

# Association of Summer Villages of Alberta

# NEWS



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Volume 13, No. 1

Spring, 2005

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## *FROM THE MINUTES*

Board Meeting of February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005

### SUMMER VILLAGE INSURANCE

President Bancroft would like to have a representative from both the AUMA and Jubilee insurance, independently, at future Executive meetings to discuss the cost of insurance to summer villages. He feels that savings could be in order by comparing the premiums from both organizations. As a summer village administrator, he is quite aware of the costs that summer villages incur for proper coverage and would like to see what each side has to offer.

### BUDGET & DUES

The 2005 budget and dues were approved by the Executive. As the Association has been operating on a hold the line budget for the past several years, there will not be any increase in the dues calculation formula this year. Any increases in dues to a summer village are due to an increased assessment in that village. The dues are calculated using the equalized assessment provided by Alberta Municipal Affairs as of December 31, 2005. The calculation formula is available from the office for any council or administrator.

## WEBSITE

The Executive discussed the possibility of setting up a website for the Association. Several of the Executive feel that would be beneficial to the general membership and are going to approach individuals they know who are in the business of writing websites. There are companies that rent space on their systems for private websites.

## MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT

President Garth is hoping to meet, shortly, with the Minister of Municipal Affairs. He is also trying to set up a meeting with the Minister of Environment, Guy Boutilier, to discuss the matter of lake levels. He asked the Board members to make a list of their concerns that they would like the Association to pursue.

## STEWARDS OF THE LAKE COMMITTEE

The Committee has been working with the AUMA and Alberta Environment putting all the information together that the group has amassed. They are reviewing their previous work and expect there may be some changes made to make the material in the guide more user friendly.

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The committee advised that this year's theme is "The

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## EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

President	GARTH BANCROFT
Past President	JIM SANDMAIER
Vice President	ROGER VOLD
Directors	GARY BURNS WAYNE CAREY SUSAN DZUS GEORGE FETH GORD HARRIS ART LAMOUREUX JOHN TURGEON PETER WRIGHT

Executive Director	BILL SHILLABEER
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## NEWSLETTER

Publisher	BILL SHILLABEER
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Lakes Are Our Future". The committee are also examining extending the length of the administrators workshop. A survey will be made of the administrators for their input as to topics and timing. There will be only two Saturday workshops One in the morning and one in the afternoon. This will allow for greater presentation time as well as more time for interaction.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The spring news letter is full of activities that have been undertaken by the Executive Committee members. All members have been working towards improved Provincial Government relations and recently the President and past President met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The meeting was very informative and we had excellent discussions regarding the operations of Summer Villages. We

volunteered to give the Minister a tour of the Northern portion of the Province regarding Summer Villages.

Recently I received a letter from the Minister of Health And Wellness advising that a grant regarding ambulance operations was being forwarded in the amount of 1678.00. The letter explained that this was based on a per capita amount. When I divided the population 118 into the amount I calculated the per capita amount to be 14.22 per capita. I feel that we should continue to lobby to have the ambulance operations in the hands of the Provincial Government.

Grants are a concern with Summer Villages and some Executive Committee members feel that grants should be calculated on a per lot basis not on a per capita basis. Please forward your comments to Bill. Thank you.

I really did thing spring was here however we all know that more snow is on the way and cooler temperatures. Be very aware of the ice conditions on the Lakes - Spring is a great time of the year - enjoy.

Garth Bancroft  
President

## **HERE & THERE**

### CCPCA PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

Hello Alberta Cottagers

On behalf of the Canadian Coalition of Provincial Cottage Associations (CCPCA) I would like to update you on what's been occurring with the organization. On April 5<sup>th</sup> we will have our spring teleconference and organize a newsletter.

The PWC issue is not getting a lot of publicity at this time which might just be a case of it not having been reintroduced to the House of Commons. As always Roads and Taxes in the Cottage Community is high on the agenda all across the country. One of the key items at the upcoming teleconference will be a requirement to decide how to proceed in the future in regards to continuing to be a registered organization or try to keep the lines of communication open as simply a group sharing information. This would allow us to proceed without D&O Ins. My hope is that we will

find a way to continue as a registered organization, I believe the CCPCA has a role to play that can benefit all Canadian Cottagers.

As with all volunteer groups the issue of Directors and Officers insurance is a big one, and for the CCPCA it represents more than 50% of our annual budget.

On a brighter note hopefully the sun will soon remove all the snow in the Prairies and we can all get on with the busy and pleasant Cottage season. Hopefully you all have a great Summer.

Art Lamoureux  
President CCPCA  
Board Member ASVA



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### AUMA UPDATE

Dear Summer Village Councils and Administrators,

At time of writing we are back into winter, even though it is officially now spring. In my Summer Village we experienced the spring thaws (and accompanying rushing and flooding of waters) in early March. We were almost clear of snow by mid March. Now for this Easter weekend it appears we will be back to snow, which can make the Easter Egg Hunt somewhat challenging – the Bunny ends up looking like he was wearing shoes!

Today I will briefly touch on a few items that I would most like to inform you of.

