# Summer Village of Sunset Point MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Bylaw 261





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#### 1 INTRODUCTION

Since the early 1900's, Alberta's lakeshore property has been purchased for cottage use with public beaches being developed along road and rail routes accessible from larger urban centres. Traditionally, summer villages evolved from cottage resort areas where seasonal residents desired a role in local government.

The Summer Village of Sunset Point is approximately 75 km northwest of Edmonton on the southeast shore of Lac Ste. Anne. The Summer Village boarders 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 176 in the 2001 Federal Census. Map 1 Regional Location on the following page shows the Summer Village's location within the central Alberta context.

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. Together with the overall growth occurring in the region, this is one of the main reasons that this municipal development plan (MDP) has been prepared. There is a desire to see expansion and growth yet maintain the current character and aesthetics of the summer village.

This Municipal Development Plan has been prepared on behalf of the Summer Village of Sunset Point to provide guidance for future land use and development within the summer village. With the ongoing development boom in Alberta, this plan was requested by the summer village to provide potential developers and current landowners and residents with a vision or guide for future development and growth.

This MDP has been prepared in collaboration with a steering committee comprised of the Summer Village Council and Chief Administrative Officer and is based on community consultation with residents and property owners in the Summer Village of Sunset Point in accordance with the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*.

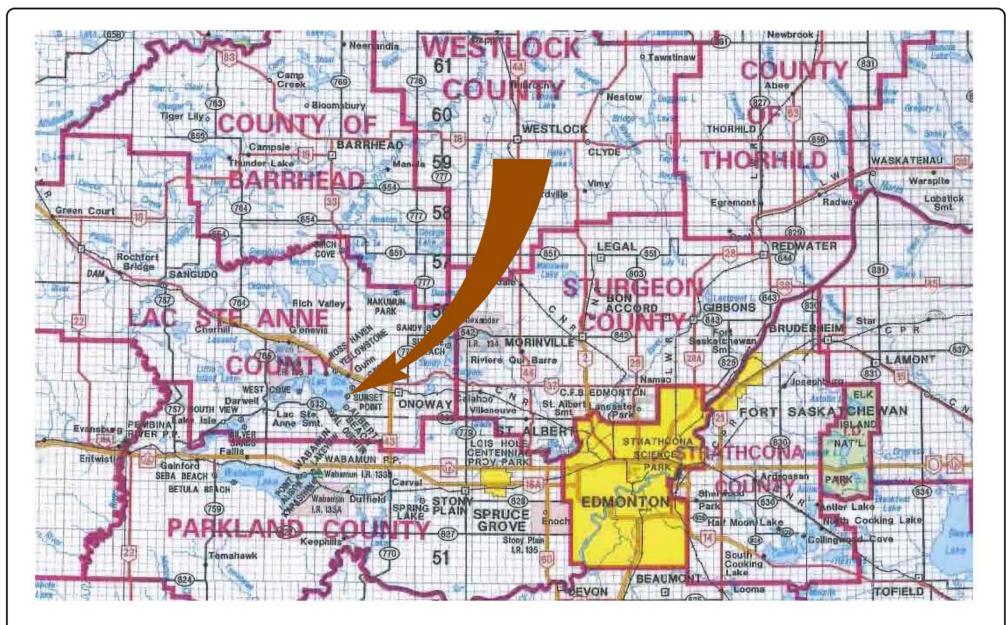


FIGURE 1 - LOCATION PLAN
Summer Village of Sunset Point





# 2 FACTORS INFLUENCING DEVELOPMENT

# 2.1 Planning Documents

#### 2.1.1 Municipal Government Act

The Municipal Government Act provides the legislative basis for the preparation of the MDP. This MDP has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 632 of the Municipal Government Act. The Act requires that all Alberta municipalities with a population of 3,500 or greater establish a MDP and enables municipalities with a lesser population to adopt an MPD.

