

2021 Tax Notices in the Mail on or before May 28, 2021

How To Pay Your Taxes

The tax rates have been set for 2021. Unless you have experience a change in your property assessment the average property tax increase is \$62.37. Some properties will see a higher increase and some will be lower depending on the assessed value of your property. The average property value in the Summer Village of Waiparous is \$393,756

School tax requisition amounts are 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 expected to see an increase in our Education requisition, but with the COVID -19 Crisis the Provincial Government has continued to maintain education spending and for the second year in a row we will not see an increase.

Please note taxes are due on JUNE 30, 2021. 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.

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

E-TRANSFER use property-taxes@waiparous.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 Waiparous is payee account 0074421. *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 back of your tax notice.



SUMMER VILLAGE OF WAIPAROUS

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Taxes are Due June 30, 2021

Mayor: Matt Sundal | Deputy Mayor: Brian Fleming | Councillor: Cheryl Wauthier

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



Box 19554 RPO South Cranston
Calgary, Alberta T3M 0N5



403.510.8083



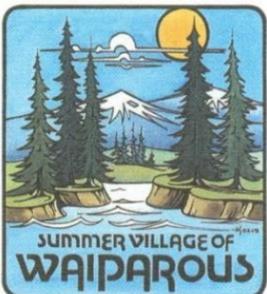
admin@waiparous.ca



403.206.7209



www.waiparous.ca



Annual Meeting

SATURDAY July 24, 2021 @10am

The Village Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, July 24, 2021**. The meeting will commence at **10:00 am** to discuss the civic business of the Village from the past year.

As of right now your Council intends to proceed with an in-person AGM. However, if provincial restrictions make that impossible, we will let you know what alternate arrangements will be made.

Election 2021

NOMINATION DAY Saturday July 24, 2021 10am – 12 noon

Municipal elections will be held throughout the Province of Alberta in 2021. Waiparous's four (4) year term ends in the summer of 2021.

Information on eligibility, duties of councilors, and Nomination forms can be found on the Village website at <https://waiparous.ca/election-2021/>

Make sure to check the Nomination Checklist for Candidates on the Nomination Day Tab, as the Local Authorities Election Act was updated recently and now all nominated candidates must submit both a **Form 4** and a **Form 5** on Nomination Day.

Nomination Day is Saturday July 24, 2021 between the hours of 10 am and 12 noon. Nomination forms will be accepted during the AGM at the Community Building or Picnic grounds if the AGM proceeds as planned.

If an election is necessary (more than 3 nominations are received) it will take place 4 weeks later on August 21, 2021.

Community Wide Wood Debris Clean Up

Last year's wood debris removal project was again well received by residents. Council has decided to offer the program once again this year. Residents are encouraged to clean up wood debris from their properties and have it ready for removal.

A date for the Community wide wood chipping has not been finalized at this time. Notices will be sent out by email and posted on the village website once a date has been confirmed.

