



Alberta Beach

Box 278 • Alberta Beach • Alberta • TOE OAO
Telephone: 780-924-3181 • Fax: 780-924-3313

June 8, 2020

To: All Residents and Property Owners of Alberta Beach

Re: High Lake Levels

We understand that people are frustrated about the lake levels and want something done about it. The lake is the highest it has been since 1974. This, paired with extreme winds, has caused damage to houses, cabins, yards, public lands, and threatened our sewer system. However, as only one of many communities around Lac Ste. Anne, and considering that water levels are high all throughout the watershed, Alberta Beach has no control over the level of the lake. On May 27th at 2:09 p.m. we declared a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) owing to the damage to property and the potential for a sewage back up. Within an hour Municipal Affairs had two field officers from Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) in our office; by 4p.m. we had a team of volunteers, public works employees and local firefighter's bagging sand; within the first two days we supplied 4,500 sandbags to our lakefront properties and we had another 4,000 available for residents. AEMA informed us that, for now, there was nothing more that could be done, and like other floods in the province, we would have to wait until the water levels went down naturally.

Because of the SOLE and the corresponding media attention, on May 28 and 29 I had meetings with our MLA, Shane Getson, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Kaycee Madu, and various representative of both Municipal Affairs and Environment and Parks. The provincial government has offered us their full-support in fast tracking environmental approvals for shoreline restoration, protection, weed and debris removal, and infrastructure repairs and improvements for both the village and our residents.

MLA Getson is also working with us to find a solution for the weir at the outflow of Lac Ste. Anne. However, for Alberta Beach to pass through two other municipalities and then undertake infrastructure work in a provincial waterbody is both wrong and unheard of. We have been and will continue to work with other communities around the lake, including Lac Ste. Anne County, and the Provincial Government to find a solution, while being mindful of environmental and longterm, consequences.

In July, 2019 MLA Getson held a town hall in Alberta Beach. There have been quite a few comments on social media that promises were made at that town hall meeting but not kept. Having attended that meeting, I saw many hands go up when MLA Getson asked for volunteers for a special committee that he was proposing. To date, there are no representatives from the Tri Village area willing to sit on his committee. So, folks, if you are not willing to stand up and help yourself and your neighbours, why should others? MLA Getson is still looking for committee members; you can contact him at lacsteanne.parkland@assembly.ab.ca or 780-967-0760. Also, to help expedite lakeshore approvals in the future, he is looking for approved shoreline protection and restoration plans that have been successful in our area. If you have any such plans, please forward them to him.

For those residents of Sunset Point and Val Quentin who have stopped me and other Alberta Beach Councillors on the street or phoned to enquire about the lake, my advice is to contact your Mayor or Councillors to see what they are doing. Alberta Beach has tried to work collaboratively with them on this issue, but they seem to prefer to work independently.

Lastly, harassment of our public officials, Councillors and their families as well as staff is completely unacceptable and must stop. We are doing everything we can to work through this issue during an already stressful time. Those of you who think driving pass my house shouting obscenities at my wife and I, or phoning and threatening me will help with lake levels, you are wrong. We want to hear from you with your concerns; we also want to hear from you with your solutions. If we are not doing something that you think we should be, let us know. But, lets be respectful about it.

Stay Safe,

Jim Benedict, Mayor
Alberta Beach