#### 2.1.2 Provincial Land Use Policies

Pursuant to Section 622 of the Municipal Government Act, the Province of Alberta developed the Land Use Policies to help harmonize provincial and municipal policy initiatives at the local land use planning level. This municipal development plan has been prepared in the spirit and intent of the Provincial Land Use Policies.

#### 2.1.3 Land Use Bylaw

Land uses within the municipality are regulated under the provisions of the Summer Village of Sunset Point Land Use Bylaw No. 203 as amended. Any future changes to this document should be consistent with this Municipal Development Plan.

#### 2.2 Existing Features

#### 2.2.1 Resource Extraction

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).

#### 2.2.2 Existing Land Use

The majority of development within the summer village is single detached residential lots. There are currently no commercial uses, nor does the current land use bylaw provide for such uses. An institutional use (Alberta Beach Pentecostal Camp Society) is located in the north central area of the summer village.

#### 2.2.3 Adjacent Land Use

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 unserviced lots) is along the north boundary. The adjacent land within Alberta Beach is residential.

#### 2.2.4 Natural Features

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.

#### 2.2.5 Access

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.

#### 3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In May 2006 a notice was mailed to all municipal rate payers with their tax notices. This notice informed rate payers that a municipal development plan was being prepared for the summer village and that a public meeting was to be held on June 17th to obtain input from the owners/residents regarding the future development of their community.

This was a combined meeting with residents/owners of both the Summer Village of Sunset Point and the Summer Village of Val Quentin to give both an opportunity to share their concerns and ideas in relation to the present and future development of their summer villages. Forty-three property owners participated, of which eighteen represented the Summer Village of Sunset Point. Following a brief presentation, the participants formed groups and considered supplied questions. These questions provided an impetus for discussion but were not meant to limit content. All comments from this meeting were recorded, consolidated and summarized.

Information received at this public meeting was reviewed, considered and incorporated into the development of policies and direction established in this Municipal Development Plan.

A summary of the public meeting comments is provided in Appendix A.

In March 2007 a second public meeting was held to present the completed draft municipal development plan to the public. Notice of this meeting was mailed to all Summer Village rate payers and copies of the draft municipal development plan were available for public review at the Alberta Beach library and were posted on an identified website.

This second meeting was attended by approximately twenty-six people and commenced with a review of the draft plan, followed by a question and answer session. Feedback received at this meeting was considered in revisions to the plan.

#### 4 GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

#### 4.1 Residential

The current employment and residential boom in the Capital Region of Alberta is putting demands on communities such as the Summer Village of Sunset Point. This demand goes beyond the traditional weekend or resort use of the summer village; more people are making the municipality their permanent residence and commuting to employment areas or retiring to live at their lake property.

Currently there are approximately 20 ha of undeveloped land within the boundary of the summer village. Any further growth beyond these lands would have to follow an annexation.

In an attempt to preserve land for urban development, Figure 2 Land Use Concept identifies an area of future planning interest on the County lands bordering the summer village. The land uses identified within this area represent the future development pattern acceptable to the summer village should the land be annexed by Sunset Point or developed by another municipality.

# **Objectives**

- To provide guidance for the future development of undeveloped areas within the municipality.
- To provide for growth through the efficient development or redevelopment of underutilized residential lots within the municipality.
- To establish a land use plan for potential urban expansion.

- 4.1.1 The policy of this municipal development plan will be applied to all land within the summer village. For those lands identified by this plan but not currently within the municipality, Sunset Point will endeavour to apply these policies in response to development referrals from adjacent municipalities.
- 4.1.2 Prior to the development of a new or expansion of an existing residential area, an area structure plan must be approved by Council. This area structure plan must address land use, reserve dedications, projected residential density, access, sanitary servicing, potable water supply, storm water management, and any other matter considered necessary by Council.

