



SUMMER VILLAGE OF SUNDANCE BEACH

RR #1 South, Site 1, Box 28

Thorsby, Alberta, T0C 2P0

Phone 780-389-4409

Email: info@sundancebeach.ca Web: www.sundancebeach.ca

June 28, 2023

Wastewater: Holding Tank Inspection Project

On March 17, 2016, the Summer Village of Sundance Beach (the “Summer Village”) passed a wastewater bylaw for the purposes of:

- (a) to protect the safety and health of people and property by ensuring that existing and new *Private Wastewater Disposal Systems* located within the *Summer Village* treat *Wastewater* in a manner consistent with the objectives of the *Standard of Practice*;
- (b) to protect the waters and the watershed of Pigeon Lake; and
- (c) to anticipate and allow for the possible transition to a municipal or regional *Wastewater Collection System* within the *Summer Village* and surrounding area, if and when available, in an orderly and effective manner.

As part of the bylaw, it requires the inspection of all holding tanks located in the Summer Village. In 2017, a holding tank inspection project was undertaken. The inspection consisted of two parts. The first part involved a visual inspection and a grey water test. The purpose of the grey water test was to ensure that all wastewater coming from a cottage was flowing into the holding tank. The second part involved a water pressure test. The purpose of the water pressure test was to ensure that the holding tank was not leaking. In addition, the inspector would ensure that no working outhouses or fields were located on the property.

Most properties were compliant, or were able to repair their systems quite quickly. There were a few properties that took a while for repairs to be completed, and we are pleased to advise that all properties are now compliant with our bylaw:

- all properties within the Summer Village of Sundance Beach have holding tanks,
- no holding tanks leak,
- all wastewater and greywater from all properties is piped into the associated holding tank,
- there are no outhouses or other non-compliant methods for dealing with wastewater or greywater within the Summer Village.



SUMMER VILLAGE OF SUNDANCE BEACH

RR #1 South, Site 1, Box 28

Thorsby, Alberta, T0C 2P0

Phone 780-389-4409

Email: info@sundancebeach.ca Web: www.sundancebeach.ca

The average cost per property where a visual inspection and holding tank pressure test took place was \$711.

Costs included: A project manager was hired and his cost was shared amongst the properties, as well as an inspector to test the tanks. Residents were provided with a report of the inspection, and details as to whether they were compliant or not compliant. Those that were not compliant were given a timeline to repair their systems and pay for another inspection and were required to provide the Summer Village office with a copy of their certificate.

To ensure the Summer Village continues to protect the lake and environment from sewage, another inspection will be required in 2032. Prior to the inspection, we will prepare information to help make the process as easy and as cost-effective as possible to complete.

Consideration for future endeavours:

- would recommend having a process established with the inspector, including anticipated costs, but leave the responsibility for scheduling and paying for an inspection up to each individual resident (i.e. no project manager would be used);
- would be less lenient with those that did not comply, and would rely more on enforcement ability to use up less administrative time, and have residents comply sooner rather than having the project take a longer time.