

**FRASER LAKE
VILLAGE OFFICE**

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**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Village of Fraser Lake Operations
- Flush or not to Flush
- White Swan Park
- White Swan Boat Launch
- Property Taxes
- Victoria Day
- Spring Clean Up
- Building Permits
- COVID-19
- Emergency Alert System

**Municipal
Property
Taxes**

Will be in the mail shortly. The tax due date is July 2, 2020



The Village Office and Public Works will be Closed on Monday May 18th, 2020 To observe the Victoria Day Statutory Holiday

Village News

MAY 2020

FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Village of Fraser Lake Operations

Village operations remain active and open under modified conditions. Our Village Office staff have been assisting members of the public with inquiries, bill payments, dog tags and the many other services we provide. Meanwhile, our Public Works crew have been busy with spring projects and getting ready for summer.

If you have had occasion to visit our Village Office, you have noticed the differences. We have installed a partition at the front counter. Our signage, red tape on the floor, hand sanitizer on the wall, and multiple daily sanitizing regimes work to support the health and safety of our customers and employees alike. We appreciate the many residents who have placed utility bills and their cheque in an envelope and slid them through the mail slot on our front office door. This limits exposure of both staff and the public. Our Public Works yard has been closed to the public. We ask residents to phone rather than dropping in to chat about infrastructure concerns. If you have a concern about a pothole, plugged culvert, frost heave or other Public Works related issue, please contact our Director of Public Works, Vern Hilman by phone (250) 699-6562. Of course, if Vern is not available, please call the Village Office (phone: 250 699-6257) and we will pass along your concern.

At the Village we follow the recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer in our routines and procedures. The COVID 19 pandemic has caused us to adopt new ways of working and meeting. We are cognizant of the need to ensure the services we provide are available while

ensuring the safety of our employees and the public we serve.

These changes have impacted Council Meetings as well. Council continues to maintain their schedule of regular meetings; however, they are meeting electronically. During this state of emergency, the Province has recognized the importance of maintaining the function of our local governance and given authority for electronic meetings. This has impacted public attendance. Minutes of council meetings are published on our Village of Fraser Lake website www.fraserlake.ca should your wish to catch up on what our Council has been addressing.

To Flush or not to Flush "talk continued"

In the April newsletter, I asked residents to think about what is being flushed down their toilets. Not all materials are compatible with our wastewater system. I would like to thank the many who complied with that request. Unfortunately, with the increased use of Lysol and other similar sanitizing wipes that are easy to flush down the toilet, we are experiencing significant impacts at our wastewater lift stations. Our Public Works Department spends 16 man hours per week cleaning out the lift station as our lift station pumps are being clogged by these fibrous wipes that clog and seize the lift station pumps. Our employees must dismantle the pumps to clear the sewage drenched materials from the impellers. These materials are damaging our pumps. When a pump burns out, the \$8,000.00

cost of rebuild will take away from other projects and services in the community. Each of us can support a healthy and well functioning community. Please do your part by throwing these items in the trash and not down the toilet. Thank you.

White Swan Park RV sites and Public Washrooms

The Village has closed the RV sites in White Swan Park to tourists and visitors from other communities. We have also restricted use of these sites to **First Responders and Essential Service Workers** who need to self isolate away from their families in self contained RV trailers or motorhomes. We have also closed the public washrooms at White Swan Park, Kin Park and the Baseball Park. This decision was made in consideration of COVID 19 protocols. We simply do not have the resources to maintain the sanitizing regime required to keep these facilities open to the public. That said, the outhouse at the boat launch remains open. It will be serviced regularly on an as needed basis. Please remember to wash your hands and maintain 2-meter social distance.

White Swan Boat Launch

We are receiving regular phone calls about the status of the boat launch. It remains open and available for those who wish to get an early start on this year's fishing season. While at the boat launch, please adhere to the recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer; 2-meter social distancing and wash or sanitize your hands. Nithi on the Lake and Birch Bay Resort on Francois Lake have boat launches that are open.

SPRING CLEAN UP 2020

Big spring cleanup will be the week of May 25 - May 29.

To ensure your materials get picked up, please have it all separated and to the curb no later than Thursday, May 28.

Please separate household garbage, plastics, metals, painted wood, and non-painted wood.