- 4.1.3 When considering proposals for subdivision and development, it shall be the policy of the municipality to consider:
  - i. The provisions of this municipal development plan;
  - ii. The future land uses identified within this municipal development plan;
  - iii. Future expansion and/or upgrading of existing roadways;
  - iv. Any development standards, area structure plans, intermunicipal development plans, and any other statutory or non-statutory planning documents that have been adopted by the Summer Village; and
  - v. Comments and requirements received from provincial departments and adjacent municipalities.
- 4.1.4 Residential Infill and Redevelopment within Developed Residential Areas:
  - Residential infill on vacant parcels or redevelopment of under-utilized parcels is encouraged in order to maximize the use of existing roads, utilities, and parks.
  - ii. Low-density residential development (i.e. single detached dwelling units) will be encouraged in infill areas.
  - iii. Residential infill should offer an acceptable transition to existing residential development by introducing a building form that respects the height, massing, and architectural character of the surrounding residential community.
  - iv. The municipality shall require assurance from the developer that the capacity of existing utility systems, street systems and community facilities are not exceeded by the demands of infill development. Any required off-site upgrades will be at the expense of the developer.
- 4.1.5 New residential lots will be required to have a minimum width of no less than 18m (60feet).
- 4.1.6 The summer village may in its discretion consider an amendment to the land use bylaw to provide for the introduction of small scale medium density residential developments (ie row housing, fourplex, small apartment) provided:
  - i. They are built to maintain the resort character of the municipality.
  - ii. They are connected to municipal sanitary services.
  - iii. Adequate off-street parking is provided on site.
  - iv. Emergency services (fire protection in particular) can be provided to the proposed building form.

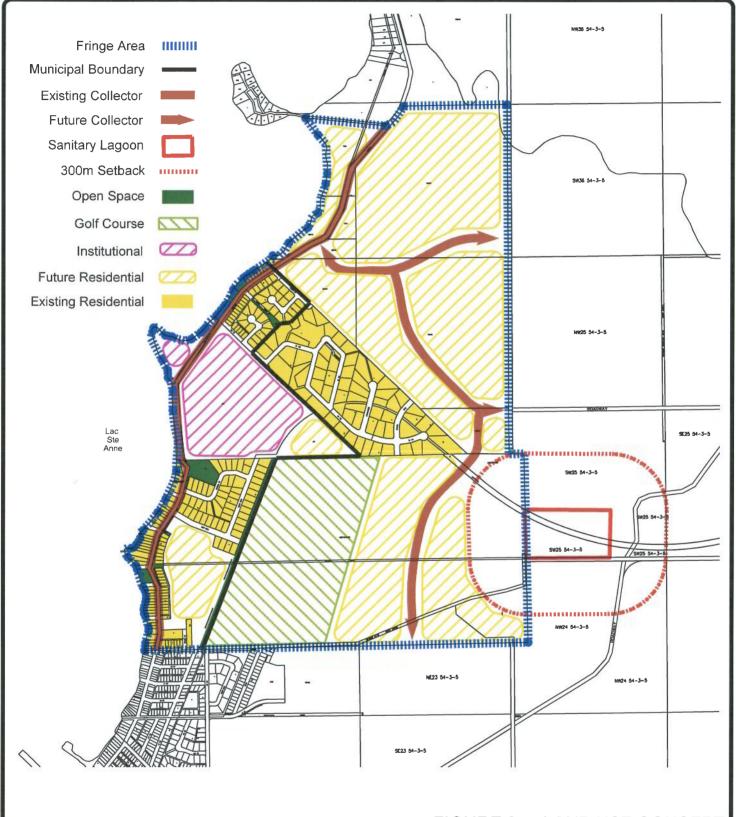


FIGURE 2 - LAND USE CONCEPT

Summer Village of Sunset Point





Scale 1:20000 April 5, 2007 64501 MDP Fig 2-0.dgn

4.1.7 Where new residential neighbourhoods are developed in proximity to existing neighbourhoods, new residential design should provide an acceptable transition to the existing neighbourhood by creating a building form that is similar in height, massing and architectural character.

# 4.2 Institutional Development

There is currently one institutional development (Alberta Beach Pentecostal Camp Society) within the boundaries of the summer village. Located in the north central area of the summer village, the facility provides lodging, meeting buildings, recreational activities and beach access for organized groups.

