



ASVA Quarterly Update

2026/04/01

Traditionally, Summer Villages originated from cottage resort areas where seasonal residents sought representation in local governance or expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of services provided, particularly following substantial increases in municipal taxes levied by rural municipalities. In some cases, both elevated tax rates and inadequate service provision relative to taxation were factors. The services in question extended beyond conventional public works to encompass environmental management and public safety initiatives.

In 1957, Kenneth A. McKenzie served as Mayor of Itaska Beach and Charles Denney held the position of Secretary Treasurer. Concerned about decreasing grant allocations to his Summer Village, Mr. McKenzie presented his case to members of Cabinet. His efforts proved effective, prompting Charles Denney to recognize that a collective association could further enhance lobbying power for Summer Villages. Consequently, Mr. Denney convened an organizational meeting in the McDougall Room of Edmonton's old YMCA on November 5, 1958. The meeting was attended by thirty-three representatives from eleven of Alberta's sixteen Summer Villages. As a result, the Association of Summer Villages of Alberta (ASVA) was established.

The ASVA goals are to Advocate, Communicate, and Educate our members.

For Advocating

Advocating initiatives include efforts to secure increased provincial funding through the Local Government Fiscal Framework (LGFF). Former president Mike Pashak dedicated significant time engaging with government officials and was instrumental in achieving an increase in LGFF funding for Summer Villages. Although the amount received did not fully meet our requested levels, it was substantially greater than what might have been allocated without Mike's contributions.

Last year, the ASVA advocated on behalf of the Summer Village of Ma-Me-O Beach, which was facing the prospect of dissolution due to a \$5 million debt resulting from an unsuccessful sewer project. The viability review process was initiated as a result of this financial challenge. ASVA secured two positions for its board members President Mike Pashak and Ren Giesbrecht on the viability review committee and the ASVA participated in multiple meetings with the Minister of Municipal Affairs, who held the authority to determine the future status of Ma-Me-O Beach as a Summer Village. On November 21, 2025, Minister Williams issued his decision, allowing Ma-Me-O Beach to continue as a



Summer Village, contingent upon directives derived from the recommendations outlined in the viability review report.

We are currently advocating for the Provincial Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force recommendations and urge their implementation. The Task Force report clearly outlines the severe risk that zebra and quagga mussels pose to irrigation systems, municipal water infrastructure, food production and water quality issues. For municipalities like Summer Villages, AIS prevention is critical for the health of the lake. Once these creatures get into the lake it costs millions of dollars to eradicate them and in the meantime, they cause millions of dollars in damages.

Recently the ASVA submitted focused feedback for changes to the Local Authorities Election Act (LAEA). What the ASVA is asking for is:

- Allow special ballots without requiring a permanent electors register.
- Clarify authority to use and retain land title and municipal records.
- Introduce reasonable limits on votes and candidates per property.
- Permit nomination periods for Summer Villages.
- Require campaign bank accounts only when contributions exceed \$1,000.
- Consolidate campaign disclosure requirements post-election.

Currently, Municipal Affairs is reviewing our submission along with a submission from our member partner Alberta Municipalities (ABmunis).

For Communicating

The ASVA communicates regularly with member CAOs, through Kathy Krawchuk the ASVA Executive Director emailing information from the ASVA board and various associate groups like:

- ABmunis
- Athabasca Watershed
- Alberta Invasive Species Council
- Alberta Lake Management Society (ALMS)
- Nature Alberta, just to name a few associations.

We are also setting up a new website. The ASV Board recognizes the importance a good website is for communicating with our members. We hope to have the new website up and running in a few months.



Educate

We educate our members through CAO focus group sessions held a few times per year. The last session covered financial metrics and post-election information. Financial Metrics covered how Municipal Affairs is in the process of policy development that will focus on three key areas within the emerging Fiscal Sustainability Framework:

- Financial Health Assessment
- Fiscal Relationship Review
- Early Intervention and Support

The work builds on existing Municipal Indicators and Local Government Fiscal Framework.

Post election results found 65% of councillors were re-elected and 37% of summer villages had elections. These are typical results for summer villages. Item 13 of the municipal indicators pertains to interest in municipal office. The typical results show most summer villages do not meet the expected result of having more candidates than the number of councillor positions. As summer villages, we are happy to have three candidates step forward for the important role of councillor. If these people did not step forward the summer village would cease to exist and new summer villages can not be incorporated.

We recently distributed a brochure identifying the various Invasive plant species found around our lakes. Plants like the Himalayan Balsam are considered an invasive species. This pretty pink flower plant has aggressive seed dispersal, coupled with high nectar production which attracts pollinators, often allowing it to out-compete native plants. It has been found that pulling and cutting this plant is the main method of non-chemical control, and usually the most appropriate.

Each year, the ASVA hosts its annual fall conference, which features vendors to facilitate the consolidation of service providers and offers presentations from guest speakers on topics relevant to our members. As our sole fundraising event, the conference plays a vital role in enabling the ASVA to fulfill its mission. We greatly value the ongoing support demonstrated by your council and administration through their participation in this important event.

Thank you for your support of the ASVA. Feel free to reach out to us through your CAO. We are here to help.