

2012 ASVA Annual General Meeting - Resolutions

SV of Norglenwold (and other ASVA /AUMA member municipalities)

Regulation of Ice Fishing Huts on Alberta Lakes

Whereas Alberta's lakes are a valuable natural resource for all Albertans that must be used in a sustainable manner to ensure the long-term benefits are preserved for future generations; and

Whereas the wide variety of recreational uses on these lakes creates environmental challenges and results in potentially conflicting uses that need to be managed: and

Whereas an increasing number of fisherman engage in ice fishing on these lakes due to Alberta's rapid population growth and the popularity of the sport has resulted in the placement of a record number of ice fishing shelters or huts on our lakes; and

Whereas many of these ice huts are left after the end of the seasons despite current legislation that prohibits the unlawful disposal of waste; and

Whereas these abandoned huts result in number of negative consequences including pollutants in our lakes, hazards for other lake users such as boaters and swimmers, unsightly debris on our lakeshores, and risks for those who are left with the task of removing these abandoned huts; and

Whereas legislation in other provinces of Canada that requires the mandatory registration of ice huts has proven successful in controlling this problem,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta urge the Government of Alberta to provide increased education and enforcement with regard to responsible ice fishing including the introduction of a mandatory registration program for ice fishing huts to assist in their timely removal from Alberta lakes.

BACKGROUND:

- Section 181 of the *Environmental Protection And Enhancement Act* prohibits the deposit of waste on ice or into water.
- Despite the legislation, many huts are being abandoned on Alberta lakes. For example, after the 2010-2011 ice fishing season there were still approximately 50 huts left on central Alberta lakes.
- Alberta Environment and Water does attempt to remove some of these huts, sometimes under hazardous conditions, but still many sink into the lake or end up as debris on the shoreline.
- In 2012 the Sylvan Lake Management Committee, a partnership of municipalities around the lake, spearheaded a voluntary registration program with the cooperation of Alberta Environment and Water and the local RCMP. Registration of huts will allow authorities to contact their owners if they are left on the lake after the end of the season. They can either arrange for the removal of these huts or be held accountable under the legislation.
- Education is considered to be an important element in controlling this problem as compliance is likely to increase with public pressure and knowledge of the ramifications, both personally and to the environment, of abandoning these ice huts.
- Legislation which requires the mandatory registration of ice fishing huts across the province would serve as a backstop for those unwilling to participate voluntarily.

- a. Regulation of Ice Fishing Huts on Alberta Lakes – SV of Norglenwold
Moved by Beverly Anderson, SV of Norglenwold that the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta urge the Government of Alberta to provide increased education and enforcement with regard to responsible ice fishing including the introduction of a mandatory registration program for ice fishing huts to assist in their timely removal from Alberta lakes.

Seconded by Reg Pointe, SV of Yellowstone.

Carried

ASSOCIATION OF SUMMER VILLAGES OF ALBERTA RESOLUTION

Resolution on Cyanobacteria (also known as Blue-Green Algae)

WHEREAS the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta (ASVA) is dedicated to the continual improvement in the wellness of the lakes in Alberta,

AND WHEREAS the negative impact of Blue-Green Algae upon the health of Alberta's lakes is recognized to be severe, ongoing and increasing.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta engage its resources in educating the public and lobbying the Government of Alberta on finding solutions to contain, reduce and eliminate the problem of Blue-Green Algae.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council and Administrators of member villages be encouraged to implement and promote bylaws and best practices that protect and improve the quality of Alberta's lakes.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE PEOPLE CLOSEST TO THE PROBLEM, WHO ARE MOST IMPACTED, AND WHO MOST LOVE OUR LAKES, commit ourselves to environmental practices that reduce (our) the human impact and promote clean and healthy lakes.

- b. Stewardship Approach to Eliminate Blue-Green Algae in Alberta Lakes
Moved by Bob Yontz SV of Island Lake that the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta engage its resources in educating the public and lobbying government on finding solutions to contain, reduce and eliminate the problem of Blue-Green Algae; and that the Council and Administrators of member villages implement and promote bylaws and best practices that protect and improve the quality of Alberta's lakes; and that we, the people closest to the problem, who are most impacted, and who most love our lakes, commit ourselves to environmental practices that reduce (our) the human impact and promote clean and healthy lakes.

Moved by Pete Langelle, SV of Ma-Me-O Beach, that the statement "Further be it resolved that the Council and Administrators of member villages implement and promote bylaws and best practices that protect and improve the quality of Alberta's lakes.", **be amended to read:** "Further be it resolved that the Council and Administrators of member villages "be encouraged to" implement and promote bylaws and best practices that protect and improve the quality of Alberta's lakes."

Moved by Reg Pointe, SV of Yellowstone, that the statement " Now therefore be it resolved that the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta engage its resources in education the public and lobbying government on finding solutions to contain, reduce and eliminate the problem of Blue-Green Algae.", **be amended to read** "Now therefore be it resolved that the Association of Summer

Villages of Alberta engage its resources in education the public and lobbying "Government of Alberta" on finding solutions to contain, reduce and eliminate the problem of Blue-Green Algae."

Moved by Leslie Ellis that the resolution be called "Resolution on Cyanobacteria (also known as Blue-Green Algae)."

Bob Yontz, SV of Island Lake accepted the amendments and moved that the Resolution for Cyanobacteria (also known as Blue-Green Algae) be approved as amended.

Seconded by Pete Langelle, SV of Ma-Me-O Beach

Carried.

Be it resolved that the ASVA support the submission to Municipal Affairs to have the Safety Codes Act amended to allow municipalities to eliminate septic fields for environmental protection.

Background:

The Safety Codes Act prevents municipalities from having bylaws which cause the elimination of septic fields. It is a well-known fact that septic fields are a cause of nutrient loading in lakes. As such, municipalities which want to protect their aquatic resources, a basic tenet in the Water for Life Strategy, are unable to cause septic fields to be replaced with holding tanks. The Summer Village of Grandview, with the support of the ASVA, attempted to obtain an exemption for all municipalities however that request was denied. The reason given was that an exemption was not the appropriate means to address this issue. Subsequently, a submission has been made to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for an amendment to the Safety Codes Act.

SV of Grandview

- c. Amendment of Safety Codes Act re: Septic Fields – SV of Grandview
Moved by Don Davidson, SV of Grandview, that the ASVA support the submission to Municipal Affairs to have the Safety Codes Act amended to allow municipalities to eliminate septic fields for environmental protection.
Seconded by Pete Langlelle, SV of Ma-Me-O Beach.

Carried.