

April, 2008

SUMMER VILLAGE of Itaska Beach

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What's New

- > Fertilizer Ban
- > Test the lake water
- > Website - Protect the Lake

Fertilizer Ban

On January 16, 2008, the Council of the Summer Village of Itaska Beach passed Bylaw "#2008-01 Ban Fertilizers". Fertilizers are a possible source of the problem with the water quality at Pigeon Lake, so this bylaw [bans all fertilizer use on all property within the Summer Village of Itaska Beach.](#) We have also encouraged other municipalities around the lake to pass similar bylaws.

Test the Lake Water

You can take part in **Water Quality Awareness Day (AWQA)** - they will provide free test kits for participants to get outside and learn about the water quality of any lake, stream, wetland or other surface waterbody of interest. Register by **April 30th** for your test kit. For more information visit www.awqa.ca, or phone: (780) 422-4385

Website - www.itaska.ca

On our website, www.itaska.ca we have dedicated an entire section called "Protect the Lake". Here we explain **how you can help** to protect the lake: understand what **blue-green algae** is and how to limit the nutrients that feed the growth of the algae, how to minimize development impact with proper **shoreline development**, as well as many **resources** for further information.

Garbage, Big Bins & Recycling

Weekly collection of **garbage** will start on Monday, May 19, 2008.

Grass pick-up will be offered again this year on Mondays (Tuesdays on holidays)

- Limit of 4 bags / household
- No bag to exceed 50 lbs in weight
- MUST be in clear bags (grass will be composted, so there can be NO garbage, branches, twigs)

There will be a **big bin** spring clean-up on the May long week-end.

The following are **NOT ALLOWED*:**

- a) Tires: www.albertarecycling.ca
- b) E waste: (TV's, computers, etc.) see www.albertarecycling.ca
- c) Paint and Paint cans (acceptable if the lids are off and the paint inside is dry/hard)
- d) White goods: fridges, stoves, washers, dryers, freezers, propane bottles
- e) Liquids

Please keep the bin and area clean, so that we can continue to offer this service.

Current suggestion for **recyclables:**

- Put it in a blue bag and take it home
- Take it to a recycling depot (The City of Leduc's recycling depot is located at the west end of 61 Ave and 46 Street)

Reminders

Taxes Due: July 31, 2008
- notices will be sent in June

Annual General Meeting:
July 19 at 10am Sundance

Annual Picnic
July 19 at 4 pm in the park

Speed Limit: 20 km/hr in Itaska

No quads allowed

Pigeon Lake Watershed Association (PLWA)

The Watershed Association is a group of concerned residents and users of Pigeon Lake and its watershed who are working together to understand the lake and its needs, and to advocate best practices:

Shoreline Clean-up: May 24 - 31
- support making a healthy lake and contact Brian:
brianj@solomoncollage.ca or
Ph: (780) 437-6298

PLWA Open House: June 7th at
Mulhurst Community Centre
from 10:00 am - 3:00 p.m.

AB Environment:
Meeting on Blue Green
Algae on June 13th at
the Mulhurst
Community Centre
**PLWA Annual General
Meeting:** August 23 at
10am at Vasa Lodge

Lakedell Farmer's Markets: every Friday from May 9 - August 29
from 4:30 - 7:30: Come here to learn more information on what
can be done to get rid of blue-green algae in Pigeon Lake.

For more information, please visit their website at:
www.pigeonlakewatershedassociation.com



**"Let's work
together to
preserve and
protect the Itaska
Audubon
Reserve!"**

Itaska Audubon Society

The 50 acres of land between Village Avenue and the government road allowance immediately to the east and the entrance road to Itaska to the North is known as the Audubon.

While the land is owned by the Society, it benefits all residents of Itaska and serves as a buffer from development.

It is the intent of the society to keep the land in as natural a state as possible. The forest is

a rich environment with several unique ecosystems and a large number of birds, animals and insects as well as some rare species of plants.

To help preserve this unique environment, the Audubon Society requests that residents report any trespassing by ATV's or other vehicles and not dump branches, grass clippings or other refuse in the forest.

Let's work together to preserve and protect the Itaska Audubon Reserve!

