

2019 Tax Notices in the Mail on or before May 1, 2020

The tax rates have been set for 2020 and represent an overall **decrease** in tax revenue of 0.7%. You heard that right, the tax rate went **down** this year. (actual taxes levied will vary from property to property depending on assessment changes, construction).

School tax requisition amounts are typically determined in accordance with the release of the provincial budget, as the amount requisitioned from each municipality is dependent on the overall education budget for the year. This year we were slated to see an increase in our Education requisition, but with the COVID -19 Crisis the Provincial Government rolled back their plans and instead did not raise the requisitions from the 2019 amounts.

In terms of collecting requisitions from property owners, section 359(3) of the *Municipal Government Act* states that "If in any year the property tax imposed to pay the requisitions results in too much or too little revenue being raised for that purpose, the council must accordingly reduce or increase the amount of revenue to be raised for that purpose in the next year." We did have a shortfall last year in the amount of \$2,174, which we are obligated to collect this year.

Please note taxes are due on JUNE 30, 2020. There will be a 10% penalty assessed on all taxes that are received with a postmark that is after June 30th. We accept postdated cheques, so if you normally pay at the end of June, you are encouraged to mail a postdated cheque dated June 30th and we will hold your payment until that date.

How To Pay Your Taxes

BY MAIL - send cheque to the Village Office. (must be postmarked by Canada Post) on or before June 30th)

E-TRANSFER use property-taxes@ghostlake.ca when making an e-transfer, also **include your tax roll number in the notes**. We no longer require passwords for e-transfer payments.

Check with your bank for instructions and fees for e-transfers

PAY ONLINE at Telpay. - go to www.telpay.ca follow these links...
Telpay Online → *Get Started* → *Sign Up*
the Summer Village of Ghost Lake is payee account **0074397** *New account set up takes a few days to process. Service fees apply.*

IN PERSON at any TD Canada Trust Bank. Take your tax notice with you and ask the bank teller to deposit your cheque into the bank account number shown on the bottom of your tax notice.

TD CANADA TRUST CUSTOMERS set up as a Payee on your web banking portfolio. If you are interested, please contact TD web banking and let them know you want to set up a personal payee.

The Village Bank Account details they require are listed on the bottom of your tax notice.

Payment receipts will be emailed to email addresses on file. If you need to update your email address, or need to request an additional payment receipt please contact the Village office

20-01

May 08, 2020

SUMMER VILLAGE OF GHOST LAKE

SPRING NEWSLETTER

If you have not received your Tax Notice in the mail by May 20th, please contact the Village Office.

Mayor: John Walsh | Deputy Mayor: Warren Wilson | Councillor: Robyn Carrier



Box 19554 RPO South Cranston
Calgary, Alberta T3M 0N5



403.510.8083



403.206.7209



admin@ghostlake.ca



www.ghostlake.ca



SUMMER VILLAGE OF GHOST LAKE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY JUNE 27, 2020 @10am

The Village Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, June 27, 2020**. The meeting will commence at **10:00 am** to discuss the civic business of the Village from the past year.

Because of Social Distancing requirements and mass gathering restrictions we are unable to schedule this as an in-person meeting - Watch for more details to follow once a decision has been made on how Council will be engaging with residents this summer.

Weed Management Program

Dandelions - will be sprayed on the golf course and horseshoe pit lands in May (weather permitting).

Noxious Weeds - in mid-September, Prairie Environmental will be in the Village to check on the weed growth and if there is enough weed leaf development, they will post signs with the timing planned for the spraying with an alternate day in case of rain.

Please note that according to the Weed Control Act RSA, the Summer Village of Ghost Lake is responsible to ensure that noxious weeds are controlled on lands within the Summer Village. Landowners are responsible for controlling noxious weeds on their own property. With the completion of the 3-year weed control plan I am happy to report we are in a position to only need spot application to manage areas of concern.

Private lands - If there are weed infestations on private property that individuals want treated at the same time as the public lands, please contact Prairie Environmental to arrange for action the day the public lands are being sprayed. The cost of spraying on private lands, will be the landowner's responsibility and payment arrangements made directly between landowner and Prairie Environmental. Prairie Environmental can be contacted at info@prairieenvironmental.com

Emergency Phone Broadcast

The Summer Village has sent out phone update forms for the Emergency Broadcast System with the 2020 Tax Notices. Digital copies are being emailed over the next week.

