

Summer Village of Burnstick Lake

Cabin Owners' Handbook

June 2018



Summer Village of Burnstick Lake Cabin Owners' Handbook.

Second Edition. April 2018.

This booklet is meant to provide a helpful overview of the services in and around the Summer Village of Burnstick Lake. The hope is that this document provides a useful orientation for new cabin owners, information to share with visitors and a handy reminder for longstanding cabin owners.

While this document has been reviewed several times by several volunteers, there are certainly some errors and gaps. In particular, you shouldn't use this handbook for a definitive description of any laws or regulations or even Village by-laws.

Please contact Council if you notice any errors, have any additional material you think should be included or have any ideas of topics that should be added. We are always looking for people to help contribute to the next version of this document, so if you've got an interest or even some photos to contribute let us know.



Hope you find this handbook useful!

Council of the Summer Village of Burnstick Lake

Brenda, Doug and Harold

Table of Contents

A Brief History of the Summer Village of Burnstick Lake 3

Area Maps 4

Emergency Services 7

 911 – Ambulance, Fire and Police 7

 STARS 8

 Sour Gas and SPOG 8

 Local Emergency Equipment 9

 Contact List 9

 Social Media 9

Drinking Water 9

Library 10

Garbage and Recycling 10

Government and By-Laws 11

Fire Safety 12

Quads and Dirt Bikes 14

The Lake 16

Boating 17

Aquatic Invasive Species 17

Fishing 18

Local Trails 18

Mountain Biking 19

Golf 21

Wildlife 21

Some Other Things To Do Around Burnstick Lake 24

Local Stores and Services 25

Information Sources and Further Reading 26

Emergency Information 27

A Brief History of the Summer Village of Burnstick Lake

Burnstick Lake is approximately 4.5km long and 1km wide and is located in the forested foothills near Caroline, Alberta. The Summer Village of Burnstick Lake is located on the northern shore of the lake.

In the late 1960s the Alberta government surveyed and put up for lease the lots in Pine and Poplar Close. The lots were awarded via a lottery. A building on the lots had to be finished on the outside within a two-year period or the lease was lost. There were specific requirements for size, placement and amenities of the structures.

In the 1970s the leases were opened up for lots on Spruce and Fir Close, Balsam Crescent and the adjoining lots on Burnstick Drive. They were 25-year leases and in order to qualify you had to be a Canadian citizen, over 18 years old and you could not occupy the building for more than 120 days a year.

In 1979 the Burnstick Lake Cottage Owners' Association (BLCOA) petitioned the government to buy the leased lots. Much to everyone's surprise they agreed. Each lot was assessed and valued according to location, size, slope and terrain.

In 1986 BLCOA was incorporated. This was greatly assisted when the BLCOA became an intervener in the hearing on the development and construction of the Caroline Sour Gas Development Project. Over a two year period the executive of BLCOA spent many hours delivering BLCOA's point of view at the resulting hearing. Our key theme was to maintain the pristine nature of the lake, the purity of the air and the tranquillity of the environment. We managed to have the initial plant site moved, get air and water monitors installed and an alarm system located in the Village in case of any fugitive emissions. They also installed our second water well on the Community Reserve in Balsam Crescent.

In 1990 TransAlta proposed bringing electricity to Burnstick Lake. They required a minimum of 21 out of the 57 lots for this to go forward. We exceeded their minimum requirement and in September 1991 we were electrified.

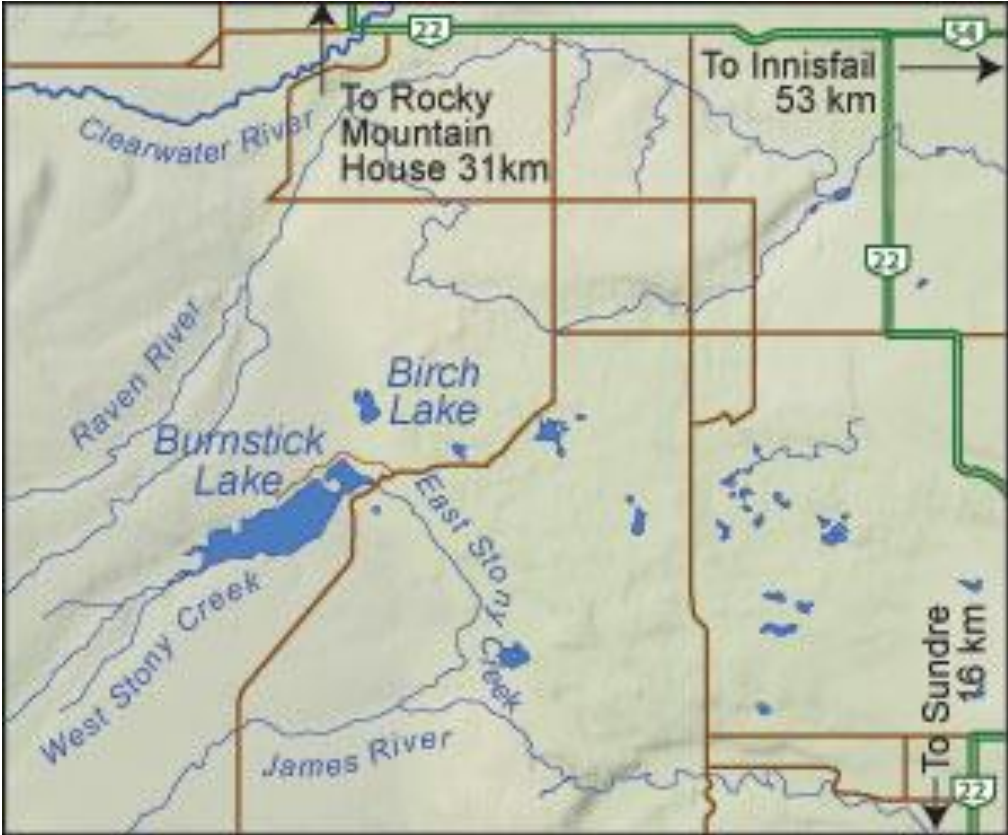
Burnstick or Burnt Stick?

