



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

RESIDENT CONTACT INFORMATION REMINDER

To ensure you receive important municipal communications, residents who have recently changed their mailing address, phone number, or email are encouraged to update their contact information with the Summer Village.

Property tax notices will be mailed in the coming weeks, so now is a good time to confirm your information is up to date. Please note that, as per the Municipal Government Act (MGA), not receiving a tax notice due to outdated or incorrect contact details does not exempt a property owner from payment deadlines or applicable penalties.

If you've recently changed your contact information, we'd appreciate you contacting the Municipal Office to keep your records current.

TAX INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN (TIPP)

TIPP simplifies your tax bill, allowing you to pay your property taxes on a monthly basis instead of one payment in June. Payments are automatically withdrawn from your account monthly. TIPP makes budgeting easier and helps you avoid the risk of penalties. There are no extra fees or interest charged. If you would like to be put on the TIPP program, please fill out the application on the [Summer Village Website](#) and return it to the office. For inquiries or assistance, please contact our office via phone or email.

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Regular Council Meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 6pm at the Village Office. Please note that the April Council meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2026.

Contact Us:

Office Hours
M-F: 9am - 4pm
#1 Hall Street

403.742.4717
info@rochonsands.net
www.rochonsands.net

DOCK INSURANCE

Dock incidents and losses are becoming more common due to severe weather, changing lake conditions, and increasing replacement costs. Residents are reminded that dock insurance coverage is not always automatic. Depending on your policy, your dock may be excluded, limited, or only covered if it is specifically listed.

In addition to physical damage, liability coverage is an important consideration, as claims can arise if someone is injured on or around your dock. Dock replacement and repair costs can be significant, and coverage varies widely between insurers. Residents are encouraged to review their policies to ensure they have appropriate protection in place.

When speaking with your insurance provider, consider asking:

- Is my dock covered under my policy?
- What coverage limits apply?
- Do I have liability coverage related to my dock?

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information about docks, mooring structures, and insurance.

BREASTIES IN THE BUFF

The Breasties in the Buff (BITB) dragon boat team is busy getting ready for a new season of paddling! Our breast cancer survivor team has been doing dryland training at Thrive 360 gym with Kayla, with sessions both in-person and online. We are also fortunate to have two BITB members who are certified yoga (Andrea) and Pilates (Sara) instructors, and we thank these ladies for adding amazing online workouts to our training. We are all looking forward to getting back on Buffalo Lake for paddling practices in June, and we are planning to attend our first dragon boat festival this summer where we will participate in our first race!

Breasties in the Buff will have a booth at the Stettler Trade Show on April 10-12, so be sure to stop by to say hi! We will be selling raffle tickets and some handcrafted items made by BITB team members. The proceeds from the raffle and crafted items will be put towards expenses to attend the Edmonton Dragon Boat Festival in August.

Breasties in the Buff would like to say thank you to everyone in the community for their continued support and encouragement.

BOAT DOCK REGISTRATION

Are you planning on putting in a personal dock or mooring structure?



GOLF CART REGISTRATION

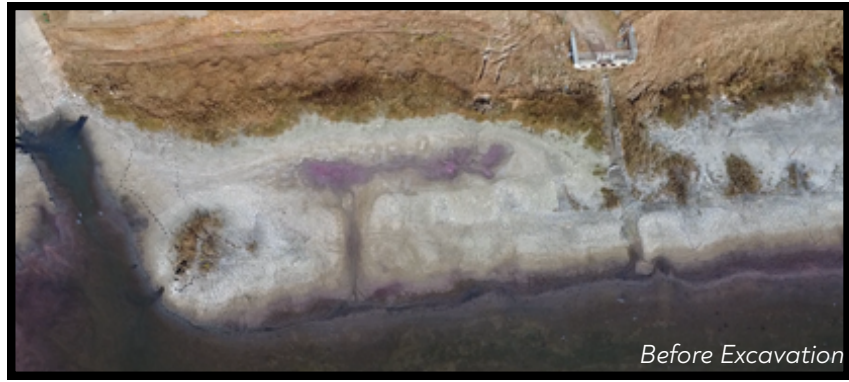
Golf cart registrations for the 2026 season are now open. All golf carts operating within the Summer Village must be registered annually, in accordance with Alberta Transportation requirements.

