

2023 Tax Notices

Notices were mailed out May 25, 2023.

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 finance@waiparous.ca when making an e-transfer, also include your tax roll number in the notes. No passwords are required for e-transfer payments. *Check with your bank for instructions and fees for e-transfers*

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 back of your tax notice.

Taxes are Due June 30, 2023

Fortis in the Summer Village

Fortis will be doing vegetation management of their lines through the Village and surrounding area this year. You may receive notification or see Fortis employees inspecting lines and flagging vegetation over the coming weeks. They also may contact you if a tree on your property is impacting or could potentially impact powerlines. Once inspections have been completed vegetation management will be planned. Fortis does not maintain lines that feed individual residents, this is the residents responsibility. Residents will be notified when Fortis plans to be in the Village removing vegetation. Join us at the Community Meeting July 22 for a presentation by Fortis and to ask any questions you may have.

Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars!!

June 17-25 (inclusive) - Back 40 Firewood Collection Dates (more information on pg. 4)

Saturday, June 24 - GWTA Trail Maintenance Work Bee 10:00am - 2:00pm (more information on pg.4)

Friday, July 7 - Community Chipping (more information on pg. 2)

Saturday, July 22 - SVW Community Meeting 10:00am at the Picnic Grounds (more information on pg. 2)

Saturday, July 22 - Community Picnic 12:00pm at the Picnic Grounds (more information on pg. 2)

Saturday, September 23 - FireSmart Education Day and Community Appreciation BBQ

Fire Safety - The rains are here and hopefully they will stick around long enough to help to reduce the fire hazard in the area and assist in putting out the current forest fires in the province and country. To help prevent forest fires, always practice fire safety when enjoying an outdoor fire. Only have fires in certified fire pits, outdoor fireplaces or portable fire receptacles, never leave a fire unattended and ensure that your fire is completely extinguished before leaving it. Have a safe summer everyone!

SUMMER VILLAGE OF WAIPAROUS SPRING NEWSLETTER

Mayor: Matt Sundal | Deputy Mayor: Cheryl Wauthier | Councilor: Michael LeBlanc



Box 806
Cochrane, Alberta T4C 1B8



587-574-0744

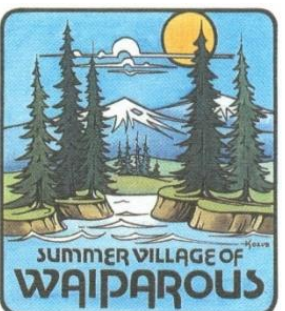


admin@waiparous.ca



www.waiparous.ca

Chief Administrative Officer: Suzanne Gaida



Community Meeting

SATURDAY July 22, 2023 @10am

The Village Community Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, July 22, 2023** and will be held at the **Picnic Grounds**. The meeting will commence at **10:00 am** to discuss the civic business of the Village from the past year. There will also be presentations on the Land Use Bylaw, the Cougar Coexistence Project, Fortis Line Management and the new Fire Bylaw.

**ANNUAL WAIPAROUS PICNIC
AND HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT!
JULY 22, 2023**

**BEGINS AT NOON
LOCATION: WAIPAROUS PICNIC
GROUNDS**

MEAL TICKETS: \$5 (6 AND UNDER EAT FREE!)
DRINK TICKETS: \$3 EACH OR \$5 FOR TWO
POP/WATER: \$1

**SIDES AND SALADS ARE
POTLUCK!!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED EVENING
BEFORE (JULY 21) TO SET UP
THE TENTS. JUST SHOW UP AT
THE PICNIC SITE FOR 7:00 PM!



Community Wide Wood Debris Clean Up And Chipping

Residents are encouraged to clean up wood debris from their properties and have it ready for removal. Leave all debris piled at the edge of property adjacent to the road and ensure it is only wood in the pile.

Ensure all wood debris is out by end of day Thursday, July 6. The chipping contractor will be on site to do the chipping starting Friday, July 7.

The chips will be used on local trails.

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.

Land Use Bylaw Update

The Land Use Bylaw controls and regulates what can and cannot occur on a parcel of land and how buildings can be placed and constructed on a parcel. It also outlines number and size of buildings permitted, additional requirements when developing as well as what activities can occur on parcels. The current Land Use Bylaw was completed in 1997. A new Land Use Bylaw, which will include important requirements for developing in a FireSmart community and will ensure the policies from the Municipal Development Plan are implemented is being drafted. The Land Use Bylaw Committee has been working on the update and is close to having a draft to present to the community for feedback. One item the Committee has struggled to come to consensus on is the keeping of chickens in the Village. They would like to see what the community thinks of this idea. Please click on the following link to give your opinion and feedback on the keeping of chickens in Waiparous

[Summer Village of Waiparous Chicken Survey](#)

The survey will be open until June 30, 2023.

