

December 22, 2016 - Christmas Display Contest

Residential—\$100 First Place, \$75 Second Place, \$50 Third Place and \$25 Fourth Place,
Commercial—\$100 First Place and \$50 Second Place

and the winners are

Residential – 1st Place – 5105 – 54 Ave., 2nd Place – 5517 – 50A St., 3rd Place – 5121 – 51st St., 4th Place – 5636 – 52nd St.

Commercial – 1st Place – 5123 – 52nd St., 2nd Place – 5107 – 52nd Ave.

December 7, 2016 - Light up your Life Campaign Kick Off

The Light Up Your Life Society is a charitable society established in 1992 in Stony Plain, Alberta. Their dedicated and compassionate volunteers work tirelessly to support palliative, hospice and continuing care in the Tri-Community area of Alberta (Stony Plain, Spruce Grove, Parkland County). This is what they do: promote awareness of palliative/hospice and continuing care; raise funds; purchase enhanced equipment and special services; assist those in need; help families and caregivers of terminally ill patients. Donations can be made online or at the village

office. <http://www.lightupyourlifesociety.org/> <http://www.lightupyourlifesociety.org/>

December 6, 2016 - Regional Economic Development

At their regular meeting of council on Dec. 6, 2016 Village council approved joining the GROWTH REDA. GROWTH Alberta is a Regional Economic Development Alliance serving a region of more than 46,000 people in North Central Alberta. The Alliance was established by the Grizzly Regional Economic Alliance Society so that Municipalities, School Divisions and Support Agencies could work collectively to address regional issues. Through projects like our annual Business Awards and School Expo, GROWTH Alberta is continually striving to support sustainable regional growth. The Grizzly Regional Economic Alliance Society (GROWTH Alberta) is an alliance of eleven communities (twelve with Wabamun), two school boards, and four supporting agencies in North Central Alberta. GROWTH Alberta was established in 2001 and incorporated as a not for profit society in September of 2002 to provide economic development support and promotion for its member communities. The members of GROWTH Alberta will work collectively, as a region, to achieve economic, social, and political environments in which sustainable, diversified, and regional growth is realized. With this mission statement as a guide, GROWTH Alberta undertakes various projects - in partnership with a variety of stakeholders - to support the prosperity of the GROWTH Alberta region. They are currently focused on Regional Cooperation and Sustainability Major projects for 2015-2016 include Business Awards and Youth Retention along with Business Retention and Economic Diversification with major projects for 2015-2016 including Business Awards, WILD Alberta Tourism Development and the promotion of a rural broadband strategy. Other members include County of Barrhead, Lac Ste.

Anne County, Barrhead, Legal, Mayerthorpe, Onoway, Swan Hills, Westlock, Clyde, Westlock County, Woodlands County and now Wabamun.

For more information on GROWTH click on this link <http://www.growthalberta.com/>

December 6, 2016 - Public Art Policy

At their regular meeting of council on Dec. 6, 2016 Village council approved a public arts policy for the community. The purpose of the Public Art Policy is to provide a framework for the Village of Wabamun to provide for creative, interesting, and compelling public spaces by encouraging, funding, selecting and displaying Public Art inside and outside of our public buildings, in parks, public spaces, gateways and along our trails and waterfront to enhance opportunities to showcase local artists and arts and culture organizations. The council believes that Public Art enriches the daily life of residents and visitors while complementing the natural assets of the community. Public Art celebrates our culture, heritage, people, events and environment while enhancing our economic vibrancy. It promotes creativity and creates a more interesting, visually-rich community. It cultivates pride, increases tourism and economic development by attracting visitors and potential investors, creating partnerships and employment opportunities, and increasing land values.

December 2, 2016 - Wabamun Christmas Display Judging

will take place between 6pm and 8pm on Monday, Dec. 19, 2016

CATEGORIES ARE:

Residential—\$100 First Place, \$75 Second Place, \$50 Third Place and \$25 Fourth Place

Commercial—\$100 First Place and \$50 Second Place

December 2, 2016 - Christmas in the Village

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 From 5 pm — 9 pm at Jubilee Hall. Concession, vendor tables, visit from Santa Claus, children's activities sponsored by the Wabamun and District Chamber of Commerce. Horse Drawn Hay Ride - Wednesday, December 7, 2016 From 6:30 pm — 8:30 pm with pick up at Jubilee Hall sponsored by the Village of Wabamun. Light up your Life – the annual Christmas tree light up Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at 7pm in front of the village office in support of the Light up your life campaign sponsored by the Village of Wabamun.

November 15, 2016 - Policy Approvals

At their regular meeting of Council on November 15, 2016 council approved an amended remuneration policy for council per diems and expenses that will be effective January 1, 2017 along with a new policy for staff expense reimbursement.

November 15, 2016 - Waterfront Development

At their regular meeting of Council on November 15, 2016 council approved in principle, subject to public and stakeholder consultation, the draft master development plan for the village owned waterfront lands south of 51st Ave., known as Discovery Wharf. The approval in principle allows the village to move forward with consultations prior to final approval of the draft or amended draft plan based on the results of those consultations.

November 15, 2016 - MLA presentation

At their regular meeting of Council on November 15, 2016 council heard a presentation from M.L.A. Erin Babcock. She provided an update to Council on job creation, infrastructure investment, job training and educational opportunities and changes to provincial borrowing laws. She also provided information on domestic violence legislation, school curriculum reviews, climate leadership plans, coal plant phase outs and small business assistance programs. Erin has been a strong supporter of the village and a regular visitor and participant in local events.