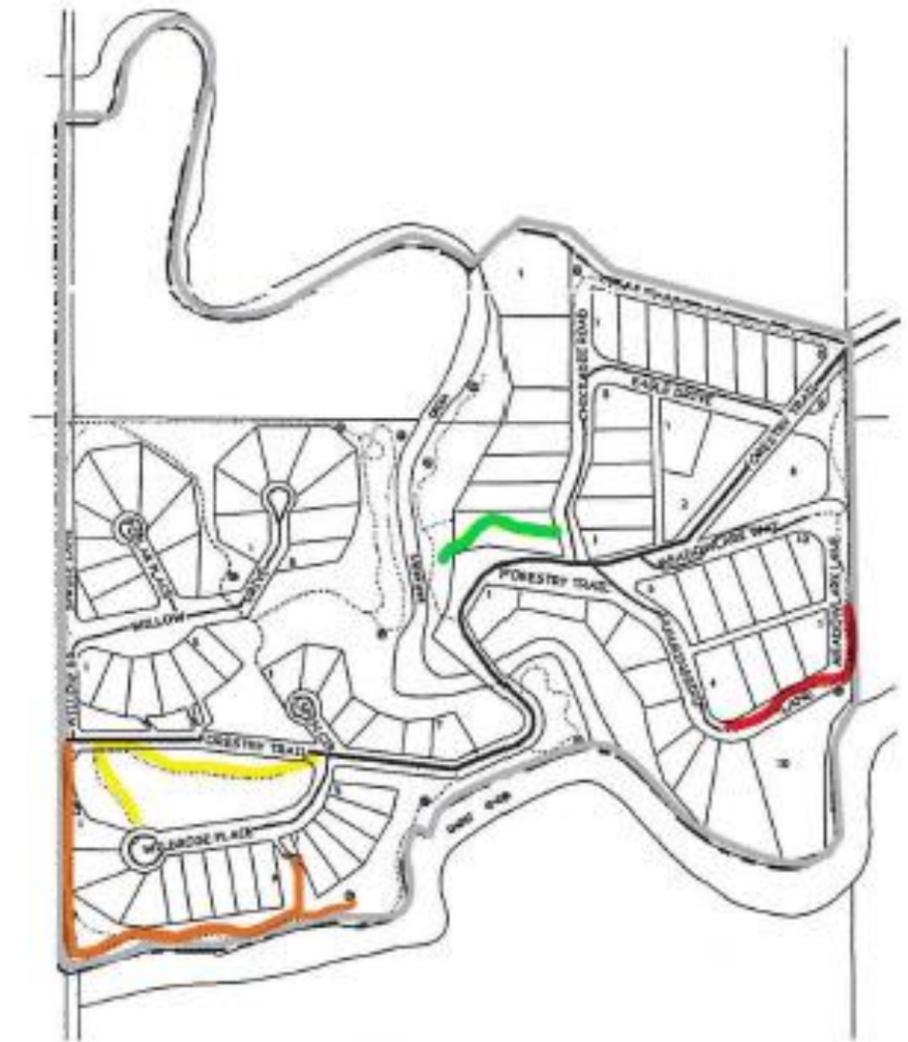
This is a great opportunity to start (or expand) you own FireSmart Yard Plan and get rid of all that tree debris!!



Any piles that are not neatly stacked near the roads and/or branches that are too heavy for the operators to lift by hand will not be picked up and you will be responsible to haul it away.

Trails

Lucky Loggers has started on the trail work that is taking place in the village this summer. You will probably see Cam hard at work over the coming weeks.



- Trails to be Upgraded:
1. Connector Trail East
 2. Connector Trail West
 3. Cliffside Trail
 4. Ghost River Trail

Infrastructure Project

Contractors will be on site in the village addressing an overland flooding issue and erosion caused by runoff. A work trailer will be parked at the Community Building for the duration of the work.

Upcoming Project Permanent Speed Signs



Your Council has approved the purchase and installation of 2 permanent speed signs in the village.

We are currently just waiting on approvals from Alberta Transportation as these will be located in the Highway 40 right of way.

Once we hear back from the province more information on location and installation timeline will be shared.

Back40 has been re-opened

Just over 3 weeks ago the encounter between a bear and one of our residents David, resulted in the tragic loss of one of our neighbors. Alberta Fish and Wildlife has been on site in the Back40 investigating the attack. Fish and Wildlife officers wanted to pass on their thanks to all area residents for respecting the area closure and allowing them time to complete their investigation. On May 27, the Back40 was officially reopened for public use. Stay Safe and be BearSmart when recreating in bear territory.

Invasive Species & Noxious Weeds

Make a difference in your community and commit to be Plantwise today! Help us protect our province from the impacts of invasive plants through horticulture and join the movement to be invasive-free across Alberta.

Here are some things you can do to make a difference in your community:

- Select non-invasive plants. The Grow Me Instead brochure on our publications page can help you choose only non-invasive plants.
- Be suspicious of exotic plants, bulbs, and seeds promoted as ‘fast spreaders,’ “vigorous self-seeders,” and/or “drought-resistant.” Invasive plants often have the very characteristics we seek the most in plants.
- Before choosing a plant to grow, check reliable sources of information such as AISC’s invasive species fact sheets.
- Don’t purchase a plant unless it is properly labeled, and you know exactly what it is. Unfortunately, private plant sales and swaps often involve invasive species.
- Don’t use wildflower mixes, as they often have invasive species seeds in them.
- When selecting birdseed, always make sure the seed mix clearly lists the ingredients, as many contain invasive plants. Or, consider creating your own seed mixes to be sure of the seed ingredients.
- Encourage others to be PlantWise. Reach out to local plant suppliers, landscapers and landscape architects, gardening and stewardship event organizers and clubs, social media and blogs, neighbors, and family and friends to educate them about being PlantWise and using only non-invasive plants to promote healthy, non-invasive gardens.
- When disposing of invasive plants, ensure to double bag it. Never put invasive species in the compost.