[CLICK HERE](#) to complete your online registration.

If you have any questions or need assistance with registration, please contact the municipal office – we're happy to help.

ROCHON SANDS BAY SEES MAJOR PROGRESS THIS WINTER

The 2026 winter construction program in Rochon Sands Bay is now complete. Work began the week of February 24 following removal of the legacy Streit/Zender rock pile by the Province. While early testing suggested excavation may not be possible this winter, a short period of sustained cold allowed significant progress to move forward.



Project Highlights

- Rock Pile – Completed
 - The rock pile was removed quickly, fulfilling a long-standing provincial mitigation commitment.
- Boat Launch – ~70% Complete
 - Excavation progressed well beyond expectations. Remaining work will be completed in a future winter season or low-water opportunity.
- Marina Basin – ~60% Complete
 - Substantial progress was achieved despite initial uncertainty. Remaining work is planned for the next winter construction window.

Note: Final usability of both the launch and marina will depend on future Buffalo Lake water levels.



Site Improvements

Excavated material has been staged on the point and will be spread and graded this spring to support expanded parking.

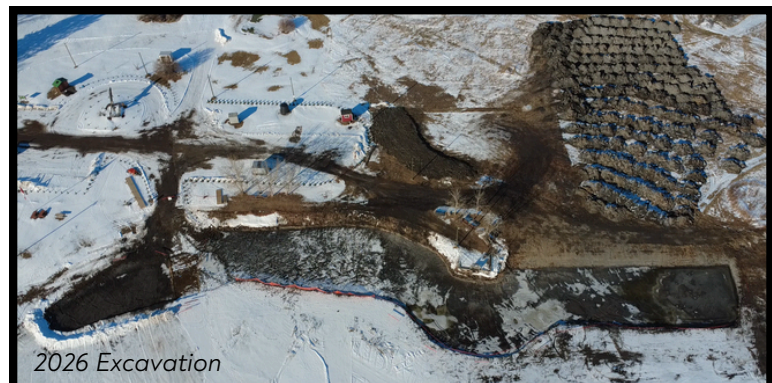
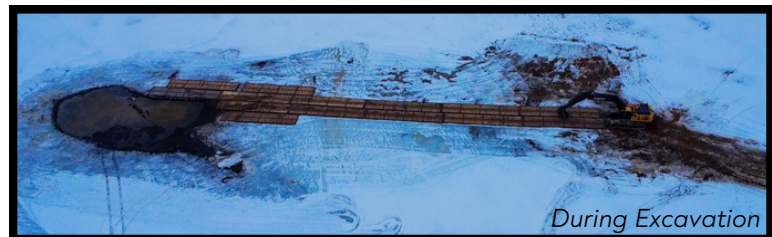
Council is also exploring grant funding to support potential upgrades to the historic pitch & putt golf course.

Funding

- Boat Launch: Canada Government Grant
- Marina: Rochon Sands Bay Marina Society
- Rock Pile: Alberta Government
- No additional costs to SVRS taxpayers.

Looking Ahead

This winter's work exceeded expectations and marks a major step toward restoring long-term functionality in Rochon Sands Bay. Remaining work is anticipated in Winter 2026/2027, conditions permitting. [CLICK HERE](#) for more details on the project.