Last year it was determined that many of the numbers on the list are out of date and an update was required. We also now have the ability to send Text Messages to cell phones.

The Summer Village will be running a test of the Emergency Phone Broadcast System on **Sunday June 21, 2020 at 11am**.

A test message will be sent to all phone numbers on our list. All numbers identified as cellphones will be sent a Text Message.

If you do not receive a test call or text or have additional phone numbers that you would like added to the broadcast list, (cell phones, family members, renters, etc.) please download the form located on the website at

<http://ghostlake.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Emergency-Phone-Broadcast-Fillable-Form.pdf>

It is located on the Fees & Forms page. Email, mail, or fax the completed form to the Village office to have your numbers added to the list.

Note: the system accepts both Canada and US numbers.

Please note that the emergency broadcast is an informal "best attempt system" for the Village to try to advise as many residents as possible of a potential emergency in the Village. It is not 100% accurate and the Village does not assume any liability for missed or dropped calls.

The Summer Village is Hiring a Seasonal Labourer



The Village has an opening this summer for a seasonal labourer to cut grass and perform maintenance work on Village property. Anyone interested in this position is asked to

submit a resume to the Village Office by **June 15th**.

Hours are flexible - generally the position will be scheduled Monday - Friday and shifts will not last longer than 7.5 hours between 7am and 5pm. Position start date will be July 6 and will last for 6 weeks until Aug 14.

Rate of pay: \$17.00 per hour.

Supervisors for Seasonal Labourer

To comply with the Alberta Health and Safety Act and Work Alone regulations a supervisor is required for the Seasonal Labourer position. Previous years have been successful having individuals take turns one week at a time supervising. If you are interested in helping out this year, please contact the Village Office at 403-510-8083 or admin@ghostlake.ca and let us know which week(s) between July 6 and Aug 14 you are available to help.

Because of Social Distancing Guidelines Orientation will be provided through electronic means with emailed materials and through small group meetings to keep numbers low and Participants safe. Any supervisors who have supervised previous years and do not require an orientation will not need to attend an in-person meeting.

The program cannot proceed without supervisors, so please contact the Village Office by June 15th if you are willing to assist.

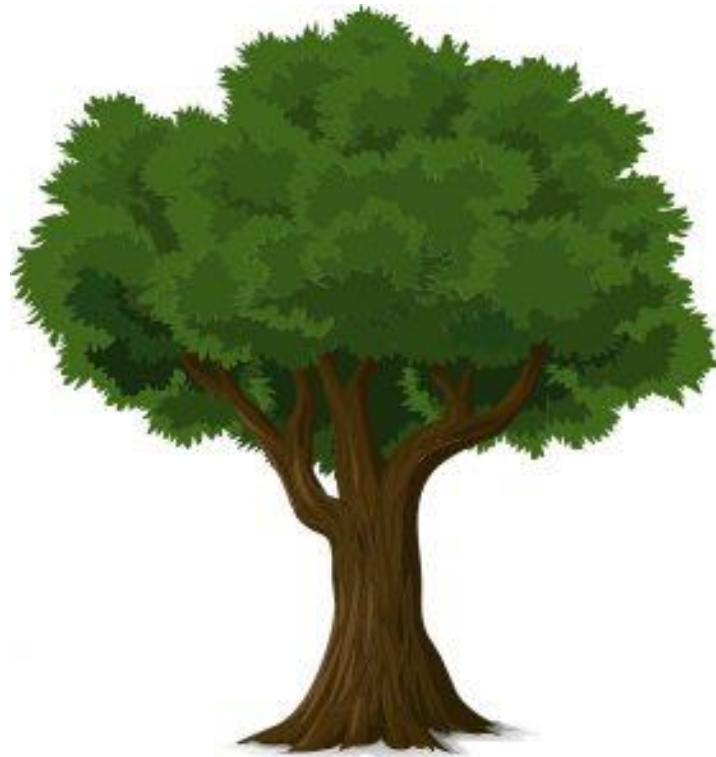
Trees

Your Council and the N.E.L.S. Committee worked hard last year, and I am happy to announce the Tree Protection Bylaw and Tree Protection Policy have been approved.