The introduction and spread of invasive alien species is affecting Canada’s environment, economy and society, including human health. The current threats posed by existing and potentially invasive alien species are significant and growing at an alarming rate. It is essential for Canada to address invasive alien species. Canada needs to take measures to protect and conserve natural resources, associated industries, as well as the health of wildlife and humans.

— An Invasive Alien Species Strategy for Canada, September 2004

The Summer Village has been dealing with removing Oxeye Daisy from public land.

Please remove this noxious weed if you see it growing on your property or notify administration if you see any on public land.



More information and can be found at <https://abinvasives.ca/>

About the Alberta BearSmart Program

BearSmart is a public awareness program for people visiting, living or working in bear territory.

Programs goals include:

- Empower Albertans with the information to make safe decisions when in bear territory.
- Help bear populations survive by educating people on:
 - Preventing bear encounters
 - Responding appropriately in bear encounters
- Reduce property damage caused by bears.

Why BearSmart is necessary

Human activities have become more frequent in bear territory. As a result, bear habitats have become more fragmented and encounters between bears and humans more common. Encounters between bears and people may have unfortunate consequences for both the bears and people involved.

Bear attacks

Though quite rare, bear attacks can injure or even kill a human. If this happens, the bear will likely be found and destroyed.

Forced bear relocation

Bears become used to human camps, garbage dumps, residential areas, ranches, and farms when they learn these locations can provide easy meals. Once a bear gets used to an area that is also frequented by people, the chances of a bear-human encounter increase.

Moving and collaring problem bears doesn't always solve the problem:

- The bear may return to the area it was removed from, and continue its problem behaviour, or it may continue the problem behaviour in the area where it was relocated.
- Relocating the bear can place it in the territory of another bear that may lead to the death of the relocated bear.
- Relocating a bear is costly and places a heavy demand on personnel and equipment.

More information on the Alberta BearSmart program can be found at <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-bearsmart.aspx>

Bears and Residents

Bear safety tips for people living in bear country, including steps to take during a bear encounter.

How can I keep bears wild and out of my backyard?

- 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 have seen a bear in the community and talk to them about being BearSmart at home.
- Call Fish and Wildlife for more advice. Find your nearest Fish and Wildlife office by calling 310-0000.

What should I teach my children about being safe around bears?

- Do not approach the bear or irritate it by yelling or throwing things at it.
- Never run away from a bear. Back away slowly and find a safe place, such as a building or vehicle.
- Stay with your group and back away from the bear together.
- As soon as you have reached a safe place, tell an adult that you've seen a bear.
- Stay away from areas that may attract bears, such as garbage bins, berry patches and along creeks and rivers.
- Bears are more active at dusk, night, and dawn. Children should play close to the house and under supervision during those times.

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.

If you encounter a bear

All bears are individuals so all bear encounters will be unique. Serious attacks are rare, but you must always be cautious and alert when in bear territory.

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.

Council is investigating options for holding a BearSmart and bear spray training session later this summer as COVID restrictions continue to ease. Watch your email for more information.

FireSmart in the Village

Council has received a FRIAA grant continue to provide education on the importance of FireSmart on both private and public property as well as to provide resources for residents to help implement your own FireSmart Plan.

Watch your email and the Village website for more information as plans progress for this important initiative.



Alberta Fire Bans - Keep up to Date

Visit www.Albertafirebans.ca for up to date information on fire bans in Waiparous and across Alberta. There is a new app available for smartphones. Look for Alberta Fire Bans with this logo to download and set up notifications.



Fire Ban System

NO RESTRICTION
Safe campfires are allowed in campgrounds and backcountry or random camping areas. Any burning other than a campfire requires a fire permit.

FIRE ADVISORY
Safe campfires are permitted in campgrounds and backcountry or random camping areas. Issuance of fire permits for other burning may be restricted.

FIRE RESTRICTION
Safe campfires are allowed in fire rings in campgrounds only. No open fires are allowed in backcountry or random camping areas. Fire permits may be suspended or cancelled and no new fire permits will be issued.