ROCHON SANDS PROVINCIAL PARK

BOOK NOW

- Reservations for the 2026 camping season opened on January 5, 2026, using our new online reservation system, Let's Camp (a Canadian-based platform). Bookings have been going well, and the new system has been working smoothly.
- We have once again applied for the Canada Summer Jobs Grant and expect to hear the outcome in April.
- We are pleased to share that we have hired five summer students for the upcoming season. Three students will begin in May, with two additional team members joining in July. We are very excited about this year's group and are confident they will provide excellent service and support throughout the park.
- As a reminder, motorized recreational vehicles—including quads, dirt bikes, side-by-sides, golf carts, and snowmobiles—are not permitted within the Provincial Park, in accordance with Alberta Government regulations. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in helping keep the park safe and enjoyable for all visitors.
- The "Take-a-Book, Leave-a-Book" Library will once again be available at the Park Office. If you have books in good condition that you would like to donate, please feel free to drop them off once the Park Office opens in May.

We're looking forward to another great season at Rochon Sands and welcoming both returning and new visitors to the park!

THE NARROWS

- The Narrows Provincial Recreation Area Campground will open for the season on May 10, 2026
- All sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- All sites unserviced
- Non-potable water available
- Pet-friendly
- Located on the south-west shore of Buffalo Lake, ideal for fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing.
- 60 individual sites, 1 group site
- \$28/night

PARK OFFICE HOURS

May & June

Thursday: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 pm
CLOSED Sunday - Wednesday

July & August

Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Mon-Thurs: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Friday: 1:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

*Hours May Differ on Long Weekends

Outside of Park Office hours, assistance is still available. Campers may contact the Municipal Office, refer to information posted at the Park Office, or connect with the Park Host on-site. You can also reach us by email or through the after-hours contact number.

DO I NEED A PERMIT?

Questions to ask before you start your project:

- Do I need a development permit?
- Do I need a building permit?
- Do I need any other Safety Codes permits?
- Where do I apply?

Development vs. Building Permits What's the Difference?

A **Development Permit, issued by the Summer Village of Rochon Sands**, determines **what you can build and where**. It ensures your project complies with the municipality's Land Use Bylaw (LUB), including zoning, setbacks, lot coverage, building height, and permitted uses.

A Development Permit is typically required when you are making changes to the outside footprint or use of your property, such as:

- Building a new home, garage, or accessory building
- Adding onto an existing structure (addition, deck, sunroom, etc.)
- Demolishing or replacing a structure
- Installing certain accessory features (depending on size and location)

A **Building Permit, issued by IJD Inspections Ltd.**, determines how your project is built. It **ensures construction meets safety requirements** under the Safety Codes Act and the Alberta Building Code.

In many cases, you will need both permits—typically starting with a Development Permit, followed by a Building Permit—before construction can begin.

However, some projects may require a Building Permit (and/or other Safety Codes permits) without needing a Development Permit. These are generally projects that do not change the building's footprint or use, such as:

- Interior renovations (basements, kitchens, bathrooms)
- Structural changes inside the home
- Electrical, plumbing, or gas work
- Furnace or hot water tank replacements
- Installing a wood stove or fireplace

NOTE: The Safety Codes Act requires that all contractors and homeowners in Alberta obtain permits prior to starting any work on buildings covered by the current edition of the Alberta Building Code.

Required Plans Information

Depending on your project, you may be required to provide additional documentation as part of the Development Permit (SVRS) and/or Building & Safety Codes Permit (IJD Inspections Ltd.) process. Permit applications may require some or all of the following:

- Site Plan / Real Property Report
 - Showing property lines, setbacks, and the location of existing and proposed buildings, driveways, and other site features
- Foundation (Basement) Plan
 - Detailing the building footprint, foundation layout, and dimensions
- Floor Plans
 - Layout of each level, including room uses and dimensions
- Building Elevations
 - Exterior views of all sides of the building, including height and design
- Cross-Section Drawings
 - Cut-through views showing structural components, wall construction, and overall building height
- Additional Information (if applicable)
 - May include engineered drawings, grading/drainage plans, or specifications depending on the complexity of the project

Helpful Links

- [SVRS Land Use Bylaw](#)
- [SVRS Development Permit Webpage](#)
- [IJD Inspections Website](#)

Important:

No person shall commence development without first obtaining a Development Permit, unless exempt under the Land Use Bylaw. Construction must also not begin until all required Safety Codes permits have been issued.