Highlights of the changes to the Land Use Bylaw will be presented at the Community Meeting on July 22. Following that meeting the draft Land Use Bylaw will be posted on the website and emailed to all residents. Feedback on the Draft Bylaw will be collected and reviewed by the Committee. The intent is to have the Draft Land Use Bylaw before Council for first reading in the fall.

Land Use Bylaw Committee - Joleen Molenaar, Mike Parker, Deputy Mayor Cheryl Wauthier and CAO Suzanne Gaida.
Consultant - Greg Birch, Birch Consulting

FireSmart in the Village

The Village has received FRIAA grants to continue to provide important FireSmart work. Work is being completed on an updated Fire Bylaw. Information on this new Bylaw will be presented at the Community Meeting on July 22.

Grant funding has also been received to complete more Advanced Home Assessments. This program is a voluntary property assessment program for residents looking to determine and mitigate their home and property's risk to wildfire.

The Advanced Home Assessment is conducted by a formally trained assessor. The assessor will visit the property with the resident and review key areas within the home ignition zones. The assessment will highlight areas of risk and provide specific recommendations of actions and upgrades residents can take to increase their property's resilience to wildfire. The assessor will provide a comprehensive report once the assessment is complete, which is sent *only* to the homeowner. Recommendations from the Home Assessments may include longer-term strategies such as installing fire-rated roofing material, as well as simple and short-term strategies such as cleaning up flammable debris (pine needles, leaves, etc.) against the side of your home. Many of these recommendations are a direct result of observations made during historical wildfires, or research projects conducted to test the resiliency of homes during a wildfire. The recommendations from the report are not mandatory for homeowners, they are meant to help homeowners increase the resiliency of their homes to a wildfire if a homeowner chooses to do so.

If you are interested in having a Free FireSmart Advanced Home Assessment completed on your property, please contact Josh Hoddinott josh@forestmgmt.ca.

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 an app available for smartphones. Look for Alberta Fire Bans with this logo to download and set up notifications.



The Summer Village of Waiparous is using a new product to inform residents in emergency situations - Voyent Alert!

Sign-up is easy and you can choose to receive alerts from the Summer Village of Waiparous as well as the MD of Big Horn (highly recommended) and any other community that you would like who uses Voyent Alert! You can receive the alerts via text, email or phone call.

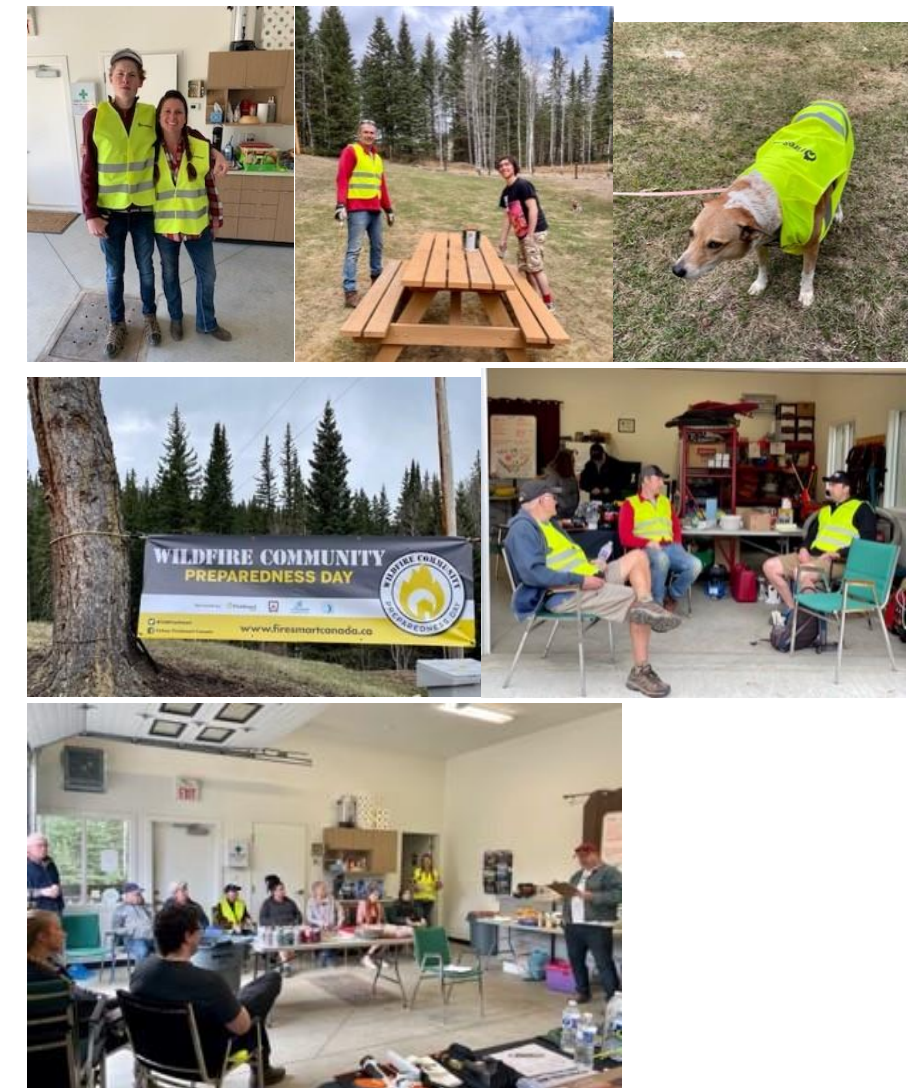
We will be using Voyent Alert! system as our community alert system in the event of an emergency.