#### **Objectives**

- To provide opportunity for the redevelopment or expansion of the existing facility or the establishment of new institutional uses.
- Identify development criteria for potential future institutional sites.

- 4.2.1 The summer village would consider the introduction or redevelopment of institutional areas provided:
  - i. They are built to reflect the lake resort and recreational character of the municipality.
  - ii. They are connected to and utilize municipal sanitary services.
  - iii. Adequate off-street parking and internal circulation is provided.
  - iv. Proposed uses are compatible with existing or planned adjacent uses.
- 4.2.2 Institutional developments shall be accessed by a collector road.
- 4.2.3 Institutional developments should occur on the periphery of residential areas.
- 4.2.4 The summer village will require an area structure plan or detailed outline plan for new institutional uses, or redevelopment / expansion of existing institutional uses to provide information regarding projected uses and density, access and parking, sanitary servicing, potable water supply, storm water management, and any other matter considered necessary by Council. Engineering reports will be required in support of the information provided in the area structure or outline plan.

#### 4.3 Commercial Development

With the exception of existing home businesses, there is currently no commercial development within the summer village.

Commercial opportunities may exist for recreational businesses, storage, or other service uses and will likely become more viable as the municipality and its population expand. These and other commercial uses may be accommodated for in future developments.

# **Objectives**

- To provide opportunity for small commercial development, yet maintain the residential feel of the summer village.
- Identify locations and development criteria for potential future commercial sites.

# Policy

- 4.3.1 The summer village may consider an amendment to the land use bylaw to provide for the introduction of small scale commercial developments provided:
  - i. They are built to maintain the resort character of the municipality.
  - ii. They are connected to municipal sanitary services.
  - iii. Adequate off-street parking is provided on site.
  - iv. Proposed uses are compatible with existing or planned adjacent uses.
- 4.3.2 Commercial developments shall be accessed by a collector road.
- 4.3.3 Commercial developments should occur on the periphery of residential areas.
- 4.3.4 Areas potentially suitable for commercial development include land at the intersection of future collector and/or arterial roadways.

#### 4.4 Agriculture

There currently is no agricultural land within the Summer Village. As an urban municipality, the Summer Village acknowledges that agricultural activities may take place within the adjacent rural municipality and encourages the preservation of these lands for agricultural production.

Premature subdivision and non agricultural developments within the identified Planning Fringe Area (as identified in Figure 2) will hinder the efficient, orderly, expansion of the urban environment and municipal services. Development of these lands in an urban compatible format (and density) will minimise the loss of agricultural land and create a cohesive urban environment.

#### **Objectives**

- Encourage the preservation of adjacent agricultural lands until such time as they are required for urban expansion.
- Discourage agricultural uses that would have a continued negative impact on the Summer Village.

# **Policy**

- 4.4.1 The Summer Village will work with neighbouring municipalities to protect agricultural lands until they are required for and can be developed as contiguous urban development.
- 4.4.2 The Summer Village will support agricultural development proposals within the Planning Fringe Area that will not have a detrimental impact on the existing urban environment or Planning Fringe Area.

#### 4.5 Environmental

The Summer Village of Sunset Point was established to provide landowners and visitors the opportunity to enjoy Lac Ste. Anne. The continued long term health of the lake is very important to the summer village. The lakeshore environment is often the most biologically productive area of the lake, providing spawning grounds for fish and nesting/feeding habitat for birds. Unfortunately this environment is often the most impacted by development.

Development in the summer village has the potential to negatively impact the health of the lake. One of the potential sources of contamination that the summer village can control and potentially eliminate is the discharge of waste water from lots within the summer village. The Tri-Village Regional Sewer Service Commission provides a piped sewage collection system from lots within the summer village. The requirement for all lots to connect to the municipal sanitary system would ensure that this potential source of contamination does not enter the lake environment.

#### **Objectives**

- The Summer Village will take an active role in the protection of the lake and water quality.
- To protect the lake and lakeshore habitats.