On maps and on road signs in the area you will see variations on the spelling of the name of the lake. Originally the name was "Burnt Stick" but in 1950's, before there was any development on the lake, someone made a typo and wrote "Burnstick" on an official document.

The two names caused confusion and in 1988 the Burnstick Lake Cottage Owners' Association petitioned to have the name permanently changed to Burnstick. The lake is now officially "Burnstick Lake" and the Village is officially the "Summer Village of Burnstick Lake"

In 1993, on our second attempt, we managed to get agreement from the percentage of cottage owners necessary to apply for Summer Village status. As a Summer Village is defined as an incorporated municipality with jurisdiction within its defined boundaries, we were finally able to set our own taxes and be responsible for everything within the Village without having to petition the Municipal District of Clearwater. Because of our success in becoming a Summer Village we were then governed by a Mayor and two Councillors. Therefore, the BLCOA was dissolved in May 1993 and all its assets were turned over to the new Summer Village of Burnstick Lake.

Area Maps



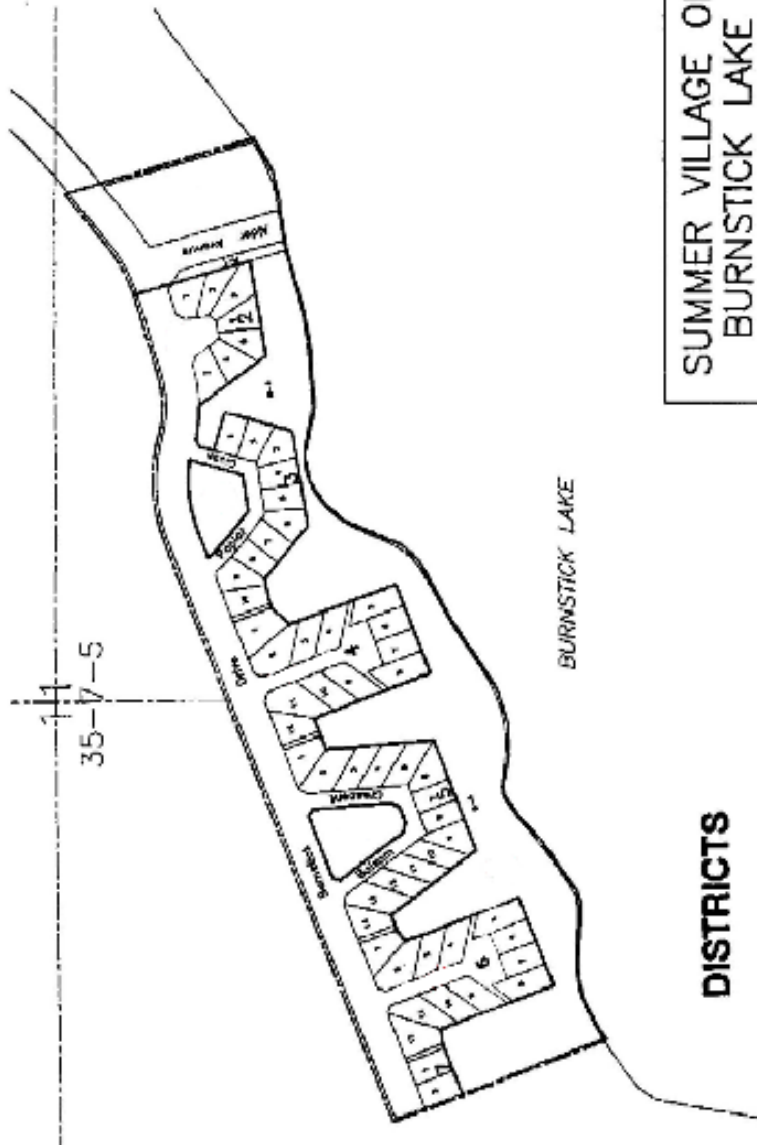


The Village is bounded by the high water level of the lake to the south and the fence lines along the west, north and east. Within the Village there are four types of properties:

- 57 private properties,
- Road allowance from the road to the private property lines,
- Community Reserve between each cabin and the lake as well as in the centre of the streets of Balsam, Poplar and Pine, and
- Environmental Reserve between the boat launch (Alder) and the fence line.

Property to the north, east and west of the Village is crown land managed by the Province. On the crown land surrounding the Village there are a variety of mineral (oil and gas), grazing and timber leases and many access roads and cut lines.

Appendix A



SUMMER VILLAGE OF
BURNSTICK LAKE
LAND USE DISTRICT MAP



RED DEER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

- DISTRICTS**
- Residential
 - Community and Recreational
 - Public Utility

Emergency Services

It is more difficult to obtain timely emergency services in any rural location. The Summer Village of Burnstick Lake is definitely a rural location and the closest emergency services are provided from Caroline. That means that any ambulance can be expected to take at least 30 minutes to arrive!

Also, because we are rural you should keep the exact address of the village posted on your fridge so that in an emergency you (or someone visiting you) can clearly describe the location. Saying you are at Burnstick Lake is probably not sufficiently specific for emergency services. The correct address is [your street address] at 351042 Range Road 7-1. At the end of this booklet is a page that you can personalize, cut out and tape to your fridge for easy reference in case of an emergency.



911 – Ambulance, Fire and Police

Burnstick Lake has 911 services, like most of Alberta. The complication for us is that cellular service can be intermittent and some cabins don't have land lines. You should take the time to find out which of your neighbours have a land line in your area and do some experimentation to ensure you know the best locations around your cabin for getting good cellular service. Anecdotally, it seems that Rogers has the best coverage in the Village but not necessarily complete coverage.

Ambulance

The nearest Ambulance is located in Caroline. The nearest hospitals are located in Sundre and Rocky Mountain House.

Fire

The nearest Fire Hall, staffed by volunteers, is located on the main street in Caroline. There are also Fire departments in Sundre and Rocky Mountain House.

If fire danger becomes too high a fire ban may be declared in the Village by Council. If there is a ban, signs will be posted on Burnstick Drive, an email sent to residents, and a notice is posted on the Village web site. A fire ban means that you are not allowed to have an outdoor fire or use a charcoal BBQ. You can still use your indoor woodstove or propane BBQ.

