



Alberta Beach

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Alberta Beach Boat Launch:

In 1974, the Department of Alberta Energy & Natural resources and Alberta Environment partnered with Alberta Beach to construct a public boat launch within the confines of Alberta Beach, a Licence of Occupation was issued. Early on it became apparent that when the boat launch was built the planners did not take into consideration the natural water circulation of the lake and over the years we had to deal with stagnant water, debris, and rotting buildup along the shoreline. In 2007, the Lac Ste. Anne Recreational Lake Use Committee was formed, whose goal was to do a revitalization and rehabilitation project to the boat launch and park area to help alleviate these problems.

In 2012 this committee applied for and received a grant through Alberta Culture and Community Spirit for \$1.3 million to conduct major drainage and landscaping improvements to the boat launch, which has relieved many of our concerns. On July 16, 2013 Alberta Beach signed a new 25-year term DLO #740690, which states the Village is solely responsible for all maintenance and operation costs, (of this provincially owned asset) with no revenue generating opportunities. In order to complete this project Alberta Beach had no choice but to sign this new DLO.

Starting in 2017 Lac Ste. Anne has seen unusually high-water levels, and on January 1, 2018 we also experienced an ice quake. The boat launch received damage and erosion from both events. Estimates to repair the damage to the launch is \$130,000, with ongoing annual maintenance costs of around \$60,000. Owing to the high-water table and the ice quake there has also been extensive damage to our roads, drainage system and parking facilities. Although it has been a challenge, the village has been working diligently to repair the damages using MSI funding and reserves.

The boat launch is an economic driver and recreational asset not only for our Village but the whole Lac Ste. Anne area, receiving visitors from neighbouring communities and all across Alberta. It is imperative we work together to find a way to keep it open and operational.

We would like to say a big Thank You to Reeve Blakeman and the Lac Ste. Anne County Council for acknowledging the importance of this regional amenity by providing a contribution of \$10 000 for the maintenance/enhancement of the boat launch. LSAC Council has also been actively helping us lobby our neighbouring communities and the provincial government for assistance, unfortunately without much success. There is a commitment needed from all stakeholders in the region to support and keep operational the most used recreational boat launch on Lac Ste. Anne. We have also applied to Minister of Alberta Environment & Parks, Jason Nixon to amend to DLO to allow for the collection of user fees. Again, a huge Thank You to Lac Ste. County.

Sincerely:

Jim Benedict, Mayor

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