FIRE BAN
No open fires are allowed in campgrounds or in backcountry or random camping areas. All fire permits are suspended or cancelled and no new fire permits will be issued.

FOREST AREA CLOSURE
Portions of the forest are closed and no access is permitted for public safety concerns.



Fire Insurance...Are you covered?

On the next page is an article from Global News on April 6, 2021 illustrating the importance of adequate fire coverage on your homeowner insurance policy.

Remember when setting up or reviewing your homeowners insurance there are a few pieces of information you will need for your insurance agent.

1. The Summer Village does have an agreement with the MD of Bighorn for emergency services. The Ghost River Fire Station in Benchlands is our designated first responder and they are 3.1 km away at 64095 AB 40 Benchlands, AB. It is important that your insurer know that this is an unmanned volunteer firehall. The closest manned firehall is in the Town of Cochrane, 30 km away.
2. Section 12 of the Summer Village of Waiparous Fire Safety and Control of Fires Bylaw # 122-14 allows for the Municipality to forward the cost of emergency calls that are responded to by the fire department including rescue services, extinguishing a fire, or responding to a call including a false alarm. This bylaw can be viewed on our website at the following link.
<https://waiparous.ca/administration/documents/>

Alberta couple calls off fire crews because they couldn't pay to keep them at blaze on property



By [Morgan Black](#) • Global News

Posted April 6, 2021 8:13 pm • Updated April 7, 2021 6:48 am

When an Alberta couple couldn't afford to keep fire crews at the scene of a property fire, they finished the jobs themselves.

On Jan. 28, stray ash from a coil boiler caused a fire just steps away from Samantha and Dale Zemlak's property in Beaver County, igniting a propane tank. Volunteer fire crews worked to put out the fire, but after 24 hours, the propane tank was still burning. Samantha said the fire chief inquired with the couple if they had insurance. He said things were getting "expensive."

"We were under the impression that our municipal taxes paid for firefighting services," Samantha Zemlak said. "We thought as taxpayers that it was part of the services provided by the county. "We didn't realize we were responsible for paying for the services."



The back view of Samantha Zemlak's property fire. Courtesy: Samantha Zemlak

The Beaver Region (Tofield, Viking, Ryley, Holden and Beaver County) has an agreement with the Beaver Emergency Services Commission (BESC) that it will collectively share the cost of services that can't be recovered from landowners.

"Through property taxes, landowners pay for the fire service to be available and ready when they need it, such as paying for firefighter training or maintenance of the hall," explained Margaret Jones, assistant chief administrative officer for the county. "But BESC has also set up its own fee structure, so that if there's a fire response, then there is an expectation the landowner will pay for a portion of the cost associated with that service."

Samantha Zemlak confirmed with her insurance company that they had \$10,000 coverage for firefighting. Her total invoice for fire services would end up being more than \$62,000.

"You have to make a decision on financial realities. It was a shock. We had absolutely no idea," she said. "There was a propane tank that had begun flaring... it was unstable at one point."

Alberta treasury board and finance press secretary Kassandra Kitz said though fire insurance is not mandatory in Alberta, "we do know it's common for insurance policies to limit the amount that they will pay for firefighting costs, but these amounts are not prescribed in insurance legislation."

The Zemlaks chose to release fire crews from the site for financial reasons and the couple accepted responsibility of the scene, agreeing to provide 24-hour watch over the propane tank.

"In consultation with the owners and the risk of explosion minimized, the scene can be turned over to a responsible party," BESC's Allan Weiss told Global News in an email. "This is only done when we can be assured that the situation will not escalate. "The property owner then signs a release form acknowledging the hazards and any steps they need to take to see the incident to a safe conclusion. This is a common practice."

Samantha Zemlak said fire crews explained the best scenario would be if the flame on the propane diminished and the couple could put it out themselves.

The propane tank fire was put out Jan. 31. At 3 a.m., Samantha and Dale Zemlak noticed a change in the propane flame and went outside with a garden hose to put it out.

"It was -25 C," Samantha Zemlak said. "At one point, the nozzle froze and we had to thaw it out. "We were told (prior) to spray the top of the tank to extinguish the flame and then keep spraying for an hour in order to cap it, to seal any vapours that might escape."