Police

The nearest RCMP detachment is located in Sundre.

STARS

The Village has a designated STARS landing site on Fir Close. Information is posted on signs within the Village identifying the location and providing contact information. The official designation of the site is #5600. The equipment (beacons, reflective jacket, etc.) used to prepare the site for a helicopter landing is located in the Community Centre building.



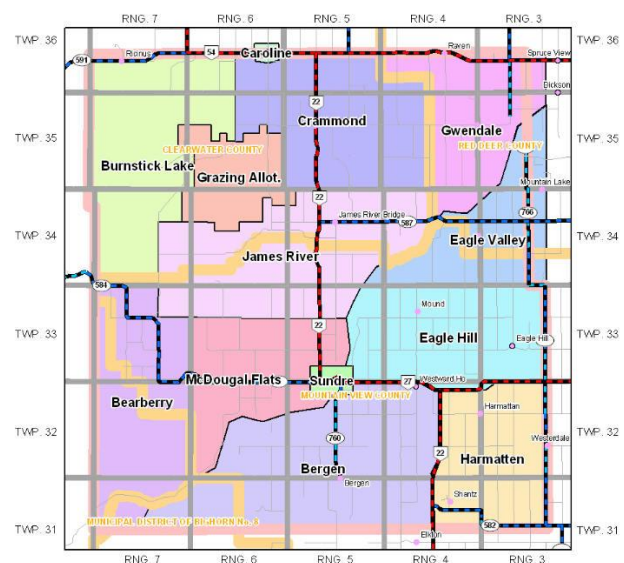
Sour Gas and SPOG

The Village is located in an area that produces and processes sour gas. Hydrogen sulfide, the component that makes the gas “sour”, is extremely deadly in very small concentrations.

Hydrogen sulphide is a colourless and poisonous flammable gas with a strong smell of rotten eggs. It can be detected by smell at concentrations ranging from 0.01-0.3 parts per million (ppm). However, relying solely on its odour is not a good idea because at concentrations above 100 ppm it deadens a person’s sense of smell within a few minutes. The pure gas is heavier than air and can collect in low areas.

A local organization, SPOG or the Sunde Petroleum Operators Group, provides a single 24-hour emergency number for Oil and Gas issues in the area (see map below). If you are new to the Village you should contact SPOG by phone (403-683-5117) or email (admin@spog.ab.ca) to give them your contact information. SPOG maintains a list of the people who might be expected to be at the cabin and their contact information to ensure they can contact people in case of an emergency. Within the Village we also have a siren, controlled by the operators at the Caroline Gas Plant. If there is a release of hydrogen sulphide they can provide warning to the Village. If you hear the siren you should immediately go indoors and close all windows. See the SPOG web site (www.spog.ab.ca) for more complete information.

SPOG Coverage Area



Once a year, typically in August, the siren is tested. Notification signs are posted prior to the test date.

Local Emergency Equipment

In the Community Centre on Burnstick Drive we have a variety of emergency equipment available for use by the Village. Some of the key items are:

- Defibrillator (AED)
- Gas water pump and fire hoses
- Fire caddy with a water tank and pump
- STARS landing kit
- First aid kits
- Shovels and picks and other tools

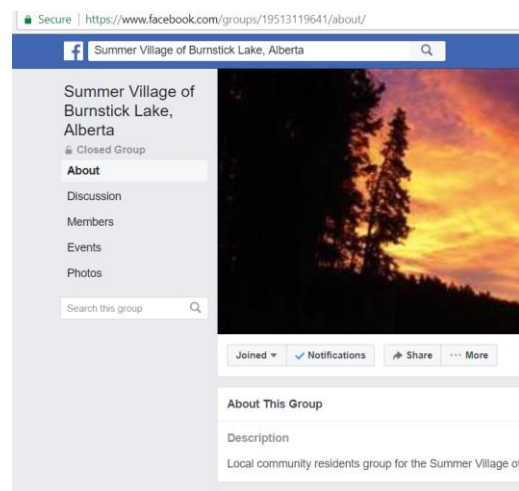
Every resident can get a key to the building. Contact anyone on Council or the Chief Administrative Officer to arrange for a key.

Contact List

The Village also maintains a Village contact list so that you have the information to contact neighbours in case of emergency. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the list or having your contact information added to the list you should contact the Village Chief Administrative Officer.

Social Media

There is a Facebook site for the community. It is a closed group limited to people who have property within the Village. Just search for Summer Village of Burnstick Lake in Facebook and then request to join the group.



Drinking Water

For cabins that don't have their own well, potable water is available at the Village well near the Community Centre building. To obtain water please follow the instructions at the well. The Village well is tested every two months and the results are posted on the bulletin board near the well.

Many cabins have their own wells. Alberta Environment recommends that you test your well water at least twice per year. Some wells in the area have previously tested positive for coliforms and needed to be treated. To test your water you can get sample bottles and drop off samples at the Rocky Mountain House Health Centre or at the Community Health Centre in Sundre (see Alberta Health Service web site for more information).

Library

In the shelter with the bulletin board we have a small “take a book, leave a book” library. Residents can drop off books and pick up new ones.

Garbage and Recycling

We have two garbage bins located on Burnstick Drive near the middle of the Village. During the summer the bins are emptied every two weeks and during the off-season they are emptied once a month. The bins are meant for household garbage, ideally just items that you would normally put in plastic garbage bags.

Near the garbage bins is a plastic can with a recycle label for bottles or cans.