Items that we cannot pick up are:

- cardboard (you must take to the Bottle Depot)
- batteries
- paint cans that are full or partially full (we can pick them up if empty and the lid is off)
- tires
- aerosol cans, and containers with flammable liquids, such as gas, oil, or paint thinner.
- propane cylinders
- refrigerators
- freezers
- vehicles
- grass clippings
- trees or shrubs that are over 2 inches in diameter.

If you are discarding motorized items such as a lawn mower, chainsaw or rototiller, all oil and gas must be drained before it can be disposed of at the dump.

If you have a vehicle to dispose of, prior arrangements must be made through the office at 250-699-6257.

FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

CONTINUED

Spring Garbage Cleanup

I am sure many have noticed the quantity of garbage in the community. It is everywhere, through ditches, against fence lines or simply strewn across lawns. During the typical year, our students at FLESS take a day to pick up garbage around the community. With school out, this organized event is not likely to happen. I would like to ask each of you to take a few moments to clean up this post winter debris. I often hear from residents; they would like to see the community beautified. This is an important activity toward that goal.

Building Permits

Did you know, our Village has a Building Bylaw that regulates the construction of everything from homes, shops, garages, decks and greenhouses. If you build a garden shed under 108 square feet, you do not require a building permit. However, buildings or decks with a square footage floor space above 108 sq/ft are required to have a building permit. The intent of the building bylaw is to ensure buildings are safe, structurally sound and in compliance with existing zoning

COVID-19

The COVID pandemic has literally changed the way we live and work. Like most in our community, I feel inundated by the constant dis-

cussion of this disease. The Provincial Health Officer's direction to "stay at home", social distancing, washing your hands and practicing regular and thorough sanitizing processes can be wearisome. Unfortunately, the potential for deadly consequences for not following these directions are not worth it. So, we persist.

In our activities at the Village, we recognize concerns about this virus are not limited to the physical boundaries of our Village. The many residents who call Fraser Lake home, are concerned about keeping their families, friends and neighbours healthy and safe. We are lucky to live in northern BC where the number of confirmed cases of COVID 19 are relatively small. A big part of that outcome relates to our compliance with the direction to "stay at home" and "to avoid non-essential travel". However, what happens when people from other places begin to travel to our area for work and recreation. How do we manage those populations? The Village of Fraser Lake, Nadleh Whut'en and the Stellat'en have been discussing these concerns. Each community has taken a slightly different approach toward protection of their residents. Ultimately, our goals are the same; ensuring our residents, our medical staff, our emergency responders and our essential service workers remain healthy and safe.

At the Village, we continue to work with Emergency Management BC, Northern Health, the Province, the Regional District and the communities of Stellaquo and

Nadleh Whut'en to stay current on available information. Under the current circumstance, I am happy to report we are doing well. Our supplies are adequate, staffing levels are good, and protocols are in place.

As industry begins to reopen, new rules, procedures and protocols are being instituted to ensure the health and safety of employees and our communities. Since this is the first time any of us has been through such an ordeal, we do not have the benefit of hindsight. So, experts are gathered, the best information is reviewed and reviewed again. When plans are developed, they are presented for review by others. Ultimately, these plans are intended to provide the safest outcomes. We have been doing our best to stay current with plans for the LNG pipeline and seasonal tree planting. Those industries have invested significant time and expertise to create plans that are well thought out and considerate of our concerns. We are constantly updating our Village of Fraser Lake website and Village Facebook page with links that we feel you may find informative or helpful. Determining how to best live and work in the new reality of COVID-19 is our goal. Please be patient, please be kind and please be understanding. Our communities, our economy and our physical and mental health depend on it!

Voyent Alert! Emergency Call Alert System

In times of crisis it is important that residents have access to timely, trusted and accurate information to ensure their own safety and that of their family and loved ones. In response to this need, the Village of Fraser Lake has chosen Voyent Alert! as the communication service provider for these kinds of events.

The Village of Fraser Lake along with the Regional District of Bulkley Nechako will be launching a new Emergency Call Alert System called Voyent Alert! This Mass Notification System allows residents to use an App or sign up online to receive text, email and phone alerts! We are excited to provide this new alert system to our residents.

Voyent Alert! is a multi-purpose communication service used to send alerts and notifications to residents, businesses, and visitors during critical events like fires or floods as well as for relevant day-to-day communications such as snow removal advisories, planned maintenance, water advisories, etc.

**Watch for more information on how to register for this
FREE
service in the coming weeks.**