



SUMMER VILLAGE OF SOUTH BAPTISTE

2026 Newsletter

COUNCIL

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FACEBOOK

Summer Village of South Baptiste

WEBSITE

Southbaptiste.com

2026 OPEN HOUSE & BBQ ▶ JULY 18 @ 10AM

Please join us at the Firehall in West Baptiste for the Annual information meeting. Copies of the Village financial statements and budget will be available, and members of Council and Administration will be there to answer your questions and provide updates on current projects and initiatives within the community.

Following the meeting, we invite everyone to stay and enjoy a community BBQ while visiting with neighbours and friends. We look forward to seeing you there and encourage all residents to attend and take part in the conversation about our community's future.

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL

Welcome to Summer 2026 in our beautiful Summer Village of South Baptiste. Hopefully everyone has a wonderful summer season enjoying time in nature with family friends and neighbours in our amazing community. On behalf of your Council, we wish that you all enjoy the summer season and let's all do our part to keep South Baptiste safe, clean and most of all full of lakeside FUN!

RESERVE LANDS

Summer Village reserve land is intended to remain in its natural state for the enjoyment of all residents and to help preserve the environmental beauty and ecological health of our lakeshore community. Residents are reminded not to clear, alter, store materials on, or develop reserve land without authorization, as these areas play an important role in protecting wildlife habitat, natural vegetation, drainage, and shoreline stability for future generations.

TAXES – DUE AUGUST 31, 2026

A significant portion of our taxes are due to rising requisitions outside of Council control, including fire services, policing, school taxes, waste management and emergency services. Council remains committed to responsible financial management will continuing to invest in projects that enhance our Village. We appreciate your continued support and understanding.

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT– Himalayan Balsam

Himalayan balsam is an invasive plant that spreads quickly along shorelines, ditches, and wetlands. While its pink flowers may look attractive, it can quickly take over and crowd out native plants that are important for a healthy ecosystem. Because it has shallow roots, the plant dies off each fall and leaves soil exposed, increasing the risk of shoreline erosion. Its seeds spread easily—often by water or by “popping” seed pods—allowing it to move rapidly throughout lake areas. If you see it, pull or cut the plant before it goes to seed and dispose of it properly. Link to identify is <https://abinnovatives.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/250821-FS-HimalayanBalsam-1.pdf>

FIRE AND OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES

Residents are reminded that certain emergency services, including fire response, may be billed directly to the property owner. These costs can be significant, so it is important to review your insurance coverage to ensure you are adequately protected.

Stay informed and stay safe! Residents are encouraged to sign up for alerts at AlbertaFireBans.ca. Simply select **South Baptiste** to receive notifications when fire conditions and restrictions change. It is also recommended that everyone sign up for The **Alberta Emergency Alert App**. Available on the App store for Apple and on Google Play for Android.

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

Planning to build a shed, deck, garage or a new cabin? A development permit is required to ensure your project meets the setback and other requirements outlined in the Land Use Bylaw. Please contact the Summer Village before starting your project.

NORTHERN LIGHTS LIBRARY – ALICE B DONAHUE LIBRARY

The Northern Lights Library System (NLLS) connects **47 libraries across 54 municipalities, seven First Nations, and four Métis Settlements** throughout northeastern Alberta. Headquartered in Elk Point, NLLS has been bringing communities together since 1990 by sharing resources and expanding access to books, programs, and services.

Through its partnership with TRAC (The Regional Automation Consortium), members have access to a **combined catalogue of nearly three million items**—meaning if your local library doesn't have it, chances are another one does!

The Summer Village of South Baptiste is proud to support this incredible network each year. It's a great reminder that even in a small community, you're connected to a world of knowledge. So next time you visit your library, remember—you're tapping into something pretty amazing!

Check out Athabasca library services, programs and events on the website at <https://www.athabascalibrary.ab.ca/>

BAPTISTE AND ISLAND LAKE STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY

Healthy lakes don't happen by accident. They happen through community.

Riparian areas are those natural strips of vegetation along the shoreline play a critical role in protecting lake health. They help filter runoff, prevent erosion, and create habitat for birds, fish, waterfowl, and wildlife.

If you've been looking for a place to begin you can find some excellent resources, shared by [Watersheds Canada](http://watersheds.ca), (on their website at watersheds.ca) on freshwater conservation, shoreline care, and stewardship practices that can make a real difference over time.

Take a look, see what resonates, and consider one small step you can take this season to care for the shoreline and the life it supports.

Strategic Planning for the Future of Our Community

Council is beginning work on a Strategic Plan for the Summer Village. A strategic plan helps establish a clear vision and priorities for the future of our community by identifying the goals, services, and projects that are most important to residents.

This process helps Council:

- Plan responsibly for future growth and infrastructure needs
- Set priorities for spending and services
- Identify areas of concern and opportunities for improvement
- Ensure decisions reflect the needs and values of the community

Because resident input is an important part of this process, Council will be seeking feedback later this summer through a community poll/survey. This will provide all residents with an opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas, and priorities for the future of the Village.

The goal is to ensure everyone has a voice, find common ground within the community, and help Council focus on the projects and initiatives that matter most to residents.

We encourage everyone to participate when the survey is released. Your input will help shape the future direction of the Summer Village.