If you have large items such as an old BBQ or construction materials these can be dropped off for free at the Clearwater County waste transfer centres. The nearest transfer centres are Caroline and Crammond. The Caroline station is located just south of Highway 22 near the Clearwater trading post. The Crammond station is located at Highway 22 a few kilometres south of the Crammond Hall. Both stations are only about a 15 minute drive from Burnstick Lake. They do, however, have some fairly unusual hours, so make sure you check the current schedule before making the trip. There is also a transfer station near Sundre, but you will need to pay to drop off your items as this station is not in Clearwater County. The hours for the Crammond and Caroline stations (as of March 2018) are:

| | Sunday | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|----------|------------|--------|------------|------------|--------|--------|------------|
| Crammond | 2:30-5:00 | Closed | 10:00-2:00 | 10:00-2:00 | Closed | Closed | 10:00-2:00 |
| Caroline | 10:00-2:00 | Closed | 2:30-5:00 | 2:30-5:00 | Closed | Closed | 2:30-5:00 |

Closed on all statutory holidays

Organic items such as grass clippings and ashes from your fireplace don't need to go into the Village's garbage bin. Left in a corner of your lot those organics will rapidly decompose and add nutrients to your soil.

Any recycle items can be brought to Caroline. There is a bottle depot in town near the gas station. The hours are Wed-Sat from 10am to 4pm. They also have bins to drop off other recyclables such as cardboard, plastic, glass and paper. If you'd rather, you can drop your bottles into the plastic bin by the Village garbage bins.

You used to be able to drop off used oil near the bottle depot, but this service is no longer available. Used oil can only be dropped off at the Rocky Transfer Station at 5313 44 Street in Rocky Mountain House. The Rocky Transfer Station is open Monday through Saturday from 8am-6pm.

Government and By-Laws

The designation of “Summer Village” means that our Village is a separate municipal entity with its own governance. While the Village is located within Clearwater County, it is the Village not the County that provides the governance and the municipal services.

The Village is governed via a Council of an elected Mayor, Deputy Mayor and one additional council member. The Village has one employee, our Chief Administrative Officer or CAO. The processes and guidelines for Council are directed by the Alberta Municipal Government Act. There is a municipal election every four years and elections for Summer Villages occur in the same year as other municipal elections in Alberta, but in the summer instead of in the fall. Anyone who is a property owner in the Village is eligible to vote.

Council meets every two months. In the summer the meetings are in the Community Centre building in the centre of the Village. In the colder months the meetings are held in the council chambers in Caroline. The public is welcome at the council meetings and, unlike council meetings in larger cities, residents are encouraged to participate in the discussion of items before council. Meeting dates for the year are set in December and posted on the Village’s web site.

In addition to regular council meetings, there is an Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in the summer. The AGM is a forum to report on the happenings of the previous year and have an open discussion about issues and priorities ahead of us. There is generally a presentation on topics of general interest – e.g., forestry, wildlife, safety – at the AGM.

A summer council meeting will also include the annual Village Organizational Meeting. At this meeting the positions on council are assigned as well as confirmation of the major volunteer committees. The Village is always looking for volunteers, so if you have an interest in being involved please contact the Chief Administrative Officer or any of the council members.

More information about the Village and governance, including all by-laws and council meeting minutes, can be found on the Village’s web site at:

<http://www.burnsticklakesummervillage.ca/>

Summer Villages in Alberta

The first Summer Village in Alberta was created in 1913. Summer Villages were created where residents were mainly seasonal but people wanted a say in how their community was managed. In 1995 legislation changed and no new Summer Villages would be created. There are currently 51 Summer Villages in Alberta.

Fire Safety



Fire is one of the greatest threats to the Summer Village of Burnstick Lake. In 2017 there were two out of control forest fires within a few kilometers of the Village. One of the fires was large enough and close enough that there was a notification of possible evacuation. Fortunately the winds changed and the fire was quickly controlled and extinguished. The fire burned about 90 ha of forest.

If fire danger becomes too high a fire ban may be declared in the Village by Council. If there is a ban, signs will be posted on Burnstick Drive, an email is sent to residents, and a notice is posted on the Village web site. A fire ban means that you are not allowed to have an outdoor fire or use a charcoal BBQ. You can still use your indoor woodstove or propane BBQ.

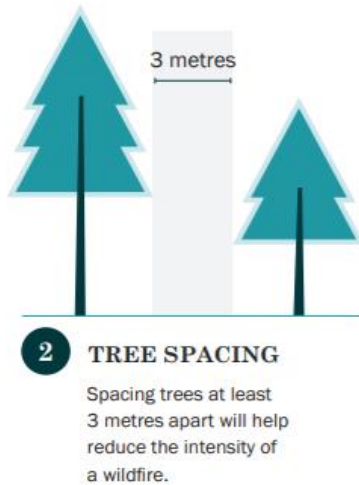
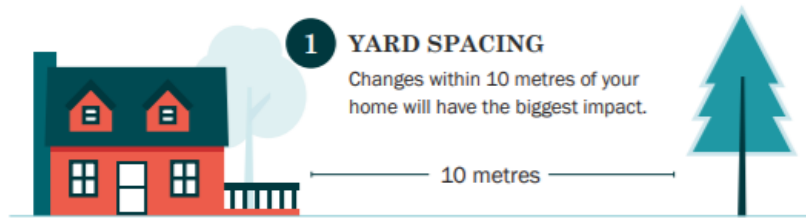
You might notice that the forest to the north and west of the Village is a bit thinner than the forest in the area. This is because in 2004 the Alberta FireSmart program did selective cutting to reduce the amount of burnable materials. In 2016, work was done to cut back some of the growth that had occurred over the last 10 years.



It is also a good idea to apply the FireSmart principles to your own property. Changes made to the area closest to your cabin and your cabin itself will have the greatest impact to reducing your risk of wildfire damage.

Fire Smart Home Owner manuals are available in the Village Community Centre building (aka garage). Electronic copies are available on the fire smart web site.

There are three FireSmart rules of thumb for fire smart for your property:



Many cabins have outdoor fire pits. The by-laws for an acceptable fire pit are:

- Have a non-combustible bottom,
- Have a ring of cement or steel that is a minimum of 30 cm high,
- Located at least 3m from any structure, and
- Clear of any flammable materials for at least 1.5m horizontally and 2.5m vertically from the edge of the rim.

Each year (starting in 2018), cabin owners are required to self-assess and report to CAO on whether or not their fire pit conforms to the village by-law. When there is a fire ban or fire restriction in the Village you are not allowed to have a fire in your fire pit.

In the Village Community Centre building there is a variety of fire fighting equipment, including a portable pump and hoses. You should familiarize yourself with the use of the equipment before you actually need to use it in an emergency situation.