- 4.5.1 The summer village will support lake stewardship initiatives / practices within the municipal boundary.
- 4.5.2 All developed lots will be required to connect to the Tri-Village Regional Sewer

Service.

- 4.5.3 Development that is likely to have a direct detrimental impact on the health of the lake will not be approved.
- 4.5.4 Any future lakefront subdivisions will be required to provide a minimum 6.0 metre environmental reserve strip along the lakeshore from the high water level to the development area.

# 4.6 Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Community Services

The summer village presently has three lakefront parcels of municipal reserve for the public, particularly those residents who do not have lake fronting lots, to enjoy. In addition, the Summer Village acquired the former rail right-of-way for use as a walking trail.

# **Objectives**

- Retain and maintain lakefront parks for the enjoyment of all residents and visitors to the summer village.
- To build a walkable community.
- Establish a recycling program in the summer village.

- 4.6.1 The Summer Village will not dispose of any existing lakefront reserve.
- 4.6.2 The Summer Village will require the maximum municipal reserves, provided for under MGA, for all subdivisions. These reserves may be in the form of land or cash-in-lieu or combination thereof.
- 4.6.3 When considering the provision of land or money in place of municipal reserve, the summer village will consider the following:
  - i. To provide additional public access points to the lake, the summer village will act on any opportunity to obtain/acquire lakefront land through the dedication of municipal or environmental reserves.
  - ii. Non lakefront municipal reserve dedications should be reviewed in consideration of the proximity of existing reserve lands and the needs of the proposed and future developments.
  - iii. The summer village will consider the dedication of municipal reserve to provide linear connections to other amenity areas within the municipality.
  - iv. Requests made by and agreements with the local school authority.
- 4.6.4 Undevelopable land (a swamp, natural drainage course or water body, land

- subject to flooding) will be acquired as environmental reserve, not as part of the required municipal reserve.
- 4.6.5 The Summer Village will take steps towards the establishment of a recycling program that may include the provision of a depot location within the summer village.
- 4.6.6 The Summer Village acknowledges the need for a sports / recreational amenity in the Tri-Village area and will work with adjacent municipalities to determine an appropriate location. Suitable cost-sharing mechanisms for construction and maintenance must be established with the participating municipalities.

# 4.7 Transportation

Ste. Anne Trail (Sunset Drive) was originally developed as a rural cross-section road without sidewalks. It serves as a through road linking the summer villages and rural area, introducing higher volumes of traffic than would normally be expected given the size of the municipality and its function as a small resort community.

The creation of an alternative bypass route around the municipality would remove some of the through traffic on Sunset Drive and would enable the Summer Village to realign and/or alter segments of Sunset Drive to make the road more pedestrian friendly. This traffic reduction and creation of a pedestrian friendly road will provide a safer environment for area residents and visitors to enjoy the existing lakefront municipal reserve parcels adjacent Sunset Drive.

#### **Objectives**

- Reduce traffic on Sunset Drive (Lac Ste. Anne Trail).
- Establish a future bypass route to divert through traffic off Sunset Drive (Lac Ste. Anne Trail).
- Identify potential road connection points for future urban development.
- Make the summer village pedestrian friendly.

- 4.7.1 The Summer Village will evaluate methods to better control traffic and enforce speed limits on Sunset Drive.
- 4.7.2 The Summer Village will work with the neighbouring municipalities and Alberta Infrastructure & Transportation in establishing a future bypass route to decrease traffic on Sunset Drive.
- 4.7.3 The Summer Village shall undertake a feasibility study for the redevelopment of Sunset Drive to a standard that includes a sidewalk on one side and sufficient carriageway width to allow parking on one side.

- 4.7.4 As sections of Sunset Drive are required to be upgraded or reconstructed, the Summer Village will require the inclusion of a sidewalk on one side of the roadway.
- 4.7.5 New single family residential lots shall not have direct access from a collector status roadway.
- 4.7.6 Residential lots shall be developed such that access is available from rear lanes.
- 4.7.7 The Summer Village will establish standards for local and collector roads.

