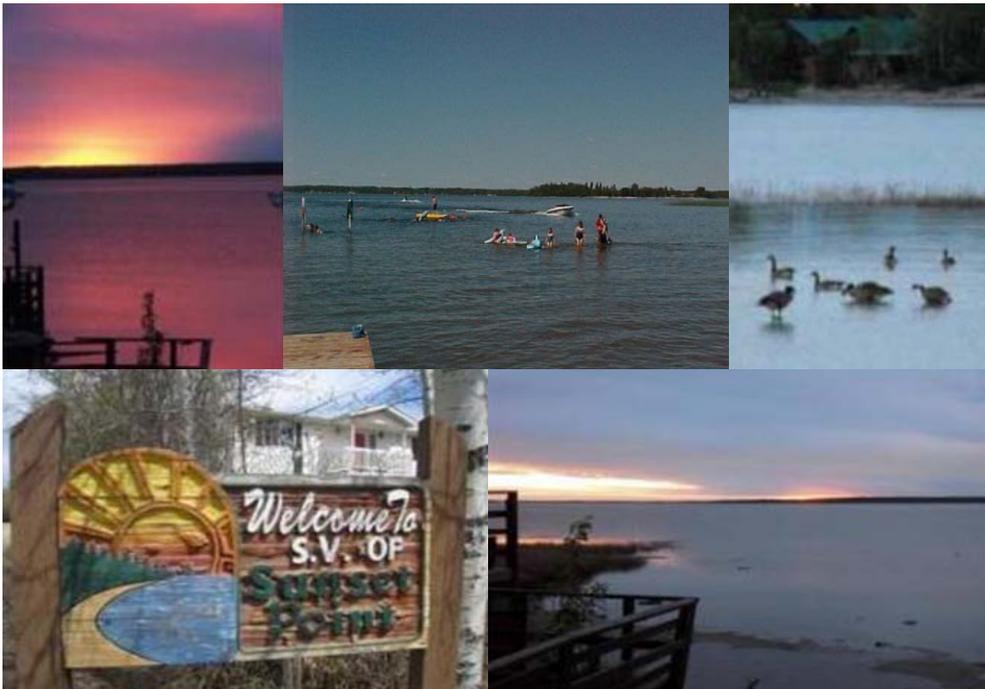


2010

SUMMER VILLAGE OF SUNSET POINT  
INTEGRATED COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



ZAP Municipal Consulting  
Approved by Village Council  
August 27, 2010

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## 1. Our Community

The Summer Village of Sunset Point is approximately 75 km northwest of Edmonton on the southeast shore of Lac Ste. Anne. The Summer Village borders the Village of Alberta Beach to the south, and Lac Ste. Anne County to the east and north. The Summer Village covers 98 hectares and had a permanent population of 242 in the 2006 Federal Census.

Environmentally, particularly as it relates to the lake itself, most (but not all) cottage owners and users of Lac Ste. Anne recognize the need to keep the lake free of pollution. In cooperation with the Provincial Government, the Summer Village of Sunset Point and other lakefront municipalities and stakeholders share an important role as environmental stewards of Lac Ste Anne and its surrounding lands.

Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of residents permanently residing in the Summer Village. There is a desire to see expansion and growth yet maintain the current character and aesthetics of the summer village. This Integrated Community Sustainability Plan has been prepared on behalf of the Summer Village of Sunset Point to provide guidance for the future.

This Plan has been prepared in collaboration with the Summer Village Council and Chief Administrative Officer and is based on ongoing community consultation with residents and property owners in the Summer Village of Sunset Point.

### Sunset Point Statistics

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| <u>Membership in Regional Service Commissions</u>           |     |
| Highway 43 East Waste Commission                            |     |
| TriVillage Regional Sewage Services Commission              |     |
| West Inter Lake District Regional Water Services Commission |     |
| <u>General Statistics (2010)</u>                            |     |
| Total Full-time Positions                                   | 1   |
| Population –Full Time                                       | 242 |
| Length of all Roads Maintained (km)                         | 5   |
| Wastewater Mains Length (km)                                | 4   |
| Number of Residences  | 364 |
| Number of Dwelling Units                                    | 150 |

## 2. Our Geographical Features

Information received from the Alberta Energy Utilities Board indicated that there are no sour gas facilities in the vicinity of the summer village. No other resource extraction facilities that would impact development of the plan area were identified (within or outside the municipality).