Most of us begin to think about forest fire danger when we see lightning during the hot dry days of summer, but in 2015 of the 1425 wildfires fires during the year, 124 of them occurred in Alberta before June. Also in that year 60% of the wildfires were human caused. In Alberta fire season starts on March 1st!

Quads and Dirt Bikes

Many cabin owners and guests have dirt bikes or quads or other Off Highway Vehicles (OHV). You should familiarize yourself with the Alberta rules and regulations. As well, you should always read the safety information provided by the manufacturer and by the province. This section is not meant to replace that information, but rather provide some context for the use of quads and bikes within the Village.

The Village has no by-laws or rules specific to the use of OHV. The use of these types of vehicles is governed by provincial law. That means that you are allowed to drive an OHV vehicle on the streets within the Village, but you must obey laws such as wearing a helmet and staying below the posted speed limits. The speed limit for all roads in the Village is 30 km/hr.

There is only one path from the Village and that is the main road. Therefore at some point, most OHVs tend to drive down Burnstick Drive. Cars, pedestrians, children playing, bikers, etc. use this same road. The key to safe and enjoyable use by all is respect. So as an OHV driver please:

- Always drive at or below the 30 km/h speed limit
- Slow down to lower than the speed limit when passing people, especially children and pets
- Minimize the number of trips you make in and out of the village
- Drive on the north side of the roadway by the fence instead of on the road
- Keep the noise to a minimum

Quads or dirt bikes or any other motorized vehicles are not allowed on any Community Reserve or Environmental Reserve.

Some cabin owners or guests also have dirt bikes or mini-quads for their children. Again, provincial laws prevail. Provincial law allows for children to drive suitable OHVs but require direct supervision by a responsible person over 18. Historically, issues with children driving OHVs in the Village have included: driving too fast, not stopping at stop signs, not signalling, driving erratically, and driving repeatedly back and forth down the main road. Please ensure your children know and understand the rules.

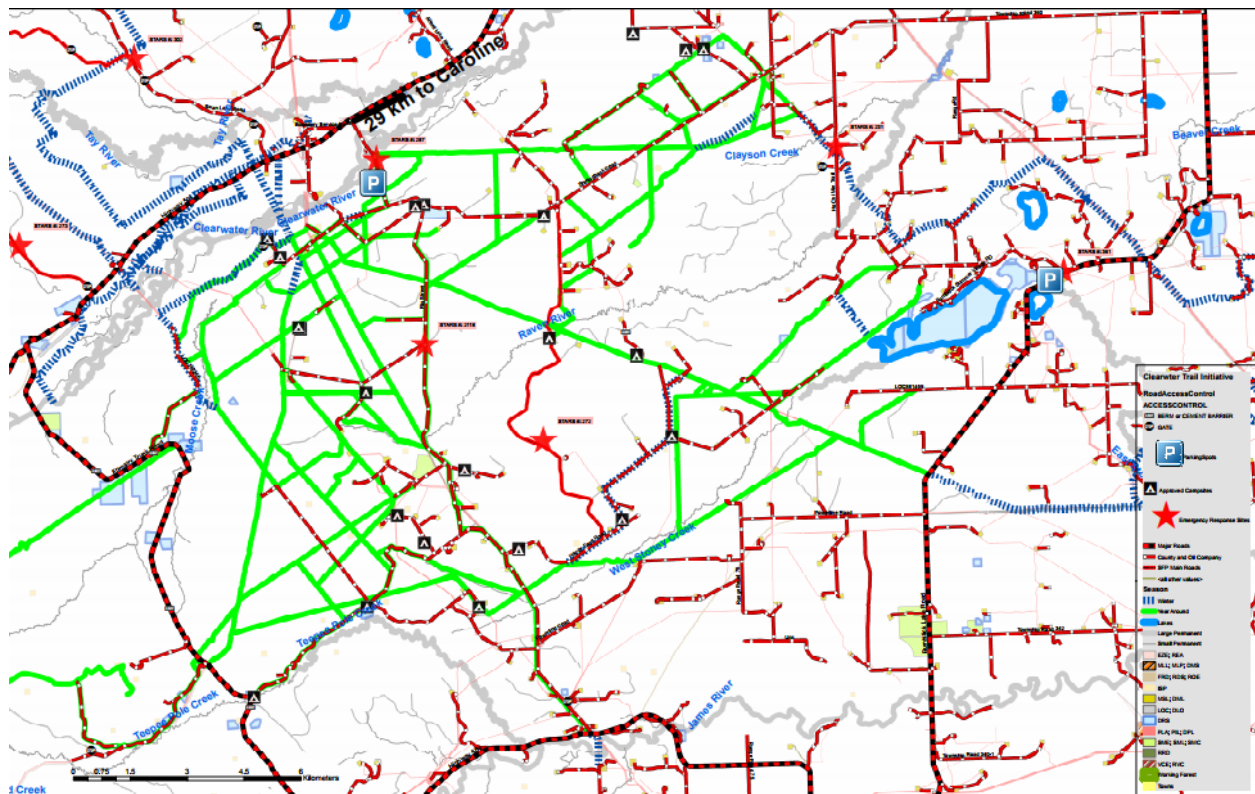


If you are on your quad or dirt bike, once you've made your way to the east edge of the Village the most common way to go is to turn left (north) immediately after the cattle

guard. There are two trails that both lead over to the nearby wellhead. From there you can continue up the oil lease road or turn down one of the many quad trails leading west. The surrounding forest has many roads, trails and seismic lines. Be careful as many of the trails cut straight through wetlands and across steep hills!

The Clearwater Trails Initiative (CTI) has developed a network of trails in the area. The nearest access to the trail system is at the second well-head to the north-west of the Village.

You can also download the CTI trail map to your phone, add it to an application called Avenza and then be able to show your location on the map while you are on your ride. The map plus instructions on how to load it into the app is available on the Summer Village's web site.



