prevent problems from starting, never leave any kind of food for the bear to find.
- **Remember that bears have an excellent sense of smell.** Managing the smells of potential bear food (including human and pet foods, garbage, grains and harvested animals) is an essential part of preventing problems with bears.
- When in bear territory, keep food and garbage in airtight containers, and store anything that may have the smell of food or garbage away from humans and out of the reach of bears.
- **Be BearSmart.** Most bear encounters can be prevented. Learn how to avoid bear encounters and how to react if you find yourself in an unavoidable encounter with a bear.

For more information on Alberta
BearSmart visit

<http://aep.alberta.ca/recreation-public-use/alberta-bear-smart/default.aspx>

Next Council Meeting

The next regular Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 4, 2018** and will commence at 5:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the **Super 8 Cochrane Meeting Room** located at 11 West Side Drive, Cochrane AB.

If you would like to speak with Council on a specific item, please forward your written request, either by mail, fax or email, stating the nature of your presentation, to the Village Office at least one week prior to the meeting in order to be placed on the agenda.

***Reminder** - all council and committee meetings are open to the public for observation – consider this your invitation.*

Fire Services for Ghost Lake

Council has successfully secured a Fire Services Agreement with the MD of Bighorn effective August 1, 2018 for the next 5 years.

This means when a 911 call is placed for Fire or emergencies the Jamieson Fire Hall is now our designated first responder.

Fire Insurance.....Please check your fire insurance policy to confirm that the Summer Village of Ghost Lake's nearest "manned" fire station is in the Town of Cochrane. Jamieson Fire Hall is the first responder for Village fires, however, they are classified as a volunteer fire department. It is important that your insurance company is aware of that. Also, under the provisions of the fire bylaw, property owners can be billed for the cost of fighting fires on their property. This can amount to thousands of dollars. **Check with your insurance company** to ensure that you have adequate coverage for firefighting expenses.

911 Medical Emergency calls will still result in an ambulance being dispatched from Cochrane. The Jamieson Fire Hall will also respond, as our medical first responders, to provide emergency medical support until an ambulance can arrive on scene.

Burn Pile - CLOSED

The Burn Pile is currently **closed** as it is filled to capacity for safe burning. Public works volunteers will be planning a burn of the accumulated material in the near future.

When the burn pile is re-opened please remember to place your trees and branches on the burn pile *not* in the garbage bins or in the compost pile. **No construction debris and definitely no nails or spikes.** Nails and spikes not only damage tires but also create a very hazardous work environment for volunteers during a burn.

Also, **do not** place ashes in the burn pile. If not completely cooled, the ashes can cause an unexpected fire putting your home and your neighbour's home at risk.

Be sure that all ashes have thoroughly cooled before you dispose of them. A suggestion is to place ashes in a lidded metal container to prevent a possible fire and provide a sturdy place to store them. Ashes make good fertilizer in gardens, flowerbeds, etc.

Ghost Lake LIVE – Social Email

If you are interested in receiving social news about events and happenings in and around Ghost Lake, sign up for Ghost Lake LIVE. Please email Corinne at: ghostlake@live.ca