#### 5 MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The provision and maintenance of infrastructure in the Summer Village are key issues for residents. The Summer Village encourages and will facilitate the development and maintenance of an efficient infrastructure system that will support planned growth.

When considering subdivision and development proposals, the Summer Village may require an assessment of the infrastructure necessary to access and service the proposed subdivision or development and may require the upgrading of, or a contribution towards future upgrading of required infrastructure.

#### 5.1 Water Supply

At present there is not a municipal water system in the summer village. Residences depend on well or trucked in water supplies. As the population and use of the summer village increase, the ground water supply will be under increased pressure and will have a greater risk of contamination.

#### Objective

• To secure a reliable potable water supply for the summer village.

#### Policy

5.1.1 The Summer Village will work with local municipalities and support initiatives to bring municipal water services into the Tri-village area.

#### 5.2 Sanitary Sewer

The summer village is currently a partner in the Tri-Village Regional Sewer Service Commission.

#### **Objectives**

 To have all development within the summer village connected to the municipal sanitary system.

#### **Policy**

- 5.2.1 The Summer Village will remain a member of the Tri-Village Regional Sewer Services Commission.
- 5.2.2 On-site discharge of sanitary waste, including grey water, will be prohibited.
- 5.2.3 All developed lots will be required to connect to the Tri-Village Sewer Service.

#### **5.3 Storm Water Management**

Storm water runoff from the summer village flows through a system of ditches on both sides of the roads (with culverts as required for approaches and road crossings) and is eventually discharged into Lac Ste. Anne.

# **Objectives**

• To ensure that future development does not create drainage problems and adheres to provincial standards regarding storm water management.

#### **Policy**

- 5.3.1 All proposals for redistricting and/or subdivision approval within the Plan Area shall be supported by a storm water management plan prepared by a qualified professional to the satisfaction of the municipality.
- 5.3.2 All storm water management plans shall utilize methods that seek to retain as much of the natural runoff characteristics of the storm water system as possible. These methods can include, but are not limited to, such practices as grassed swales, wet ponds, dry ponds or engineered wetlands.
- 5.3.3 Storm water management plans shall address and resolve on-site and off-site storm water management issues.

#### 5.4 Shallow Utilities

The provision of power, gas, cable, and phone services are all available within the Summer Village.

5.4.1 New developments shall be required to provide underground power, cable, and phone servicing.

#### 6 APPENDIX - RECORD OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

As part of the process to development Municipal Development Plans for the Summer Village of Val Quentin and the Summer Village of Sunset Point, a public consultation meeting was held on Saturday June 17, 2006 at the Seniors Centre in Alberta Beach from 10:00am-12:00pm.

The purpose of this meeting was to provide property owners of the Summer Village of Val Quentin and the Summer Village of Sunset Point an opportunity to share their concerns and ideas in relation to the present and future development of their summer villages. This information will be utilized in the development of policies and direction established in the Municipal Development Plan which will reflect and strive to address the concerns of the property owners.

Forty-three property owners participated. Following a brief presentation, the participants formed groups and considered the questions supplied by Scheffer Andrew Ltd. These questions provided an impetus for discussion but were not meant to limit content. All comments from this meeting have been recorded, consolidated and summarized. This summary presents general trends identified in the areas of Utilities and Transportation, Economic Development and Growth, and Environmental Protection and Recreation. In specific instances action steps are identified as possible solutions to issues.

The following is a summary of the questions asked and the responses received:

#### **Utilities and Transportation:**

- 1. The Summer Village is currently serviced with a municipal sanitary system. Should the municipality establish a policy requiring all dwellings to connect to this system? General consensus was that all property owners should be hooked to the municipal sanitary system. Concerns were voiced over costs. Exploration of alternative funding and municipal co-operation were suggested. Future development should be required to hook up and developers bear the costs as system upgrades are required.
- 2. The Summer Village is investigating the possibility of a regional water supply in the municipality.