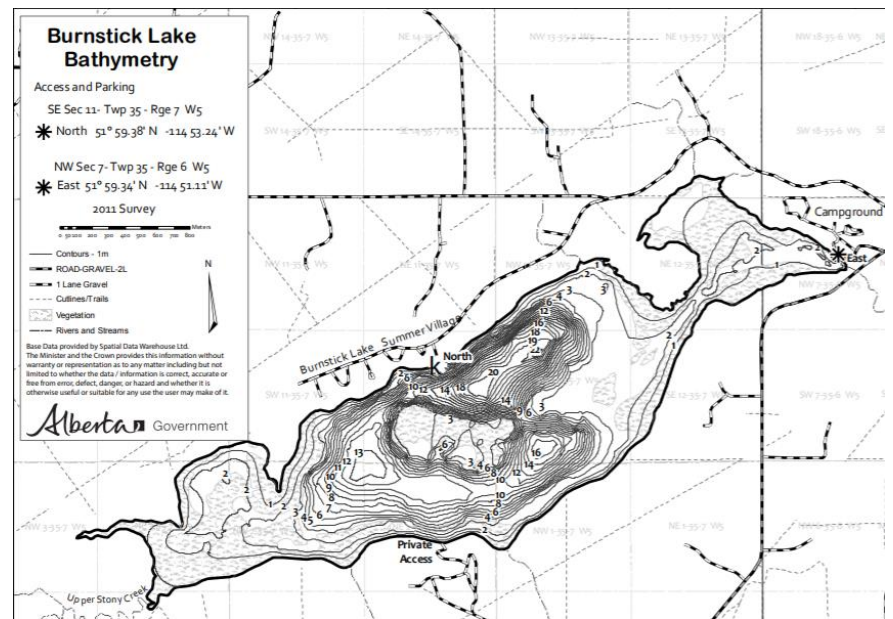
The Lake

Burnstick Lake was originally a collection of small ponds. In 1945 an earth dam was constructed at the outlet (where there is now a campground). Over the years the dam was raised and replaced with a steel coffer dam. The current dam was built in 1975. The dam raised the water level in the lake by about 2.5m (8 ft).

While much of the forest was cut before the water level was raised, there are several places where either full trees or stumps were left standing. Some of the trees make the iconic and beautiful “Stick Henge” on the point just west of the Village. Some stumps lurk in the waters near the shore, hungry for a bite of a boat’s propeller.

The deepest part of the lake is just to the south of the Village boat launch where the waters drop to about 18m (60 ft). In the middle of the lake is a shallow plateau which becomes covered with water lilies during the summer.

The eastern-most section of the lake near the campground is only a maximum of about 2m deep along a narrow channel. A channel was dredged from the main part of the lake to the campground in the 1980’s but the channel has narrowed considerably over the years.



The lake has one main inflow, Upper Stoney Creek (sometimes called West Stoney Creek) that feeds the lake from the south west. There is one main outflow, Lower Stoney Creek (sometimes called East Stoney Creek), that exits the lake by the campground and flows into the James River which, in turn, flows into the Red Deer River and eventually flows into Hudson’s Bay.

Burnstick Lake is fairly small, with a volume of 14.5m³, but drains an area of 62.5 km² so the water residence time in the lake is quite short at approximately 5 years. This may contribute to the lake’s excellent water quality and water clarity.

Boating

Given that we are situated on a beautiful lake it is no surprise that many people have some type of watercraft. The lake is not part of the Summer Village, but since so many people use the lake here are some pointers and suggestions.

There are three boat launches on the lake: Alder Close on the east of the Village, at the Campground on the east end of the lake, and on the south side of the lake at Burnstick Lake Resort. The Village boat launch is quite steep and there have been instances of people having difficulty pulling out their boats. It is suggested that you use a 4-wheel drive vehicle for these purposes.



There are no special boating rules for the lake but some of the key federal and provincial laws to know are:

- You must have a valid boating license to operate any motorized boat
- There are specific rules for right-of-way but a key one is that smaller non-motorized boats have the right of way
- You must follow the 10/30 rule – no faster than 10km/hr within 30m of the shore. The only exception is when you are pulling up a water skier perpendicular from the shoreline.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Alberta waters are at risk of becoming infested with Aquatic Invasive Species. The movement of watercraft into Alberta is the highest risk of infecting our waters. The species of greatest concern in Alberta currently are two mussels and one plant: Quagga Mussel and Zebra Mussel, and Eurasian Watermilfoil. If you're traveling with a boat, you must Clean, Drain and Dry all equipment before departing. You also must remove the plug immediately after pulling the boat out of the water.

This doesn't just apply to bringing boats into Alberta from elsewhere; this also applies to moving boats from lake to lake in Alberta.



Fishing

Burnstick Lake is a popular location for fishing. The primary species of interest are Northern Pike (also called Jackfish) and Perch. Walleye are also sometimes caught. In the spring you can often spot schools of large spawning white suckers near the shore.



At the time of writing the fishing regulations state that in Burnstick Lake you can keep one large pike (61 cm), one walleye and up to 5 perch. But remember that in the spring Burnstick Lake is closed to any fishing – closed from April to the May long weekend to allow spawning of the Northern Pike. Check the regulations to verify current limits, regulations and closures.

Within a few miles of Burnstick Lake are a few stocked lakes that are aerated in the winter, thus preventing winter kill of the fish. Two of the lakes, Beaver and Birch, are within a 10-minute drive of the Village. Beaver lake has many large Rainbow Trout and is catch-and-release only. Birch Lake is stocked with Rainbow, Brook and Brown Trout and you are allowed to keep some fish (see regulations for current rules).

Just north-east of Caroline is one of Alberta’s premiere Brown Trout fisheries – officially the North Raven River but usually called Stauffer Creek. This spring-fed creek contains absolutely huge Brown Trout, protected by the thicket of fly-filled Willow bushes hugging the stream.

The highway west of Caroline leads into the “West Country” where there are many lakes and streams with lake, brook, and cutthroat trout and Rocky Mountain Whitefish. A journey in that direction and past Corkscrew Mountain leads you to another premiere fishery, the Ram River. Remember to take bear spray!

Local Trails

Within and around the Village are multiple walking trails. The easiest to find and most commonly used trail is the one that runs along the length of the shoreline of the Village. The complete trail is on land designated as “Community Reserve” and is therefore accessible to everyone. It is an easy walk, with a picturesque bridge across the creek that runs into Burnstick Lake just west of the boat launch.