Failure to obtain required permits may result in enforcement action, including stop work orders, fines, additional permit fees, and requirements to remove or bring the work into compliance at the owner's expense.



Cardboard Recycling Bin



Please **FLATTEN YOUR CARDBOARD BEFORE DISPOSAL**

- The Summer Village of Rochon Sands residents pay per bin pickup.
- Unflattened cardboard fills the bin faster, leading to increased costs for residents.

Be mindful - flatten your cardboard to help reduce unnecessary pickups.

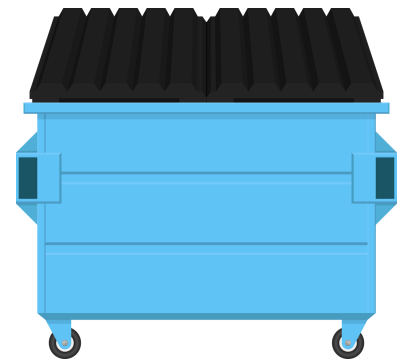
THANK YOU!

WASTE BINS

Household Trash ONLY

Do NOT dispose of:

- Bulky or oversized items
(e.g., tables, chairs, mattresses, couches)
- Appliances & electronics
- Wood, renovation, or construction materials
- Hazardous or toxic waste



These items must be taken to the Stettler Regional Landfill or the Erskine Transfer Site for proper disposal.

Erskine Waste Transfer Site Hours: (winter/summer hours may change)

- Wednesday: 1:30 pm – 6:00 pm
- Saturday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Sunday: 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Stettler Regional Landfill Hours: (winter/summer hours may change)

- Monday – Friday: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Saturday: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Toxic Recycling Collection – Available year-round at both sites.

The Summer Village of Rochon Sands residents pay a requisition to the Stettler Waste Management Authority for regular waste collection.

Please respect your community by disposing of waste properly.

THANK YOU!

ROCHON SANDS UPCOMING EVENTS

Coffee and Conversation

Every Wednesday at 9 - 11 am

Rochon Sands Hall

Building Community Together



Electronic Recycling Bin

May Long Weekend

An Electronic Recycling Bin will be available at the dumpster site over the May Long Weekend. Residents are encouraged to take this opportunity to properly dispose of unwanted electronics.

Accepted items typically include:

- TVs and monitors
- Computers and laptops
- Printers and accessories
- Keyboards, mice, and cables
- Other small electronic devices

Please help keep our community clean by using the bin responsibly and placing only accepted electronic items inside.

SPRING FLING

Rochon Sands Community Hall

May 16, 2026

Stay tuned for updates on the [Hall Website](#)

Keeping Cats Safe – and Protecting Local Wildlife

At the suggestion of a community member, we're sharing a quick note on cats and local wildlife, an important topic in lakeside communities like Rochon Sands.

Many of us enjoy seeing cats around the community, but even well-loved pets can have an impact on local wildlife, particularly birds and small mammals. At the same time, outdoor cats can face risks such as traffic, predators, and disease—something many owners consider when deciding what balance is right for their pet.

Simple approaches like keeping cats indoors, providing enrichment at home, or using supervised outdoor options such as leashes or enclosed “catios” can help protect both pets and wildlife. Small changes can go a long way in supporting a healthy environment for everyone to enjoy.

For those interested, [CLICK HERE](#) to read a recent CBC article which explores this topic in more detail.

SPRING FIRE SAFETY:

WHAT EVERY ROCHON SANDS RESIDENT SHOULD KNOW

As we move into spring, fire risk begins to increase across our region. This is a good time for residents to review both insurance coverage and steps to reduce wildfire risk around your property. For more information, please [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the Fire Response Costs & Insurance page on the Summer Village website.

Understanding Fire Response & Costs

Fire and rescue services in Rochon Sands are provided through a regional agreement with the County of Stettler No. 6, with trained crews responding to protect life and property.