For more information contact a member of the Audubon Society board:

David Alton – President (#63)
Blaine Gowing –Secretary (#93)
Doug McKenzie –Director (#71)

Itaska Yacht Club

The Itaska Yacht Club has been running races at Itaska since 1967. This year racing will begin with the Icebreaker on June 29th of the Canada weekend and continue every Sunday morning until August 24th.

Wind permitting, two races are held, with the first starting at 10:30. Coffee is served after each race at the cabin of the captain of the day.

Most of our sailors are from Itaska but a few come from

other beaches. Newcomers from anywhere are welcome. Non-sailors can help out by volunteering to run a safety boat during races.

For more information contact one of the executive or just come out and sail. This year's executive are:

Commodore - Paul Johnston, #10 Itaska
Treasurer- David Alton, #63
Racing Director – Heather Renaud, #17
Members at Large – The Haley Family,
Gordon Mckenzie, OJ Clarke, Wally Dixon



Wastewater Treatment in the Pigeon Lake Watershed

The North East Pigeon Lake Regional Services Commission (NEPL) has been actively planning on increasing the capacity of its Mulhurst lagoon and making the transition to a Regional Lagoon to be able to handle wastewater in the entire Pigeon Lake watershed. The first step in moving towards this goal was a stage 1 lagoon expansion at our Mulhurst facility. Some highlights of that initiative are as follows;

- The Mulhurst Lagoon Expansion Project was tendered on March 15th, 2007 with a closing date of April 13th 2007.
- Eighteen copies of the contract were sold and 3 addendums were issued. Two bids were received; Iron Horse Earthworks (\$5,533,319) and BYZ Construction Inc. (\$4,144,877).
- The contract was awarded to BYZ Construction Inc. on June 13, 2007 for \$4,144,877. The total value of the project is currently estimated at \$4,404,877. The Province has agreed to pay 80% of the lagoon cost expansion and 100% of the new truck unloading facilities. The balance will come from NEPL reserves. Actual costs are projected to be lower than Budget.
- To better handle the increased volumes of sludge and septage, the design of the anaerobic cells and truck dump incorporate maximum efficiency. The four anaerobic cells will be interconnected by a piping system that provides a monitored, effective circulation and recirculation of the wastewater. The anaerobic cells will be designed to provide an environment that facilitates bacteria growth that will mineralize sludge and reduce sludge volumes up to 70%.
- Construction of the new facility was completed as of October 31, 2007.
- Seasonal deficiencies to be completed in the spring of 2008:
 - Landscaping and seeding
 - Removal of Geo-tube to sanitary landfill
 - Lighting for the truck dump
- The NEPL has been proactive in the protection of Pigeon Lake water quality through the construction of this facility and by constructing state of the art wastewater treatment facilities with the following features:
 - The lagoon is fully staffed during operating hours (open 7 days a week in summer)
 - HDPE Liners
 - Truck dump with recirculation system
 - Geo-tube treatment and disposal of sludge
 - Ground water monitoring wells
 - Environmental insurance.
- NEPL has worked closely with Alberta Environment to ensure that all standards are met.

- NEPL is currently undergoing a professional review of the older waste collection and treatment facility systems as part of our ongoing commitment to a well maintained system.

- Customers utilizing the system at this point in time are:
 - Summer Village of Norris Beach
 - Summer Village of Crystal Springs
 - Summer Village of Poplar Bay
 - County of Leduc

- Agreement Effective Date January 1, 2007
 - 5 year term

- Agreement Highlights
 - NEPL will accept wastewater from all contracted Customers
 - Customers will pay for the operational costs for the “Truck Dumping Station” only
 - Capital costs for the lagoon and improvements including the “Truck Dumping Station” have been born by the NEPL at this stage until we have a collection system around Pigeon Lake.

- Additional Customers
 - Indications are that two additional Villages will start utilizing the system late second quarter of 2008.

The non NEPL Summer Villages and the County of Leduc will form a Steering Committee as of April 30, 2008 charged with the responsibility of designing a collection system for the rest of the lake. The County of Wetaskiwin had agreed to be the lead municipality on this important Steering Committee and uses its experience to enable the group to achieve its mandate. The NEPL is also a member of the Committee as well. The goal is to get closed wastewater systems all around Pigeon Lake as step 2 in cleaning up our current problem of wastewater nutrients getting into the lake which foster plant growth and ultimately algae blooms.



Installation of HDPE Liner