The majority of development within the Summer Village is single detached residential lots. Presently there are no commercial uses. An institutional use (Alberta Beach Pentecostal Camp Society) is located in the north central area of the summer village.

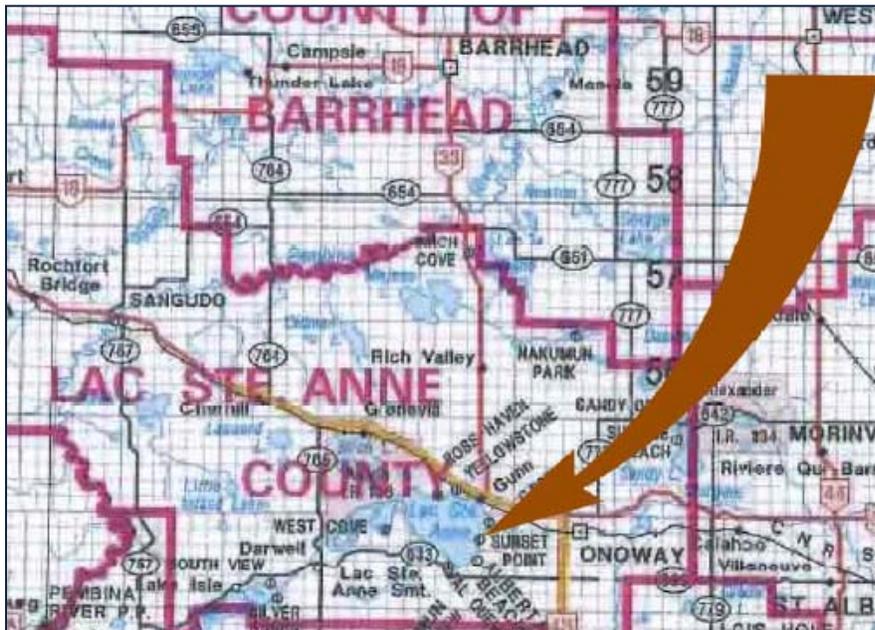
The Summer Village has two municipal neighbours: the Village of Alberta Beach to the south, and Lac Ste. Anne County to the north and east.

The majority of the adjacent County land is presently developed. The Alberta Beach Golf Course is along the southeast boundary and an existing county residential subdivision (providing approximately 60 un-serviced lots) is along the north boundary. The adjacent land within Alberta Beach is residential.

Lac Ste. Anne itself is the dominant natural feature in the area, with an area of approximately 54.5 km<sup>2</sup>. The plan area is predominantly flat but gently sloping west toward the lake.

Primary access is via Sunset Drive that bisects the summer village in a north-south direction. To the south, Lac Ste. Anne Trail follows the east/south shore of Lac Ste. Anne through the Village of Alberta Beach, the Summer Village of Val Quentin, and back into Lake Ste. Anne County. To the north, Lac Ste. Anne Trail goes through the County, past the Summer Village of Castle Island, into Gunn and connects to Highway 43.

### Location of Sunset Point



### 3. Preparing the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan

In May 2005, the New Deal for Cities and Communities (NDCC) between Canada and Alberta was signed to transfer federal gas tax funding to Alberta municipalities. Subsequently, each Alberta municipality was invited to join this program and signed an agreement with the Province of Alberta outlining the requirements and benefits under the program. The NDCC provides financial assistance to municipalities to support the sustainability of capital municipal infrastructure. Through this investment municipalities have the opportunity to maintain or enhance economic, social and cultural opportunities and well being, while protecting and improving the quality of the environment. Funding under this program supports the development of public transit systems, and water and wastewater systems, solid waste management, community energy systems, and community capacity building. Included in the list of eligible projects are design and engineering services, vehicle purchase, construction and rehabilitation. In addition, the program may include barrier-free transportation initiatives to improve accessibility for seniors and persons with disabilities. As part of the agreement, municipalities are required to develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan. This long-range plan has five dimensions – economic, governance, environment and infrastructure, social and recreation and culture – to be developed through public consultation and will provide direction to their Multi-Year Capital Infrastructure Plan. This plan is intended to be a guiding document to provide direction to Staff as they prepare capital and operating budgets to reflect the funding and resources required to accomplish the goals of Council. The Integrated Community Sustainability Plan will be reviewed annually as part of the budgeting process and administration should measure how and when the initiatives are being accomplished.