November 14, 2016 - Christmas Social

Saturday, December 3, 2016. Cocktails at 5:30 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm. Dance to follow. Tickets are \$30.00 each and are available at Servus Credit Union and the Village of Wabamun office. This event is sponsored by the Wabamun and District Chamber of Commerce and the Village of Wabamun. Special thanks to Servus Credit Union for organizing this years event.

October 24, 2016 - Playgrounds and Parks

Play sets have been removed from Horseshoe Park on 55th Ave. off of 50th St. and from Lion's Park on the corner of 51st St. and 52nd Ave.. These play sets were found to not meet standards as far back as 2007 so they were removed as of October 13, 2016 and have been replaced by new play sets that meet equipment and set back standards. Work is currently underway to complete the new borders and provide new sand in these playgrounds. In spring of 2017 the wooden benches and picnic tables will also be replaced in these two parks and a new gazebo will also be installed in Lion's Park.

October 18, 2016 - Street Light Conversion

Council agreed to Fortis's proposition to convert the village street lights from high pressure sodium to LED heads. This will save app. 53764 kWh/year and be considered dark sky friendly. Devon has already completed the conversion. Fortis owns the 140 street lights but offered the village the opportunity to have them converted and noted it would reduce the village's costs by \$5.71 per light annually. The new LED lights would have similar brightness to existing lights but carry no up light. It is anticipated that the conversion would be completed in 2017.

October 18, 2016 - Council Committee Appointments 2016-2017

CAPITAL REGION BOARD (CRB) - Council Member: Mayor, Alternate: Deputy Mayor
CITIZENS ON PATROL (COPS) - Council Member: Jocelyn Wiggins, Alternate: Jake Little
COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM (CIB) - Council Member: Jake Little
DISASTER SERVICES COMMITTEE - Appointment of all of Council (the CAO = DEM and ACO = DDEM)
DRAGONFLY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE - Council Member: Jake Little
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES (FCSS) - Council Member: Kristi Pasko, Alternate: Jake Little
MERIDIAN FOUNDATION - Council Member: Art Erickson, Alternate: Jocelyn Wiggins
PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT - Council Member: Jocelyn Wiggins, Alternate: Charlene Smylie
PLAYGROUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Council Member: Kristi Pasko
SUBDIVISION & DEVELOPMENT APPEAL BOARD - Council Members: Art Erickson, Kristi Pasko
WABAMUN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD - Council Member: Kristi Pasko, Alternate: Jocelyn Wiggins
WABAMUN SCHOOL COUNCIL - Council Member: Jake Little, Alternate: Kristi Pasko
WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL - Council Member: Kristi Pasko, Alternate: Art Erickson
WABAMUN YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL - Council Member: Kristi Pasko, Alternate: Jocelyn Wiggins
WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Appointment: Mayor, Appointment: CAO
WEST INTER LAKE DISTRICT REGIONAL WATER SERVICES COMMISSION (W.I.L.D) - Council Member: Art Erickson, Alternate: Charlene Smylie
YELLOWHEAD HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION - Council Member: Art Erickson, Alternate: Charlene Smylie
YELLOWHEAD REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD - Appointment: Kristi Pasko, Alternate: Jocelyn Wiggins

October 18, 2016 - Appointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

At the October 18, 2016 organizational meeting of Village Council the council voted to appoint Charlene Smylie as Mayor from the October 2016 Organizational Meeting through to the October 2017 Organizational Meeting. Deputy Mayors appointed were Jocelyn Wiggins from the October 2016 Organizational Meeting until April 18, 2017 and Art Erickson from April 19, 2017 through to the Organizational Meeting in October 2017

October 18, 2016 - Council Meeting Time Change

At the October 18, 2016 organizational meeting of Village Council the council voted to change the times for regular council meetings. Previously council meetings had been held at 1:30pm on the first Tuesday and 6:30pm on the third Tuesday. The new times will be 1:30pm for all regular council meetings to be held on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

October 4, 2016 - Regional Water

Regional water began flowing through village lines on October 4, 2016. This water is supplied by EPCOR through the WILD regional water system. The change will have a major impact on water prices and further details on costing and the water itself can be found in the "Regional water and water rates" section of our website at <http://wabamun.ca/explaining-water-rates/>. As we anticipated receiving regional water in May of 2016, rates were proposed to be adjusted at that time. As a result in the unexpected delay, the Council passed a motion on Tuesday May 17, 2016 to maintain the previous consumption rate for water, which was \$2.30/cubic meter, instead of applying the new rate effective May 1, 2016 as originally scheduled. Since regional water has been being delivered to the village since early October the increase to \$4.30/cubic meter was enacted on October 4, 2016 and effective for the upcoming billing for the month of October, 2016. This rate will only bring the water system to a break even point based on projections but council and administration will be evaluating the rates regularly as we move forward. A cubic meter of water is app. 220 imperial gallons, meaning the treated water delivered to your home will cost app. 1.95 cents per gallon plus flat rate charges to operate the system. To put this in perspective, a modern washing machine will use 14 - 27 gallons for a load of laundry, or 27 to 53 cents worth of water while a full bath, depending on tub size, which can range from 24 to 80 gallons, will cost anywhere from 47 cents to \$1.56 for water if filled to the top.