Register at <https://voyent-alert.com/ca/community/> and send the link to family and friends who would like to sign up for alerts. As part of this program we also have the ability to share non-emergency information such as fire ban status changes and community events, you can opt out of receiving these non-emergency alerts once you sign up. If you have any questions, please reach out to Suzanne.

FireSmart Committee Update

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day - May 6, 2023

The annual Wildfire Community Preparedness Day was a success. Attendees helped with things like seeding, trail clean up and picnic table maintenance. Thank you to all the attendees, the volunteers, the sponsors, and the FireSmart Committee. It was an amazing day and we accomplished a ton of work and had some fun in the process!



Watch for information on our next community event on September 23!

GWTA



2023 Trail Maintenance Work Bee

Join us for our first work bee of 2023!

When: Sat. June 24 at 10 AM to 2 PM

Where: East entrance of Eau Claire trail at the end of Spruce Lane

What: Focus will be clearing of new trails. Bring rakes and PPE.

BBQ to follow at the De Boer's residence (3 Ghost Country Plc.) at 2:30 PM. All welcome (\$5 fee for non-members).

2023 Spring Firewood Removal

When: Sat. June 17 to Sun. June 25

Where: Motorized vehicle use for woodcutting & removal is allowed with valid PUFPP, and only if the ground is dry. Vehicle traffic restricted to Eau Claire, Cut Line trail and the west fire break. OHVs restricted to Eau Claire, Cut Line, Boundary trail and the west fire break. ! **Vehicle/OHV access may be revoked if an OHV ban is in effect in the forest protection area.**

Email Update June 18 - Due to current weather and trail conditions with recent rainfall, GWTA is advising you do not use quad or motorized vehicles to access Cut Line or Boundary trails at this time. You can access the West Firebreak from the end of Eau Claire trail as an alternative.

Canada Post Update

Suzanne met with Canada Post Administration and was informed at that time that Canada Post has no plans to bring mail service to the Village this year. Canada Post's priority is to ensure every Canadian has mail service and that is where their focus is. They view the Village as having postal service provided in Cochrane and therefore delivery to the Village would be an upgrade to service which is not on their priority list.

Council will be sending a letter to the Honorable Helena Jaczek, Minister of Public Services and Procurement and MP Blake Richards requesting political support and pressure to provide mail service to the Village. Resident's are encouraged to also reach out politically.

Suzanne will again be connecting with Canada Post Administration in the fall to request service in 2024.

Garbage Bin

Please ensure that all your garbage goes into the bin, do not leave anything outside the bin and make sure you relock the bin in such a way the lid cannot be open without unlocking the bin.

The Garbage Bin is for household garbage only. All recyclables can be taken to the Cochrane Eco Centre. Furniture, renovation materials and other household items can be donated to Home Treasures or Home Reno Heaven in Cochrane.

Cougar Co-existence Project

The research on cougar ecology is almost completed, Next steps will be to create a public educational database, create detailed informational signage on cougars/coexisting with them that can be installed on trails and community hub locations to keep people as safe as possible on trails and in their day to day.

The EXPOSED Wildlife Conservancy are actively working towards developing an outreach program and coexistence strategies that can be implemented at the community level to protect livestock, pets, etc. and offer personalized support to residents who need it.

An online survey is available to complete that will help gauge the "before" perceptions and tolerance/comfort levels towards cougars as well as any strategies that are being used currently to manage cougars. Please complete the survey at:

<http://bit.ly/3KcknaE>

John Marriott, Co-Founder of the EXPOSED Wildlife Conservancy will be in attendance at the Community Meeting on July 22 to update the community on the Cougar Co-Existence Project.