While many property owners felt this was a good idea, there were many questions raised concerning costs and tax implications. Opinions voiced suggested that government should be lobbied for funding the development of a regional system.

3. Traffic volumes and speeding on Ste. Anne Trail / Sunset Drive have been identified as problems in both Summer Villages. The development of a faster alternative route, perhaps Rail Grade Road, and/or the use of speed bumps have been identified as

possible solutions. What are your thoughts on these methods and do you have any alternative suggestions?

Speeding was identified as a major concern. Many possible solutions were presented including speed bumps/traffic calming measures, increased policing, traffic re-routing and development of alternate access points to the Summer Villages. Solutions to overall traffic flow and operation seem to require further consideration. Parking was another issue that was identified as a concern.

4. Are you concerned about the walkability of the Summer Village and what could be done to improve the situation?

General consensus that walkability and connectivity should be a goal of the area in general. It was suggested that a walking trail/bike system be developed that connects communities.

5. The Councils of the Summer Villages have identified storm water drainage concerns. Should the municipalities consider developing a storm water management plan for the area?

Storm water drainage is a concern in some specific areas. Incorporating storm water management plans for new development was suggested to reduce potential for drainage issues in future development.

#### Other Comments

• The use of all terrain vehicles in the Summer Villages was raised as an issue.

#### **Economic Development and Growth:**

1. Should the Summer Village consider/support the establishment of commercial land uses within the municipal boundary or on adjacent County land?

There were varied opinions concerning development of commercial land uses. Most property owners seemed in favour if these uses were limited and restricted to particular areas (i.e. rail grade road).

2. Do you view the Tri-Village area as a tourist destination?

This was another area of diverse opinion. Some property owners felt that the area already is a tourist destination, while others didn't. Tourism development was not identified as a priority.

- 3. Are policies needed to deal with home business operations within the municipality? Property owners supported allowing home business but want policy in place to ensure limited impact on neighbours (i.e. control noisy trucks and parking).
- 4. Would you support the expansion of the municipality to incorporate County land into the Summer Village for future growth and development?

Questions were raised about the implications of annexation/amalgamation, specifically concerning the loss of community identity through amalgamation, while others saw annexation as a means of controlling future growth and development. If annexation is considered, a public consultation process should be an integral component of the process.

# Other Comments

- Questions were raised about why the MDP is being updated, what the process is, and what associated costs would be.
- Adequate policing and fire protection were identified as concerns.
- Fostering increased cooperation and information exchange between the Tri-Villages seen as a priority.

#### **Environment/Recreation:**

- 1. Are you concerned about the health and quality of Lac Ste. Anne?
- 2. Are the municipalities in the area doing enough to protect the quality of Lac Ste. Anne? Suggestions?

Lake Ste. Anne water quality was cited as a concern by all present. Issues identified included contamination by spring runoff, increased incidence of algae bloom, and implications of future development in the region. It was stated that more education is required concerning actions property owners can take to maintain lake water quality.

3. Should the Summer Village develop and maintain their own recreational facilities (sports fields, outdoor hockey rink, etc.) for residents or should the Tri-Village municipalities work together in developing a regional recreation facility in the area?

Development of recreation facilities is currently not a priority. As communities grow this should be regarded as a regional Tri-Village initiative. Some passive recreation ideas were mentioned including addition of children's playground or recreational ice rink. It was suggested that these recreational uses be located on Municipal Reserve lands currently existing in the community.

4. Would you support local recycling initiatives?

All in attendance were supportive of a recycling program. Associated cost cited as potential impediment.

- 5. Are there initiatives that could help foster community spirit? Ideas for events were suggested including beach clean up and BBQ, yearly appliance round up, community flower garden, garden contest, and community decoration (i.e. main street) for holidays.
- 6. How could the Summer Village enhance their existing municipal reserve lands to better serve the community?

Utilize municipal reserve to protect natural green areas throughout the municipality. Maintain municipal reserve as passive recreation and park areas. One resident suggested use for all terrain vehicles.