### Infrastructure Funding Deals

The AUMA has been working towards finding a reasonable solution to the distribution method for these new funds. As I noted in my March 08, 2005 email to Summer Villages, the Cities of Edmonton and Calgary and the AAMD&C are also interested in the distribution method for this money. The two large cities wanted 52% of the funding (which does equate to about 52% of the provincial population). The AAMD&C wanted the remaining 48% of the money to be distributed 50-50 between AUMA and AAMD&C. AUMA did not believe a 50-50 formula for the remaining 48% of the funding to be fair or equitable to urban municipalities.

At this point I must state that the AUMA represents all urban municipalities, and as such attempts to find a solution that will benefit all urban municipalities.

Some Summer Villages have indicated that they do not support the AUMA's proposed funding formula. It has been suggested that we look at distribution based on percentage of assessment that each municipality contributes to the total assessment pool. It has also been suggested that a per lot basis be used for Summer Villages. Concerns have been raised that all municipalities should receive the same base allocation (in the AUMA proposal Summer Villages and ID's receive \$1500 allocation and all other municipalities receive \$3000 base allocation with respect to the Federal funding only – the Provincial formula has all municipalities receiving the same base allocation of \$10,000).

Research has indicated that the Counties and MD's have approximately 14% of the provincial population. It also indicates that the Counties and MD's have approximately 50% of the assessment, primarily due to the high amount of linear assessment that rurals have. However, the Counties and MD's also have a much more modest amount of "service" infrastructure requirements for their populations. They do not have the same infrastructure that is so predominant in urban municipalities – water & wastewater treatment systems, traffic lights and signs on every corner, libraries, recreational and cultural facilities, to name but a few. Nor do they incur the same costs that urban municipalities do in the servicing of those types of

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infrastructure. If the funding was to be distributed based on assessment, urban municipalities as a whole would benefit less than the proposed per capita and base allocation model.

There have been discussions that perhaps there is an ability to use a combination of ideas to produce an alternate or modified funding formula. I will take forward to the AUMA Board and its administration all suggestions and concerns that I receive.

To date, approximately one third of Summer Villages have sent letters with respect to the infrastructure funding. Of those who have written, over 80% have expressed their support for the AUMA's proposed funding formula.

#### Private Sewage Disposal Services Task Group

The AUMA is participating in the Provincial Private Sewage Disposal Systems Task Group. Mr Mark Anker, past CAO of several Summer Villages, and myself are representing the AUMA at this group. This will allow great Summer Village involvement in this task group.

The primary mandate of the Task Group is the development of recommendations to improve the technical standards and the administrative framework for the management of private sewage disposal systems in Alberta. Through this work, the ultimate goal is ensuring the safety and effective treatment of wastewater from private sewage disposal systems now and in the future. To assist us in addressing the concerns of small urban municipalities that have private sewage disposal systems in their municipalities, the AUMA intends to send to municipalities a short survey seeking your input and experience with private sewage disposal systems in your communities. I would personally be very grateful for your completion of the survey to assist us in making sure your needs and concerns are brought forward.

#### Municipal Insurance

I am very pleased that the premiums for municipal insurance for Summer Villages for the 2005 term was significantly better, as a whole, than the last few years. The program has had some refinements done to the rating system to recognize various factors that may impact risk exposure. This adjustment that will be a part of the future rating structures for the program – not a short term type fix such as those that we have seen in past years. As well, as the AUMA

program has grown and matured which also provides a benefit, as it allows the actuarial to better trend loss history and anticipated loss history with growth, etc.

We are preparing to resume delivery of the Risk Management modules for 2005. We anticipate that we will re-offer the previous module to those who may have missed it or would like to retake it, as well as offering the next module later this year, likely just prior to the AUMA convention. More specific information on these modules will come forward as it becomes available. In the interim, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your municipal insurance you may either contact Bill Holmes, Director of Insurance Services or contact me and I will assist you in whatever way I might be able to.

#### Spring Regional Seminars

The AUMA Spring Regional Seminars are coming up. The seminar date and location schedule is:

- April 19th - Grande Prairie at the Holiday Inn
- April 22nd – Lethbridge at the Ramada Inn
- April 25th - Red Deer at the Capri Hotel
- April 27th – Edmonton at the Ramada Hotel on Kingsway Avenue

Topics that will be covered will include amongst others: the MGA; Environmental Issues related to Water, Land Use Policies, etc; Policing & Ambulance; General Insurance & Benefits update, and will of course include open forum time with Ministers and MLA's. Registration forms can be accessed via the AUMA Website at [www.munilink.net](http://www.munilink.net).

#### Mayors Workshop

On May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of 2005 AUMA will be putting on a workshop designed for Mayors and Deputy Mayors titled "Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century". The workshop is designed for new Mayors and Deputy Mayors as well as veterans, and will focus on Governance, Leadership, Politics and balancing Personal and Professional life. A tentative agenda was provided in an information bulletin that AUMA released on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Further information will follow as the dates draw nearer.

There are always many issues to be addressed and initiatives that are going on at AUMA. If there is something that you would like to know more about please do not hesitate to contact me.

As always, it is a great pleasure, and an honour, to serve as your AUMA Director of Summer Villages. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to represent Alberta's Summer Villages at the AUMA Board.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the ASVA for this opportunity to share information with you.

I wish you all a very pleasant Spring season!

Sincerely,  
Lori Jeffery-Heaney  
Summer Village of Val Quentin  
Director of Summer Villages, AUMA



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