As you walk along the lake trail you will notice many trails leading up the hill (north). Some of those will be paths used by cabin owners to access the lake from their properties. Some of those are community trails that connect back to one of the streets of the Village. You can distinguish the two types of trails by the presence of a sign stating “Walkway” in yellow

lettering that indicate the trails that connect back to Village streets.

There are at least four great starting points in the Village for walking trails leading into the surrounding forest. On the east end of the Village in the environmental reserve there is a trail leading east along the shore. In the middle of the Village, on the main road near the Community Centre, there is a break in the fence and a trail heading north. This trail winds through some wetlands and eventually leads to a wellhead. It also connects to the bike trails described below. The bike trails are also great walking and snowshoeing trails. And finally, there are a couple of walking trails heading west. You can access two west-bound trails either from the end of Burnstick Drive or from along the lakeshore. You can follow these west trails all the way to a beautiful point of land in the far west end of the lake or even farther afield if you want.

Mountain Biking

While a motivated mountain biker has miles and miles of quad and cut trails to ride in the area, unfortunately most of those trails tend to contain mud-holes that are very challenging to ride or require you to carry your bike through the mud. Some people may enjoy the challenge, but many find those types of rides to be frustrating.

Fortunately on the north side of the village there are three bike loops that avoid the mud. All the loops are accessible via the gap in the fence on the north side of Burnstick Drive.

The short trail and easiest trail, called Lodgepole Loop, takes about 10 minutes to ride. It is a relatively easy ride on a double-track, although there are some challenging areas with roots across the trail. The longer loop, called Beaver Pond Loop, is a scenic 20 minute ride. It is a medium difficulty single track trail with roots, some sharp turns and some narrow bridges. The third loop, Blueberry, gives you another 10 minutes of riding and another 4 bridges to cross. It is also medium level of difficulty and has the added cardiac bonus of one steep uphill.

Your perception of trail difficulty and loop riding times may vary according to your expertise and fitness level!

Burnstick Bike Trails



— Lodgepole Loop. Double track. Easiest. 1.4 km

— Beaver Pond Loop. Single track. 1.2 km

— Blueberry Loop. Single track. 0.75km

Full loop is 3km. It rides easiest counter-clockwise, but
can be ridden either direction.

***** Ride at Your Own Risk. *****

Some roots and sharp corners. Always carry bear spray!

Golf

There are some great golf courses in the area.

Just east of Sundre on hwy 22 is the Sundre Golf course where you can enjoy 18 holes on a course that is rated #1 for best value golf courses in Alberta. Green fees vary from \$39 to \$79 depending on the day/time.

A bit north of Sundre and east of hwy 22 is the Forest Heights golf course. According to its web site its 18 hole layout measures 6000 yards from the back tees and plays over rolling terrain with 100 foot spruce trees lining the fairways in places. With broad fairways this is a place where you can pull out the big stick and let it fly from the tee. Green fees range from \$45 to \$55.

For a more informal game of golf you can go to the Caroline & District Golf Course just north of Caroline. The course has many water features and a few challenging trees. According to their web site no golfer has yet managed to break par on this course.

Wildlife

Given that the Village is located in a forested area it is not surprising that we have many different species of wildlife in and around the Village. Some of the commonly seen animals within and around the community include: red squirrels, song birds, eagles, hawks, bats, mice, ducks, loons, geese, grebes, blue herons, rabbits, beavers, muskrats, groundhogs, deer and moose. Some of the less common, but generally present, animals include: flying squirrels, fishers, martins, bob cats, owls, weasels, wolves, coyotes, black and grizzly bears, wild horses and cougars.

For the most part these animals don't generally cause a problem for residents. However, some larger carnivores do sometimes come into the Village. Within the last few years we have had black bears come into the Village in the spring and fall. Most times they have just passed through, but on occasion they have been attracted to food or garbage left by cabin owners and have stayed in the area. Birdseed is especially tasty for the bears and they have knocked down bird feeders and raided bags of seeds from people's porches. If you see evidence of a bear you should post a notice on the board by the garbage bins so that everyone in the Village can be extra cautious plus send an email to the CAO so an email can be sent to residents.

The Village is in the range of both black and grizzly bears. Grizzly bears have a pronounced shoulder hump. A grizzly bear has smaller rounded ears, while the black bear has more pointed and noticeable ears. Both species can range in colour from blond to black, although



black bears are typically black in colour.

Bears are intelligent and curious animals whose life revolves around food. They are naturally wary of people but if they've learned to associate food with people they will actively search for food in areas frequented by people. This can include commonly used camp sites in the forest around the Village.

You are highly encouraged to read more about bears and what to do if you have an encounter. An excellent source of information is the Alberta Bear Smart Program Manual. Paper copies are available in the Village Community Centre and electronic copies are available on the Alberta Bear Smart web site.

Some best practices regarding bears within the Village include:

- Don't store any birdseed or garbage outside of your cabin;
- Supervise children while outdoors, especially during evenings or night; and
- Post any bear sighting information on the community bulletin board.

Some best practices while hiking or biking or even riding your ATV:

- Learn how to identify black and grizzly bears;
- Learn what to do if you have an encounter;
- Always look for bear signs while in the forest;
- Prevent bear encounters by traveling in groups and making noise; and
- Carry a deterrent such as bear spray and/or bear bangers.

Any bear incident should be reported to Alberta Fish and Wildlife.

In addition to being aware of bears, you should note that the Village is very much within the territory of another aggressive predator, the cougar. In recent years at least two cougars have taken residence in the village and had to be removed. The cats were likely attracted to the Village due to our large deer population.

Cougars are active at all times of the day. If they enter open habitats and areas near humans, they typically do so when it is dark. Just like for bears, to minimize the chance of a cougar encounter you should travel in groups and carry bear spray or noise deterrents such as an air horn or bear banger. Cougar attacks on people are rare, but if you do have a close encounter with a cougar:

- Do not run. Do not turn your back.
- Make sure children and dogs stay calm. Keep them very close.
- Make yourself look big. Wave your arms, open your jacket and do not crouch down or bend over.
- Use your noise deterrent and bear spray.