When fire crews are dispatched, the Summer Village is invoiced first for the response. Under the Fire Control Bylaw, applicable costs may then be recovered from the property owner or responsible party, depending on the circumstances.

Response costs are based on the number of units and personnel required, as well as the time crews remain on scene and out of service. Even precautionary responses, accidental incidents, or false alarms can result in real costs, as crews must respond based on the information received.

Know Your Coverage Before It Matters

One of the most important steps residents can take is to confirm their insurance coverage. Many policies do not automatically include coverage for fire department response charges or wildfire-related costs, so it's important to verify what is included.

When speaking with your provider, consider asking:

- Am I covered for fire department response charges?
- What are my coverage limits and deductibles?
- Does my policy include wildfire or grassfire suppression?
- Do I have liability coverage if a fire spreads?
- Are there any exclusions (fire pits, wind conditions, guests, renters)?

Request written confirmation. Policies vary, and assumptions can be costly.

FireSmart: Small Changes Make a Big Difference

Most homes lost during wildfires are ignited by wind-blown embers rather than direct flames. This means the condition of the area immediately surrounding your home plays a critical role in whether it can withstand a fire.

Applying FireSmart principles can significantly reduce this risk. See the FireSmart Canada infographic on the next page for simple, practical steps you can take around your property. For more information, visit:

www.firesmartcanada.ca

Fire Safety Reminders

- Follow all Fire Bans and restrictions
- Use approved fire pits only
- Never leave fires unattended
- Fully extinguish fires before leaving
- Fires on municipal land (including beaches) are not permitted unless authorized

HOMEIGNITIONZONE



LEGEND

- IMMEDIATE ZONE
- INTERMEDIATE ZONE
- EXTENDED ZONE



FireSmart, Intelli-feu and other associated Marks are trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC).

THERE ARE MANY FACTORS THAT INCREASE YOUR COMMUNITY'S RISK OF WILDLAND FIRE.

Check out the [FireSmart Begins at Home Guide](#) for an in-depth look at how you can build wildland fire resiliency.

IMMEDIATE ZONE 0 – 1.5 metres

The Immediate Zone is an area that is clear of flammable materials, starting with the house and extending out to a 1.5 metre perimeter around the home and attached structures, including decks.

Reduce the chance of: wind-blown embers igniting your home by starting with these proactive steps:

- Choose non-combustible building materials when constructing or renovating your home.
- Clear vegetation and flammable materials down to mineral soil and cover with fire-resistant materials like gravel, brick, or concrete.
- Avoid planting woody shrubs or trees. If any are present, prune and maintain them regularly.

INTERMEDIATE ZONE 1.5–10metres

Elements in the Intermediate Zone are managed so they don't carry fire to your home. Here are a few actions you can take to reduce your home's vulnerability:

- Plant fire-resistant vegetation and select non-flammable landscaping materials.
- Avoid the use of woody debris, including mulch.
- Keep flammable items like firewood piles, construction materials, patio furniture, tools, and decorative pieces out of this zone.
- Move trailers, recreational vehicles, storage sheds, and other flammable structures into the Extended Zone. If that's not possible, store firewood inside your fire-proofed garage, shed, or other ember resistant structures.
- Use non-flammable ground cover, like a gravel pad, underneath and 1.5 metres around trailers, recreational vehicles, propane tanks, and sheds.

EXTENDED ZONE 10–30metres

The goal in the Extended Zone is not to eliminate fire, but to reduce its intensity. If your community extends into this zone, a few important steps you can take include:

- Selectively remove evergreen trees to create space between them (at least 3 metres of horizontal space between the single or grouped tree crowns).
- Remove all branches to a height of 2 metres from the ground.
- Regularly clean up fallen branches, dry grass, and needles to eliminate potential surface fuels.
- Continue to apply these principles if your property extends beyond 30 metres. Work with your community in overlapping zones and seek guidance from a forest professional if affected by other conditions like steep slopes.