#### Steps Involved in forming Sunset Point Integrated Community Sustainability Plan



#### 4. What is an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan?

*“A wide ranging plan that articulates the community’s vision for the future and specifies goals and strategies for achieving that vision.”*

The Summer Village of Sunset Point has, and will continue to undertake, services which will provide for the well being of its taxpayers. Council has ensured that services and programs undertaken are sustainable through effective business planning and taxation. Council, through establishing policies and delivering services, ensured its commitment towards the future sustainability of the municipality.

The five elements of municipality include: economic; governance; environment and infrastructure; social; and recreation and culture. Each of these five elements means something different to all municipalities. For a summer villages this is particularly the case, given the history of summer village evolution in Alberta.

Traditionally, Summer Villages evolved from cottage resort areas where seasonal residents desired a role in local government or where the cottage owners were dissatisfied with the levels of service provided or prompted by dramatic increase in municipal taxes imposed by the rural municipality. In other situations it was a combination of high taxes and poor to no services being provided in relation to the amount of taxes being paid. The services being referred to were not limited to the traditional public works kind of service but also included environmental and public safety services.

##### Sustainability Focus Areas

The Summer Village of Sunset Point, incorporated in 1959, has seen an evolution in the services provided. Through efficient governance, the municipality has been able to deliver desired services at effective tax rates. In terms of sustainability, the municipality has laid out a course of action respecting each of the elements, including:

- ⇒ Economic – Council has determined and set policy respecting the level of commercial services to be permitted within the village;
- ⇒ Governance – Good governance means fiscal accountability which includes community engagement;
- ⇒ Environment and Infrastructure – The Village is committed to protecting Lac St. Anne and will strive to ensure development does not harm the environment. The Village desires to maintain reliable systems, deliver efficient and effective services, and continue to upgrade to modern systems;
- ⇒ Social – The Village strives to improve the well being of taxpayers as well as boost community pride; and
- ⇒ Recreation and Culture – Council desires a healthy and active community.

## 5. Economic Sustainability

### What does this mean?

Economic sustainability has a different meaning for summer villages. Summer Villages have been created to serve the unique needs of their taxpayers. For Sunset Point, economic development is not needed. Accommodating limited commercial development through home based businesses has been and will continue to be permitted in the village.

### ***“Determining the level of commercial services to be permitted within the village”***

1. Do village taxpayers want limited use convenience commercial services?
2. Ensuring home based businesses do not impact community image and character.

### Current Sustainability Initiatives

1. Recently amended Land Use Bylaw allows home-based and other commercial businesses at the discretion of Council.

### **Key Economic Sustainability Projects**

1. Continue to accommodate home based and other commercial businesses via the Land Use Bylaw.
2. Retain the character of the Summer Village.
3. Investigate boat/boat lift storage options for lot owners.

## 6. Governance Sustainability

### What does this mean?

The Summer Village has a great deal of pride in having been incorporated for over 50 years. Through this time, the Village has expanded services where warranted and desired by its taxpayers. In order to achieve these successes, Sunset Point has been a part of, and continues to take part in, many different inter-municipal projects. Sunset Point also remains committed to future land use, having recently updated its long range planning documents.