Burnstick Lake has about eight nesting pairs of Common Loons. The loons arrive early each year and depart late in the fall, providing us their melodic calls throughout the summer.

The loons mostly avoid people, but if you get too close to them, especially in the spring, they will “dance” on the water to encourage you to leave. An impressive display, but it only takes a few minutes of this to exhaust the loon and potentially cause it injury.



In the early fall the adult loons fly off to their winter home in the southern US and Mexico, leaving their young to fend for themselves. A few weeks later as the lake starts to freeze over on the edges, the young take flight and somehow find their own way south to join their parents.

In the spring, when skunks become more active, there tends to be several skunk sightings and close encounters within the Village. Skunks are not particularly aggressive and will let you know that they feel threatened by:

- Stamping their front feet
- Growling
- Hissing
- Raising their tails

To reduce the chance of skunk taking up residence on your property you should clear out brush piles, wood piles or other debris they can use as cover. Skunks also often go under your deck or under sheds for shelter. You should close off those spaces to prevent entry. Placing mothballs in those areas can additionally deter skunks as they are repulsed by the smell of mothballs.

There have been many dog and skunk interactions in the Village resulting in a lot of time spent washing dogs! If you have a dog you should think about putting together a kit for de-skunking your dog.

De-Skunking Recipe

1 litre (1 Quart) 3% hydrogen peroxide
50 ml (¼ cup) baking soda
15ml (1 tablespoon) liquid soap

Wet down your dog. Then slowly pour the mixture over dog while rubbing it into the fur. Don't apply near eyes, nose and mouth. After a few minutes wash off the solution. If you have a big dog you may need to double the recipe.

The recipe also works well for getting dead fish smell off of your dog.

Some Community and Nearby Events

Pancake Breakfast – Beginning of August, usually on the long weekend. Gather with other Burnstick residents for pancakes and sausages by the Community Centre building.

New Year's Eve – A New Year's Eve bonfire on the lake which usually also includes fireworks. Come out during the day to help pull wood to the pile.

Council Meetings – Held every two months. The summer meetings are in the Community Centre and the other meetings are in the Council Chambers in Caroline.

Annual General Meeting – Usually a July meeting held in the Community Centre. This is a great opportunity to meet people and discuss current issues.

Caroline Stampede and Sundre and Rocky Rodeos – Held in early summer.

Rocky Mountain House Air Show – Generally held in mid-summer at the airport in Rocky.

SPOG Community Day – A gathering where you can get some snacks and give-aways and learn more about the oil and gas industry in the area.

Farmers' Markets – Caroline from noon to 3pm on Fridays from May to September. Sundre from 5pm to 7:30pm on Fridays from May to September.

Some Other Things To Do Around Burnstick Lake

- Go to the beach at the campground at the end of the lake
- Kayak up the creek
- See the giant fish and take a nature walk at the Raven Fish Hatchery
- Visit the Wildlife Museum in Sundre
- Get an ice cream at Clearwater Trading Post
- Catch a giant Rainbow Trout on a fly at Beaver Lake
- Go for bacon and eggs breakfast at Baron's in Caroline
- Visit the Pioneer Museum in Caroline
- Go white water rafting on the Red Deer River
- Visit the Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site
- Go to the Caroline or Sundre Farmer's Market
- Go to Discovery Wildlife Park in Innisfail
- Build a sand castle on the beach at Crimson Lake Provincial Park



Local Stores and Services

If you are new to the Village you may wonder where you can get items locally instead of always bringing everything from home. Here are some of the common items and a local location:

Gas – Closest gas station is in Caroline. Next nearest gas stations are in Spruce View (Hwy 54 east of Caroline) or Clearwater Trading Post on Hwy 22 west of Caroline.

Groceries – Small grocery/hardware store in Caroline. Big chain stores in both Sundre and Rocky Mountain House.

Hardware – Small grocery/hardware store in Caroline. CO-OP and Canadian Tire in Rocky Mountain House. Home Hardware in Sundre and Rocky Mountain House.

Vehicle Parts – NAPA in Caroline. NAPA in Sundre. Canadian Tire in Rocky Mountain House. Honda and Yamaha quad/bike dealerships in Rocky Mountain House.

Pharmacy – Sundre and Rocky Mountain House.

Ice Cream – Seasonally a small snack store at the Burnstick campground. Many varieties of Ice Cream at Clearwater Trading Post on Hwy 22 west of Caroline.



Information Sources and Further Reading

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| Aquatic Invasive Species | http://www.albertaparks.ca/ |
| Alberta Fish and Wildlife | http://esrd.alberta.ca/fish-wildlife/ |
| Alberta Health Services | http://www.albertahealthservices.ca |
| Association of Summer Villages of Alberta | http://www.asva.ca/ |
| Caroline Chamber of Commerce | http://carolinechamber.ca/ |
| Clearwater County | http://www.county.clearwater.ab.ca/ |
| Firesmart | https://www.firesmartcanada.ca/ |
| Invasive Species | https://www.abinvasives.ca/ |
| Municipal Act | http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/ |
| Off-Highway Vehicles | http://aohva.com/ |
| Regional Solid Waste Authority | http://www.myrockywaste.com |
| Safe Boating | http://www.safeboating.ca/ |
| STARS | http://www.stars.ca/ |
| Sundre Petroleum Operators Group | http://www.spog.ab.ca/ |
| Summer Village of Burnstick Lake | http://www.burnsticklakesummervillage.ca/ |
| Wildfire Status | http://wildfire.alberta.ca/ |



Please contact Council if you notice any errors, have any ideas of topics that should be added or, better yet, want to contribute to the next version of this document.

Emergency Information

One of the first pieces of information you should provide 911 is your address. Modify the form below and cut it out and tape it to your fridge so that you and any visitor to your cabin have the information at hand in case of an emergency.

Police Ambulance or Fire

Phone 911

Contact information is

351042 Range Road 7-1

AT

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Write Your Street Address Here

in the

Summer Village of Burnstick Lake