All trees and shrubs located on public property within the Summer Village of Ghost Lake are protected under this Bylaw and cannot be cut, removed, moved, or pruned without written approval by administration.

If there is a tree located on public land that requires attention an application must be completed and submitted to administration.

The Bylaw, Policy, and Application forms are all available on the website at <http://ghostlake.ca/administration/documents/>



Fire Service and First Response in the Village

The MD of Bighorn is contracted by the Summer Village to provide fire services. The current contract was effective August 1, 2018 and lasts for 5 years.

This means when a 911 call is placed for Fire or Emergencies the Jamieson Fire Hall is now our designated first responder. The Town of Cochrane Fire Department will continue to support the Summer Village through a mutual aid agreement they have with the MD of Bighorn. Ambulance support continues to be dispatched from Cochrane.

Please remember the Emergency Pull Station located at the Community Building is **not connected to 9-1-1** or any other monitoring system. This is an audible alarm used to alert the community to an emergency. Council is currently looking into putting a white board up outside the building so a quick note with location of the emergency can be written when the pull station is activated.

If you require the AED a key to the building can be accessed at the Emergency Pull Station when the alarm is activated. The AED is located inside the door and a white board is mounted there where location can also be written so others in the community can also respond. Take a moment this spring on your walks around the Village and familiarize yourself with the Emergency pull station location on the building.

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A FIRE ?

CALL 9-1-1

Evacuate all people and pets to a safe distance

If someone is available - pull the Emergency Pull Station on the Community Services Building. This will sound the Community Alarm so your neighbors will be alerted to the potential danger

Stay Safe

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.

Municipal Development Plan

The Summer Village of Ghost Lake Municipal Development Plan (MDP) is complete and available on the Municipal Website.

Thank you very much to the hard work of the MDP Steering Committee. It was their dedication and insights that made this a document such a comprehensive guide for the future.

Steering Committee Members:

Peter Attalla

Debby Brotzell

Ed Gnenz

Karen Laustsen

Bob Miller

John Walsh

The Approved MDP can be found on the Village website under the Administration/Documents Tab.

<http://ghostlake.ca/administration/documents/>

COVID 19

Council continues to monitor information and news provided by the Provincial Government and the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Deena Hinshaw.

Links to information on the COVID-19 Crisis can be found on the Summer Village website at www.ghostlake.ca

At this time, the Community Services Building and Library are closed to the public in accordance with Public Health Orders.

The playground and sport court remain open, but users are cautioned to observe social distancing recommendations and hand washing. These areas continue to be **USE AT YOUR OWN RISK.**

Provincial Police Funding Plan

You may have heard in the news that the Provincial government is implementing a new funding model for policing in the province. Historically, small municipalities like the Summer Village of Ghost Lake have not contributed to the cost of policing but starting this year all municipalities will be paying a portion of the cost of policing in Alberta.

Under the new model, it starts with us paying 10 per cent of costs in 2020, 15 per cent in 2021, 20 per cent in 2022 and will max out at 30 per cent of costs in 2023. In real numbers we are expecting this to look like an increase cost to the village of approximately \$3,246 in year one, increasing upwards to as much as \$9,744 annually by 2023.

Watch for more information as Council works to include this cost in the annual budget.

Quick Reference Numbers - updated

EMERGENCY: AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE, HAZARDOUS GOODS	911
ALBERTA COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES	211
HEALTH LINK	811
RCMP – non-emergency	403 932 2211
Cochrane Health Centre	403.851.6000
NEAREST HOSPITALS (24 hr)	403.944.1110 (Foothills Calgary) 403.678.5536 (Canmore)
AIR & AMBULANCE LINK & STARS	1.888.888.4567 or *4567 on cell
AB EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	Phone: 780.422.9000 Toll free: 310.0000 <i>before the number</i>
POISON CONTROL	1.800.332.1414
Report a WILDFIRE	310 FIRE (3473)
RECEPTION EVACUATION CENTRE – BEAUPRE HALL	403.932.5497
COCHRANE LAKE GAS COOP	403.932.2707
FORTIS - Power	310 WIRE (9473)
ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES	1.800.222.6515