



GULL LAKE NEWSLETTER

August 2024 / Issue 3

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

14th Annual Gull Lake Car Show & Pancake Breakfast

The Gull Lake Community League is hosting the 14th Annual Show & Shine car show and pancake breakfast. Join your neighbors for pancakes and enjoy the vintage cars.

**Sunday, September 1st from 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Gull Lake Community Hall**

Game Night

The Summer Village of Gull Lake Community League presents GAMES NIGHT at the community hall. Bring a game you want to share with others or just come to play.

**Every Wednesday, 6:30 pm-9:00 pm
Gull Lake Community Hall**

'Appy' Hour

Join your neighbors at the Gull Lake Community Hall 'Appy' Hour. Please bring your own refreshments plus an appetizer to share.

**3rd Friday of the month, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Gull Lake Community Hall
(Next "Appy" Hour will be September 27)**

Gull Lake Community League—AGM

The Gull Lake Community League will be holding their Annual General Meeting and all summer village residents are welcome. Come and learn about our Community League and the many events they sponsor.

**Friday, September 20 from 4:30 pm-5:30pm
Gull Lake Community Hall**

Volunteer Appreciation

The Summer Village of Gull Lake Council is hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Celebration. If you have volunteered or contributed this summer, please join us at the Summer Village of Gull Lake Hall. Appetizers, beer, and wine will be provided.

**Friday, September 20 from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm
Gull Lake Community Hall**



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Last Concert of the Summer Series

The Gull Lake Community League is pleased to announce that the last concert of the summer series will feature musician Braden Gates. Tickets are \$30/each and tables of 8 may be reserved at the time of purchase. Cash bar—wine, beer, and coolers. For tickets contact Sue Ferguson (780-238-6294)

Saturday, September 28 from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm
Gull Lake Community Hall
(Doors open at 6 pm)

Council Meeting

Your summer village Council meets on the third Friday of every month in the Community Meeting Room (Council Chambers). You may attend in person or join the meeting virtually via Zoom by clicking on the following link—[Council Meeting Zoom Link](#).

Next Council Meeting:
Friday, September 20 from 2:00pm-4:30pm

Gull Lake Watershed Society Annual General Meeting

Everyone is welcome to attend the 2024 GLWS Annual General Meeting on August 31st in the Meridian Beach Hall. The mission of the GLWS is “to contribute to the preservation of Gull Lake and the area within its watershed as a continuing desirable recreation area and to assist in protecting the water quality of the lake in cooperation with residents of the watershed.”

There will be a Zoom Video Link for those who cannot attend in person and this link will be provided on our website under “News + Events” (<https://gulllakewatershed.ca/news-events/>).

Volunteers are needed for the board, so please let our current president know if you are interested in serving by emailing Norval at norval@shaw.ca

Follow this link to make donations to the GLWS: <https://gulllakewatershed.ca/glws-donations/>

Saturday, August 31 from 10:00 am-12:00pm
Meridian Beach Hall ([see directions](#))

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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Public Participation Policy

In accordance with Section 216.1 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the SV of Gull Lake Council has passed the [Public Participation Policy](#). The purpose of the policy is to recognize the value of public participation and create opportunities for meaningful public participation in decisions that directly impact the summer village community.

Going forward, as a regular feature in each GL NEWSLETTER, we will be including a section to directly solicit residents' feedback on municipal Council policies, bylaws, and other municipal affairs that affect our summer village and community life. We will also be asking for your suggestions. Please watch for this section in each newsletter issue and participate by letting Council and administration know your views. WHAT YOU THINK MATTERS!

Residents' Feedback:

Golf Carts Bylaw

Presently, the Traffic Safety Act prohibits the use of golf carts on any roadway in the Province. However, the Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors passed the [Pilot Project \(Golf Carts\) Regulation](#) that now allows municipalities to pass bylaws to authorize golf cart use on selected highways in the municipality. At the August 16 regular meeting, Council reviewed the first draft of the Pilot Project (Golf Carts) Bylaw and recommended some changes. The draft Bylaw, with Council's recommended changes in red, may be viewed here: [Draft Golf Cart Bylaw](#).

Please read this draft Bylaw and forward your comments in confidence to: [Golf Cart Bylaw Comments](#)

Land Use Bylaw

Council and administration continues to work with the Parkland Community Planning Service to revise the Gull Lake Land Use Bylaw. There was an Open House on July 28 and residents were also invited to complete an online survey, which is now discontinued. However, there is still time for you to comment on the Land Use Bylaw and recommend changes you would like to see incorporated in the next draft which will be shared with the public. Please review the current [Land Use Bylaw](#) and forward your comments in confidence to: [Land Use Bylaw Comments](#)

Strategic Plan

Parkland Community Planning Service has been working with Council and administration to develop the first Gull Lake Strategic Plan. For the period 2024-2028, this seminal document will guide Council decisions and identify initiatives intended to enhance community life in the summer village. It is MOST IMPORTANT that summer village residents have a MAJOR SAY in what direction and initiatives we should undertake over the next 4 years.

