

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Seymour Arm Community Association web site. We are proud to introduce this electronic media to our members and viewers. This will help to improve communications immeasurably by allowing all pertinent information about our community and community association be placed on the web for all to view

It is a privilege to work with an executive of enthusiastic, talented and dedicated people who work endless hours on their various tasks from doing the necessary housekeeping tasks to working on the various new initiatives. I applaud their efforts.

Seymour Arm is a small remote community located along the north shoreline of the Shuswap Lake nestled at the top of the Seymour Arm surrounded by the Monashee Mountains. The community can be reached by boat or a logging road from St. Ives. Access is also available on a forestry road from Malakwa on the North Fork on the east side of the Shuswap Lake. This access is only available in the summer as high mountain passes are impassable during the winter season

It is an independent community proud of its lifestyle and places a high value on the environment. Warm summer temperatures, ample sunshine and beautiful beaches make Seymour Arm a recreation and vacation paradise. Tourism is the main economic activity with campgrounds at Silver Beach and Albas to accommodate either the camping or RV enthusiasts. Seymour Arm is also a houseboat destination.

Mild winters with ample snowfalls in the mountains make it a paradise for outside activities such as snowmobiling, snowshoeing or cross country skiing. Winter provides some of the finest snowmobiling in B.C. with trips to Grace, Crowfoot or glaciers in the Monashee Mountains.

History of the community goes back to the gold rush days of 1866 to 1867 when 500 people made this their home with numerous stores and businesses to support the gold rush. The gold rush died in 1867 and the community was nearly destroyed by fire in the late 1860s.

The community came back to life in early 1900s when fruit and vegetable farms were established. Heavy black frost killed most of the fruit trees in the 1930s. Today we see a resurgence of activity and development in Seymour Arm as people come again to settle and enjoy the pleasant atmosphere of an isolated community surrounded by the beauty of nature. Seymour Arm is graced with Long Ridge Mountain, an outstanding landmark to the east

The community has a quaint atmosphere where the basics of life are employed. Power is supplied by generators, solar, battery or pelton wheels as there is no grid power to the community. Water to most of the community is supplied by streams or creeks that originate on Long Ridge. Potable water is available from the centrally located Purification Plant which is adjacent to the wharf. A floating store is located in Bughouse

Bay which supplies fuel and groceries to the community. Roads to the community are unpaved and access to and from the community can be an experience and challenging at times

The community is close knit which is supported by the need for people to visit one another as telephone service is sporadic and unreliable at times. A Go Tell Tree is utilized to warn people in the event of a problem or an emergency

Populations can vary from as few as 60 people during the winter to more than 1,000 people in the summer. Most residences are vacation homes and cabins though more recently a building boom has occurred and a number of upscale dwellings have been built.

People come here to enjoy nature at its finest. Fishing is abundant in the area, either on the Shuswap Lake or numerous smaller lakes in the vicinity.

Hunting for big game is plentiful in the wilderness areas surrounding Seymour Arm. The scenery in the area is phenomenal with glaciers, waterfalls, mountain with alpine meadows and wildlife such as martin, fisher, beaver, bobcats, lynx, mountain lions, wolves, deer, coyotes and moose. In the winter time when the snows get deep at higher elevations we will see moose in town, sometimes so used to humans they will not even move off the road until you gently nudge them with your vehicle to get them to move to the side so one can go by.

The community hosts a number of organizations such as Ladies of the Lake, Potluck Players, Aging With Ease, Snowmobile Club and it also hosts a New Year's Eve Dance and numerous activities between Christmas and New Years including snowmobile rally, Chili cook-off, snow sculpting and tobogganing

The community hosts the Summer Sizzler, a ball tournament on the August long weekend. Activities include baseball, volleyball, triathlon, kids' games, horseshoes, concessions which include breakfast, lunch and beer gardens. This event rounds out a very busy 3 day weekend. This is a fun time for families and children.

A Fall Fair is sponsored by the Ladies of the Lake on the second weekend of September. Categories are set up for a variety of entries ranging from locally grown fruit and vegetables to a number of craft categories. The fair is followed by a pot luck supper.

The Seymour Arm community association owns its facility and sits on the land that was donated to the SACA by the Daniels family who homesteaded in the community. The hall was built in 1971 to serve as a hall for the community, later used as a school and then when school enrollment declined it was again returned to be used as a community hall. The hall is now in need of repair and plans for a major renovation are underway. The renovation will include an overall upgrade to the building to improve heating efficiencies and an addition to allow for an improved library, kitchen and wheelchair access to bathrooms on the main floor.

Our community association is in sound financial health as we do not have any debts, but being a small community we have to work very hard at raising enough money each year to operate our facilities and the various functions that it supports. We have applied for various grants and are waiting on response to the last proposal before we proceed with the hall renovation.

We have completed rebuilding of the community wharf with a new structure that was funded by Transport Canada. We came in under budget and within the time allotted.

Community spirit abounds in the community as you will see people helping one another whether it is to help someone get their winter's supply of wood or it may be a group of people helping someone getting a roof on their home. We have excellent turnouts for community events and public meetings.

A unique curiosity to the community is a lighted Christmas tree on the 1100 road in the middle of nowhere. When you travel to the community at night during the winter, it always comes as a lift to see the lighted Christmas tree at 5.5 kilometers. Now you know you are only 4 kilometers from home.

Mail delivery is two times per week and it comes by boat and in the winter time it may sometimes come by hovercraft. The mail boxes are lined up at the wharf and on mail days it becomes the meeting place for residents to visit.

Welcome to the unique and friendly community of Seymour Arm.

Sincerely,

John Castle
President