



## Village of Pemberton | Community Update

# Pemberton

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**FINANCE NOTES** Sewer and water discount. Village of Pemberton residents received their utilities bills in January. A 5% discount on the balance is available to residents who make payment within 31-60 days of invoicing - by April 3 2006. The invoiced amount, without any discount, is payable by July 4. Outstanding invoices at July 4 will be charged a 10% penalty.

Planning ahead. Property taxes are due July 4. Residents can expect property tax invoices in May.

**BURNING PERMITS** A burning ban can be anticipated in Pemberton between June and October. Residents wanting to burn-off waste prior to the ban should be aware that anybody within the village boundaries must have a burning permit. Permits are available at the Village office, at no charge, and are valid for a ten day period. Fires must be contained to the size of one cubic metre of organic material. Residents are advised to check with Dispatch's non-emergency number (604 938 4145) to check the burn index and verify that they can burn.

#### FIRE HALL NEWS

Pemberton's Fire Chief Russell Mack is excited. A replacement fire truck is on its way to his fire hall. Fourth reading to the by-law authorizing borrowing for the truck was given at Council's 21 March meeting, after an alternative approval process. Says Mack, "This truck, a four-door, four wheel-drive FI50 cab and chassis, with compressed air and foam system will be really good for us. It is replacing a 23 year old truck, and will put the Village in really good shape."

The Village currently has a 1996 fire truck, which will be paid off in March, and is good for another 10 years service. The two vehicles will enable Pemberton's volunteer crew of 29, to continue their record of excellent response times to incidents in the region. "We often get comments from fire alarm companies who wonder how we managed to respond to an alarm call so fast. Especially as a volunteer department," says Mack. "It seems there's someone always at the fire hall, so as soon as the tones go, they're good to go. And response times are critical."

The new truck, as a four-wheel drive, will offer valuable back-up assistance to the rescue truck, particularly with motor vehicle accidents in the winter. "Our guys are extremely good at auto extraction," says Mack, "because they practice all the time. We also do lots of live fire training because we have our own live fire site."

The Pemberton Fire Department responded to 235 calls in 2005, and Mack estimates that this year, they're likely to respond to between 280 and 300. The call-outs are divided evenly between fire calls and motor vehicle incidents, and the volunteer crew are averaging almost one call a day. "They do a wonderful job for the community. It's really a tremendous venture," says Mack.

#### DATES TO NOTE

**April 4** 7:00pm Village of Pemberton Council meeting  
**April 25** 8:00am Village of Pemberton Council meeting  
**June 20** Annual General Meeting  
**July 4** Property Taxes Due

## Village partners with Question to provide Community page

The Village of Pemberton launches a new approach to keeping residents up-to-date with municipal happenings in today's "Community Update" page. The monthly page will provide a thorough and regular update of the latest news, issues and projects at the Village of Pemberton, in a reader-friendly format in the Whistler Question. "We appreciate that people are busy and don't have a lot of time to read newsletters or updates. But we also know that people want a clear line of communication with Council and the Village office, and want to be informed," said Mayor Jordan Sturdy.

Council identified open communication with the community as one of their key goals at a recent retreat. Providing effective and timely communications with residents, businesses and visitors is as an important strategic direction for the Village of Pemberton.

## Redevelopment of the Village's website is also underway.

The Village of Pemberton celebrates this year its 50th anniversary of incorporation as a municipality. To commemorate this milestone, the Village invites residents to submit "Pemberton 50 years ago" memories. The Village also invites feedback and suggestions about the Community Update page, as well as present-day photographs of life about town for publication. Email admin@pemberton.ca, with "Community Update" in the subject line, with your input.



PHOTO BY MC BOURGIE

Soaring over Pemberton.

# Pemberton springs forward with new Administrator

## Village welcomes Lori Pilon to her new role, April 18

The Village of Lions Bay, population 1800, with its five-person council and \$2 million budget, has recently been dealing with the impact of Sea to Sky Highway upgrades, improving their water treatment and distribution system, and lobbying for regional transit. Which is all to the advantage of the Village of Pemberton. Outgoing Lions Bay Administrator, Lori Pilon, brings that experience, and more, to her new role as Pemberton's Administrator, starting April 18.

"Lions Bay and Pemberton are both smaller communities with rich histories, that have experienced or are experiencing substantial growth," said Pilon. "They face the challenge of balancing the interests and expectations of long time village residents with those of newer residents and providing affordable services that meet everyone's needs while maintaining the Village character and values that attracted people in the first place."

For the past four and a half years, Pilon has been commuting to Lions Bay from her home-base west of Kamloops, passing through Pemberton every other weekend. "I have seen first hand the incredible growth in this short period of time," she said. Corridor-wide and regional meetings have also enabled Pilon to stay up to date with the challenges and accomplishments facing Pemberton, through discussions with former Mayor Elinor Warner and former Administrator Bryan Kirk.

Ms Pilon, an avid horsewoman and gardener, who grew up in rural Alberta, said she is looking forward to returning to her farming roots with this move. "I feel grounded in a small community and am looking forward to returning to one." Pilon lists the advantages of small-town living as enjoying "a rich history, a sense of community, and knowing your neighbour... Pemberton offers all the benefits of living in a small rural village, while also having a dynamic environment in which to live and work."

Pilon has worked extensively with First Nations communities in her career, particularly through her involvement with the Skeetchestn Indian Band and Secwepemc

Cultural Education Society. "Pemberton's relationship with the Lil'wat Nation, and the opportunity to work more closely with the band on joint initiatives is also an attraction for me," she said.

Pilon will continue to commute from her Kamloops ranch, with her partner, and her dog Chance. "Now it's only a two hour drive!" she said.

"We look forward to working with Lori throughout our term," said Mayor Jordan Sturdy.

"We are pleased that this process has gone smoothly and that we have found someone so qualified, considering the demand across BC right now for CAOs."

With Lori Pilon's arrival, the Village bids farewell to interim Administrator, Tanalee Hesse, who has played an integral role in keeping the Village running during the interim period, overseeing the day to day operations of a new Council, and smoothing the transition between Administrators. Ms Hesse, who consulted with the Resort Municipality of Whistler prior to her work in Pemberton will enjoy a well-deserved break.