Please read the first draft of the [2024-28 Gull Lake Strategic Plan](#) and provide your comments in confidence to: [Strategic Plan Comments](#)

Your Comments & Suggestions

It is extremely important that your Council and administration have the opportunity to hear from our residents. Perhaps you have a comment on an issue you wish to raise. Maybe you have a suggestion for how we might improve our services. Something we should place in the budget? Perhaps there is an initiative you think the summer village should pursue.

Please forward your comments and suggestions in confidence to: [Comments & Suggestions](#)



HEALTH OF GULL LAKE

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Addressing Low Water Levels

Everyone around Gull Lake is concerned about declining lake water levels. Water levels have been measured at Gull Lake since 1924 by the Water Service of Canada (WSC). According to a recent [Hydrology Assessment](#), lake water levels have decreased 1.5m from 1924 to 1949; another 1m from 1949 to 1963; and fluctuated +/- 0.5m over the following 60 years. In 2024, lake levels are very low, which is not only a concern for recreational activities, but impinges on the health of the lake.

So, what is being done to address this issue? Presently, there are 3 initiatives that are being undertaken to help stabilize water levels in Gull Lake:

1. Continued Pumping Water from the Blindman River

From 1976 to 2011, the Provincial government granted a water license that allowed water from the Blindman River to be pumped into Gull Lake to stabilize lake water levels. The lake naturally rose above target elevation until 2014 and began declining thereafter, falling below pumping trigger levels in the fall of 2021. In 2016, Prussian Carp, an invasive fish species, was found in Blindman River, and with no system to exclude this fish and eggs, the regulator – Environment and Protected Areas (EPA) – suspended the water licence.

Presently, the Government of Alberta is working with the Gull Lake Watershed Society (GLWS) on a pressurized filter system to potentially exclude Prussian carp and their eggs from the water pumped into Gull Lake.

The GLWS has submitted a preliminary filtration system design to the Province, and if approved, a new water license from the EPA would be granted and pumping from the Blindman River would resume.

Check out the following link for more information:

[Gull Lake Stabilization Project—Fact Sheet](#)

2. Pumping Water from the Paskapoo Haynes Aquifer

The engineering firm HCL was commissioned in January 2024 to complete a Gull Lake area [hydrology study of the Paskapoo Haynes](#) aquifer formation. The study objective is to determine the viability and sustainability of pumping deep source fresh water from this aquifer into Gull Lake to stabilize water levels. For more information on this study, contact [Norval Horner](#), President of the Gull Lake Watershed Society.

3. Gull Lake Regional Master Drainage Feasibility Study

In the past, the natural flow of water from drainage areas to the northwest into Gull Lake has been impeded due to roadway and related developments. An engineering study is needed to examine the feasibility of opening up these drainage areas so that water repositories in these regions may, once again, flow into Gull Lake.

Four municipalities (Ponoka County, Lacombe County, SV of Gull Lake, SV of Parkland Beach) will be applying for an Alberta Community Partnership grant to study the input flow of water into Gull Lake and the feasibility of increasing this flow from these areas.

Lake Water Health Advisories

Alberta Health Services is responsible for the ongoing monitoring and testing of lake water and issuing Water Quality Advisories. Here are the Active Health Advisories that are currently in place for Alberta's lakes:

[Active Health Advisories](#)

**PRUSSIAN CARP
FACTS**

**PASKAPOO HAYNES
AQUIFER**

**NORTHWEST GULL
LAKE DRAINAGE AREA**

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE

CONTACTS

Councillors

Mayor Doug Francoeur—(doug.francoeur@gmail.com)

Deputy Mayor Stuart Innes—(sinnes1956@gmail.com)

Councillor Lon Kasha—(lonkasha@gmail.com)

Administration

Harold Wynne, Chief Administrative Officer (hwyne@parklandbeachsv.ca)

Gwen Auvigne, Administrative Assistant (admin@summervillageofgulllake.com)

Tim Devries, Public Works Manager (farmertimsemail@yahoo.ca)

Office address—#27 Lakeview Avenue, Gull Lake, AB

Mailing address—Site 2, Box 5, RR #1, Lacombe, AB T4L 2N1

Office phone—(403-748-2966) Fax—(888-241-6027)

Website—summervillageofgulllake.com

Emergency Services

Police and Fire Dispatch—(call 911)

RCMP-Blackfalds—24 hour Non-emergency (403-885-3333) Administration (403-885-3300)

Utilities

G.L.D.C. Gas Co-Op Ltd, Emergency (1-403-843-1050)

Fortis—24 hour Emergency (310-9473)

Development Permits

Development Permit application forms are available by contacting the admin office or downloading from the Gull Lake website.

[Development Permit Application Form](#)

All developments are subject to the [Land Use Bylaw](#) which is also available on the website or from the admin office.

For building, gas, plumbing, and electrical permits contact [IJD Inspections Ltd](#) (403-346-6533)



**[RIMBEY
BUSINESS DIRECTORY](#)**

**[PONOKA
BUSINESS DIRECTORY](#)**

**[LACOMBE
BUSINESS DIRECTORY](#)**

**[BENTLEY
BUSINESS DIRECTORY](#)**

**[RED DEER
BUSINESS DIRECTORY](#)**