### *“Matters relating to engagement and decision-making”*

1. Community Involvement.
2. Inter-governmental relations and local partnerships.
3. Good decision making.

### Current Sustainability Initiatives

1. Participation in regional initiatives, including:
  - ⇒ Lac St. Anne Municipal Services Agreement (Fire, Community Peace Officer, Animal Control, Library, Emergency Management)
  - ⇒ Yellowhead Regional Library System;
  - ⇒ Highway 43 East Waste Commission;
  - ⇒ TriVillage Regional Sewage Services Commission;
  - ⇒ West Inter Lake District Regional Water Services Commission;
  - ⇒ Lac St. Anne Foundation (seniors and subsidized housing); and
  - ⇒ Lac St. Anne Harbour Commission.
2. Improvement undertaken in the area of municipal governance.
  - ⇒ Memberships maintained in Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and Association of Summer Villages of Alberta.
  - ⇒ Land Use Plans (inter-municipal development plan, municipal development plan, and land use bylaw) are up-to-date.
  - ⇒ Newsletter distributed on a regular basis.

### **Key Future Governance Sustainability Projects**

1. Web Site.
2. Tangible Capital Asset Program.
3. Wireless Internet at Village Office.
4. Water services – including a truck fill and lot services.

## 7. Environment and Infrastructure Sustainability

What does this mean?

Environmental sustainability is important to the Summer Village. Sunset Point utilizes all tools available to it to protect the overall health of Lac St. Anne, and where possible, enhance municipal infrastructure. A good example of environmental stewardship is that the Village is serviced with sanitary services to protect the integrity of Lac St. Anne. This is an example of how Sunset Point is striving to create infrastructure of increasingly higher standards, being aware of potential environmental impacts of infrastructure projects.

***“Reliable and modern systems; efficient and effective services”***

1. Roads and utility systems.
2. Facilities.
3. Service delivery.
4. Community aesthetics and natural areas protection.
5. Environmental quality.
6. Land use.

Current Sustainability Initiatives

1. Road maintenance including: grading, crack filling, snow removal, street lights, and street sweeping.
2. Sanitary sewer services.
3. Maintenance of five (5) beach access locations including portable outhouse maintenance.
4. Participation in annual regional household toxic round-up.
5. Participation in regional landfill commission.
6. Weekly solid waste pick-up; organics collection in the summer; annual waste round-up.

**Key Future Environment and Infrastructure Sustainability Projects**

1. 54 Avenue Reconstruction (in partnership with Lac St. Anne County).
2. Harbour Commission initiatives.
3. Sunset Drive Improvements.
4. Regional Water Supply Investigation.

## 8. Social Focus Area

### What does this mean?

The Summer Village continues to support, where possible, social programs in the community. The Town maintains an excellent working relationship with the Sunset Point Pentecostal Camp, and is continually seeking partnerships to enhance service delivery.

### *“Community well-being and pride”*

1. Bylaws.
2. Social elements.
3. Sense of heritage.

### Current Social Sustainability Initiatives

1. Margo Hervieux Bursary;
2. Community Peace Officers enforce traffic and animals.
3. Family and Community Support Services;
4. East End Bus;
5. Fire Services;
6. Christmas Lightup Program;
7. Beach Polynesian Days;
8. Sno-Mo Day;
9. Snowmobile races/poker rallies;
10. Alberta Beach Seniors Society; and
11. Bylaw Officer to enforce land use infractions (unsightly premises).

### **Key Future Social Sustainability Projects**

1. Continue to administer the Margo Hervieux bursary.
2. Partner with Sunset Point Pentecostal Camp where opportunities arise to promote community well-being and pride.
3. Continue to assist, where possible, in activities and events for all seasons.

## 9. Recreation and Culture Focus Area

What does this mean?

Lac St. Anne enriches the lifestyle of Sunset Point residents and plays an important role in providing opportunities for individuals to adopt and implement the principles of active living. Sunset Point provides open space opportunities for its citizens to access the lake as well as walk to other neighbourhoods and neighbouring municipalities. The Summer Village promotes the use of facilities located at the Sunset Point Pentecostal Camp, and where possible, provides assistance with respect to long range planning.

