

RESORT VILLAGE OF TURTLE VIEW

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MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL TO RV OF TURTLE VIEW RESIDENTS

Some of you may have already heard that a year or more ago, the Sunset View Beach (SSVB) Hamlet Board contacted our Council with a request to meet to discuss areas of mutual concern and possible mutual assistance.

Council has met several times with the SSVB Hamlet Board to review several issues that could result in mutually beneficial agreements. In the interest of transparency, their Hamlet Board is keeping their residents and the RM of Mervin aware of these talks, and we aim to do the same by providing this information to the Resort Village residents.

Going back several years to provide some historical information, when our IPGS and TLL hamlet boards were starting our quest to incorporate our Resort Village of Turtle View, we had discussions with the Provincial Government. We were advised that the quickest and easiest method of establishing a Resort Village would be to amalgamate with an existing Resort Village and that the lake shore of Turtle Lake would be the legal connection to another Resort Village on the lake shore. The only Resort Village on Turtle Lake at that time was Kivimaa Moonlight Bay. We approached them but they were not interested in expanding their village to include us.

The same amalgamation is available to the Organized Hamlet of Sunset View Beach if they are interested in amalgamating with either Kivimaa Moonlight Bay or Turtle View as these are the two existing Resort Villages on Turtle Lake, all connected by the lake shore.

Both the SSVB Board and our Council feel there are enough similarities and common use situations, being only a few KM's apart, and using the same access roads. We feel that it makes good economic and community sense to spend time investigating an amalgamation.

We have had some meetings over the past few months discussing the concept of Sunset View joining our Resort Village. With our village having the infrastructure (municipal office, lagoon, transfer station, roads etc.), we are in a good position to accommodate them joining. Some of the benefits for them include more localized services, elected participation in Council decision-making and fire protection being much closer.

The benefit for us would be a further stabilized economic position. We have spent time analyzing their budget, and have had discussions with their Hamlet board and are confident we would annually realize an approximate doubling of our cash reserve surplus each year after their operating costs are covered. This would provide further protection against future tax increases.

Amalgamation with Sunset View offers numerous economic benefits that are part of any larger tax base and will add stability to our municipal levy which has practically remained the same since incorporation in 2020.

Through discussions with their hamlet board, we would put a significant surplus into dedicated reserves and would primarily fund our road reserves with an 'eye on a future' road major upgrade to our access road from Evergreen to TLL.

The combining of TLL and IPGS has proven very successful both financially and in many ways bringing our communities closer together while maintaining each identity. We have put bylaws and policies in place which have been very relevant to the needs of our residents. The needs of the Sunset View residents are very similar to our needs. Your council will continue to investigate and analyze the aspects of them joining our Resort Village. Feel free to contact your council with any questions you may have.

Have a happy and safe long weekend!

Sincerely,
Your Mayor and Council