



## September, 2010 Newsletter



Summer Village of Itaska Beach

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Welcome to Itaska's

New Council:

- Mayor Ralph Johnston
- Deputy Mayor Jerry Rudnisky
- Councillor Rex Nielsen

**Receive this newsletter via email!**

Please give the Summer Village Office your email address.

### 2010 Tax Increase and Future Budgets

There were two components of the 2010 tax increase:

- 1) Increase in contractor fees and outside organizations, as well as provincial requirements that Council must meet;
- 2) Assessment changes: there was an 18% reduction in assessment of Summer Village properties. The 18% however is the aggregate average, and the range was from 28% - 0%: it did not decrease uniformly. Those cabins falling below the 18%

### Provincial School Tax

Over 45% of your taxes include the Provincial Education Tax. Please see our sample form letter enclosed which we are suggesting you could mail in to the Premier, Minister

average would have experienced a much higher tax increase than in the past.

Council does not control the assessment. It is completed by an impartial assessment commission, of which the Summer Village of Itaska Beach is a member municipality.

Council will be reviewing closely all services delivered in Itaska Beach and be looking for ways to reduce costs for the 2011 budget.

We encourage you to let

of Education, and your MLA, to request that this inequitable contribution be addressed in future budgets. Please note that a copy of this letter is available on the website in

Council know what services are important that be kept, and what services are perhaps not necessary for you to receive.

You may send in a letter to the Summer Village office, as well as attend the November (or any) Council meeting. Please note that if you wish to speak at a Council meeting you must have a written submission into the Summer Village office at least a week prior to the Council meeting and will be given a 10 minute time slot.

“Word” format so that you could add the date, make any changes and add your name, signature and your own MLA's address.

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“Please renew  
your Pigeon Lake  
Watershed  
Association  
Membership for  
2010”

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**Pigeon Lake Watershed Association—Membership**

In order to assist the Pigeon Lake Watershed Association in establishing a strong membership base, the Summer Village of Itaska Beach Council agreed to pay memberships for every ratepayer in Itaska Beach for 2009. This also allowed Itaska Beach owners to become

familiar with the Watershed Association. The memberships are not automatically renewed in 2010: please contact Susan Ellis as soon as possible to get your membership renewed. The cost is \$10 for a single membership or \$20 per family. You may go to their website

at: [www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com](http://www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com) and pay there via paypal or contact Susan Ellis at #44 Itaska Beach - phone: (780) 389-4040 or cell: (403) 816-6049. Council recommends that this is an Association that should be supported.

**Leduc County—Pigeon Lake Area Structure Plan**

Ratepayers are to be notified that Leduc County is moving forward with the Area Structure Plan; the public hearing for the proposed bylaw to adopt the North Pigeon Lake Area Structure

Plan was held on August 17, 2010. Council for the Summer Village of Itaska Beach presented a position opposing the high-density development. Council encourages our ratepayers to contact

Leduc County Councillors to continue to voice your positions. Further information on the plan can be found at: [www.leduc-county.com/plan-long-northpigeon.htm](http://www.leduc-county.com/plan-long-northpigeon.htm)

**Summer Village AGM & Picnic**



Thank you to everyone for attending the AGM and picnic on July 17, 2010.

A special congratulations to Ralph Johnston, who received a long term certificate award for serving over 20 years as Councillor in Itaska Beach from 1989 – 2009.

**Himalayan Balsam—Please Help Pull!!**

The Summer Village took the initiative to do the first pull of the prohibited noxious weed “Himalayan balsam”; our contractor Sweet Landscaping did a very good job going through and picking all the weeds. We now need to address the issue again as there has been a lot of seed washed to shore

and a second growth resulting. We have exceeded the budget this year for weeds, and are therefore requesting all ratepayers to assist in removing the weeds. Ratepayers will be requested to pick the



weeds on their own lots, and anyone with a creek neighbouring their property to pick along the creek. This will be a major undertaking, and Council will request that ratepayers also assist with their neighbours if possible, and to volunteer to pick the weeds on Summer Village property.

A letter was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development requesting him to ensure all areas around the lake remove this prohibited noxious weed.

**Update on Himalyan Balsam—August 25, 2010**

Two more patches of Himalayan Balsam were discovered in the Itaska Audubon on Friday August 20th. One patch was in the bush behind the beach front at the end of Beach Road. The other was behind the long properties a bit west of the NEPL pump station.

In this instance you could see that this waste plus high weed sprang from a pile of beach front waste including shells, sand and Lake Weed. Unfortunately the plants had flowered and may have seeded

already - so this location will have to be closely monitored in the future.

It is very important for all Itaska residents to note that no dumping of any kind is permitted in the Audubon or any Village ditches, reserve property or recreation areas.

Provisions have been made for all beach clean up to be put in clear plastic bags and left on your drive way in a neat pile. These clear bag piles will be picked up each week by Sweet Landscaping. The same arrangement also

applies to grass clippings and yard clean up.

If you see anyone violating this regulation - please report it immediately to the Village CAO or the Pigeon Lake Protective Services. We must win this battle against this invasive weed and it is going to take due diligence on all our parts and working together as a Village Team.

Thanks to some quick work by Susan Ellis and Felix Sperling both these patches were dispensed with quickly.

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“No dumping of any kind is permitted in the Audobon or any Village property”

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“We enforce your  
municipal  
bylaws”

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### Pigeon Lake Protective Services

Pigeon Lake Protective Services has been serving the Summer Villages surrounding Pigeon lake for over 30 years.

- ✓ We conduct routine Protective patrols.
- ✓ We provide education programs such as H.O.P (helmets on patrol) as well as safer homes workshops providing home owners with information to make their cabins safer.

- ✓ We work close with the RCMP sharing information.
- ✓ We also enforce the following acts.
  - Animal protection act
  - Dangerous goods act
  - Environment protection and enhancement act
  - Gaming and liquor act
  - Prevention of youth tobacco act
  - Stray animals act
  - Tobacco reduction act

- Traffic safety act
- Municipal bylaws

I would encourage anyone with questions to please contact me.

Thank you

Marty Mckinney

Pigeon Lake Protective Services

### Website – Tips

Make sure to check out the municipal website: [www.itaska.ca](http://www.itaska.ca)

which has on it how bylaws are enforced, information on security companies, and the services provided by the Pigeon Lake Protective Services.

#### Subscribe







On the left hand side of every page, under the heading “Action Steps” is a *subscribe* button.

If you click on this and

put in your name and email address, you will be notified every time that page is updated.

For example, if you wanted to know when new minutes were posted, you could subscribe to the minute page, and you would receive an email notification every time changes were made to that page.

**Action Steps**

-  Call (780) 312-0928
-  Email Us
-  Subscribe
-  Print this Page
-  Send to a friend
-  Submit Event

The latest information, minutes, bylaws, finances, development, contact numbers, etc. is all located on our website.

We are starting to develop a new page:

Administration ->  
**Protective Services,**