### *“Healthy and active community”*

1. Recreational opportunities.
2. Services and facilities that promote an active and healthy lifestyle.

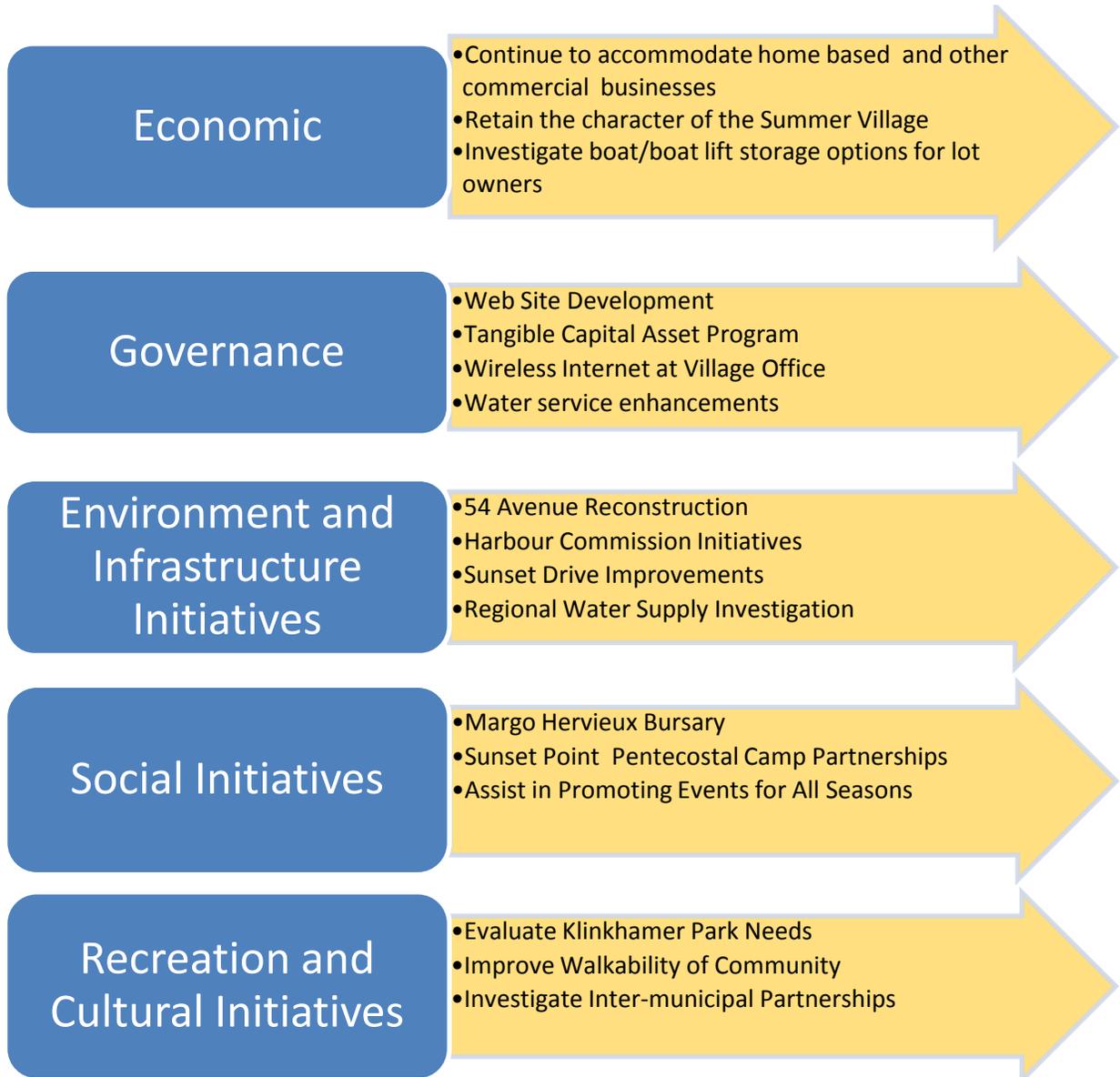
Current Recreation and Culture Sustainability Initiatives

1. Klinkhamer Park;
2. Former railway right-of-way; and
3. Five (5) beach access locations.

### **Key Future Recreation and Culture Sustainability Projects**

1. Evaluate Klinkhamer Park needs.
2. Improve year round walkability within community including the former railway right-of-way.
3. Investigate partnerships between Summer Village, Sunset Point Pentecostal Camp, Private Sector, Alberta Beach, and Lac Ste. Anne County.

## 10. Summary of Priority Initiatives



LOOKING FORWARD