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FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTEPAD

March 2010

Phone: 780-892-2699 / Fax: 780-892-2669 / Website: wabamun.ca

Special points of interest:

- Message from the Mayor
- Waterfront Development Plan
- Transfer Station Items **NOT** requiring Vouchers
- Website Information Enhancement
- 2010 Planning
- 2009 Financial Statements
- 2010 Budget



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

With March weather coming in like a lamb and feeling like it's spring, we are looking forward to getting out and doing our spring cleanup. The Winter Olympics are over. Congratulations to our Canadian athletes; you lifted our Canadian spirit, but now that it's over, some of us are in withdrawal.

With TransAlta shutting down the last of the four power units at the end of March, Council and Administration have been working hard on planning for the future of the Village. Previous Councils and present Council have been putting monies into a redevelopment fund for the future of the Village without TransAlta. Some projects that are in the works are: the tentative waterfront development plan, negotiation with TransAlta for purchase of properties within the Village boundaries and further development of the Waterfront Park. We

are in the final process with our Municipal Development Plan, Land Use By-Law and Municipal Sustainability Plan.

Thanks to our business community, new developments are in the process of being built with more business development expected starting in 2010. Tenders have been awarded for replacing all water, sewer and paving of 51st Avenue, with the project completion expected at the end of September.

The Council and Administration are presently working on the 2010 budget, which is taking up most of our time. The 2009 Audit is complete and will be presented to Council in April.

Welcome Trevor Anderson, the Village's newest employee; his position is Economic Development Officer/Marketing Coordinator

Grant W. Kulak
Mayor

WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Village unveiled the Waterfront Development Plan concept on October 23, 2009 at the Jubilee Community Hall. The concept plan went over very well with Wabamun residents. The Waterfront Development is crucial to the Village's sustainability, particularly when the power generating plant is removed from the Village's tax base. The Waterfront Development Plan is very ambitious, with many obstacles to overcome if we are to be successful. The process to purchase the land from TransAlta Utilities is going very well and we hope to be able to obtain the land prior to 2011. The shoreline assessment studies required, have been completed and submitted as well as our habitat replacement program.

All of the environmental licenses have been submitted to the various regulatory bodies, and we are working through their concerns and responses. We have also been working with TransAlta Utilities and Environment to have the control of the cooling water inlet and outlet canals transferred to the Village. We are very encouraged with the process so far and we will continue to update the public with our progress. Brochures have been developed for the public on this project and are available at the office or can be viewed on the Village's website. Complete presentation materials can also be accessed on our website at www.wabamun.ca/life/development.html.

Transfer Station Disposal Items **NOT** Requiring Vouchers



Non-County residents are permitted to use County facilities for free disposal of E-Waste such as:

Televisions, computer monitors, CPUs and servers (including mouse, keyboard, cables, speakers), Laptops and notebook computers, printers and printer combinations.

Other items that can be brought in for disposal are: old oil and filters, paints, aerosol cans and propane tanks.

Visit the website www.albertarecycling.ca for more information on eligible electronics and paint product definitions.

Large items such as fridges, stoves, freezers or household waste **do require a voucher**.

**WEBSITE INFORMATION
ENHANCEMENT
www.wabamun.ca**

Communications to the general public was identified in the Municipal Sustainability Plan as an area that could be improved. To address this concern, our website has been enhanced and more information for our residents has been added. The following are some of the items now available for viewing:

- Employment Opportunities
- Lakefront Development project links
- Development Incentive Program
- Development Application Form
- Garbage, Blue Bag & Organic Schedule
- Hawkers & Pedlars License Requirements & Application Form
- Interactive MapQuest Map to Wabamun
- Council Information, Photograph, Agendas & Minutes
- Commonly Requested By-Laws
- Club News
- Business Directory
- Pictures & Descriptions of Attractions
- Event Updates - e.g. Fun Daze - ongoing updates
- Program Registration Forms
- Administrator's Notepad

Please continue to access our website for future enhancements.

2010 PLANNING

The Water Front Area Structure Plan will be completed by the end of March and will be incorporated into the new Land Use By-Law and Municipal Development Plan. The general public will get one more opportunity to be involved in a Public Hearing for all three plans prior to the Council enacting the plans. Highlights of the changes will be circulated again in the newsletters and on our website prior to the Public Hearings.



2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 2009 Audit and Financial Statement is now complete and ready for Council's final approval. In 2009, all municipalities were required to evaluate all assets and for the first time record depreciation or amortization of the assets on our financial statement. The Province and federal government have changed our reporting format in an attempt to make it easier for the common person to read, personally I think that the changes have made the statement very confusing and difficult to read. Overall, we had an operating surplus of \$12,875 when you add the capital expenses and reserve transfers, although it is difficult to see that in the statements. Reserves and assets are now included in our accumulated surplus which adds to the confusion. The monies received from the CN settlement have been placed in reserves for the future operating and capital costs associated with the well system and new Nano filtration plant. I have included excerpts of the Financial Statement to this newsletter. The complete statement will also be placed on our website once Council has given final approval.

2010 BUDGET

Council has had a number of budget meetings and tentatively approved a fairly ambitious \$2.3 million Capital Program for 2010. Also included in the budget are some major maintenance items valued at approximately \$247,000. Some of the major capital items include water and sewer rehabilitation along 51st Avenue and pavement resurfacing on approximately six blocks, including 51st Avenue. The Civic Centre lower level completion is an ongoing project that we hope to complete this year for the general public to use. The Waterfront Park parking lots will be finished to, at least, a gravel surface this year and further walking trail development should also occur. A business plan will be forwarded to Council this summer to consider the construction of six additional seniors' self-contained affordable housing units. A review of all utility rates will take place as the water and sewer rates have seen very little change since 1980. Currently, the water system is heavily subsidized by the tax rates. The operating costs of our water treatment system is approximately \$315,000 and we collect approximately \$70,000 in revenue through the utility bills. The Village Council will be deliberating on moving the water system to a user pay system.

<p>Monday to Friday 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (Closed for lunch from 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.) Drop Box Available to right of Office door</p>	<p>First & Third Tuesday of Each Month - 8:30 A.M. CIVIC CENTRE - Council Chambers - 5217 - 52 Street (Only one meeting per month/July & August - Dates are posted at Civic Centre)</p>	<p>Water bills can be paid by Auto Debit (forms at the Village Office) or at the Village Office using Debit, Visa, MC, cash or cheque, Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon & 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. or be put in the drop box to the right of the door or at the Wabamun Credit Union or through Telpay.</p>	<p>To find out about community events and programs that are being offered for kids and adults, pick up a copy of the Club News. Available at the Village Office. Please note that submissions are due by the second last Friday of each month.</p>	<p>Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Bonanza pre-call starts at 6:00 p.m. followed by 2 Earlybirds. Regular games start at 7:00 pm Satellite Bingo, 2 Bonanzas.</p>
WABAMUN LIONS BINGO				THURSDAYS
<p>Added \$500.00 Bonanza 1st Thursday of: January, March, May, July, September & November</p>				<p>JUBILEE HALL</p>