



Edelweiss Maintenance Commission

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Summer 2016 Newsletter

General Manager's Message from Dick Volckmann

The Big News This Summer - was the opening of the new swimming pool on July 1st. We scurried around a bit prior to the opening date, finishing the fence, balancing the water chemistry, and making sure all the mechanical features were functioning properly. However, luckily, we were able to provide access to Edelweiss swimmers for the majority of the summer.

The facility has been well received, with many expressions of appreciation for the shape, the size and the general improvement in the ambiance of the pool area. Although the old buildings remain, we hope that we will have the ability to upgrade the bathrooms and covered sitting area someday in the somewhat distant future. For now, we'll let the pool be the main attraction. Thanks are due to everyone in Edelweiss whose contributions made the new pool possible. It's a great example of what can be done when the community pulls together.

There are a few caveats that go along with the use of the pool. When the Board of Directors was discussing the design phase, it was decided that there would be no lighting added during the construction. The reasoning was that, 1- added lighting would increase the cost considerably, 2- the Board wanted to discourage the possibility of after-dark parties, which would have a deleterious effect on the peace and quiet of nearby homes, and, 3- the Board did not want to accept the increased liability of after-dark use of the pool. This is actually in line with the ongoing Edelweiss provision, which has always prohibited pool use after dark. As a result, there is no lighting in the pool. In addition, because there is no pool lighting, State regulations limit the use of the facility to daylight hours. So, once the sun goes down, please leave the pool area. Your neighbors will thank you!

Driving - The speed limit throughout the community is, has been, and always will be, 15 miles per hour. Driving faster than that has a negative effect on our roads, produces significant wash boarding, clouds of dust, and can be downright dangerous to children and pets.

There seems to be an unfortunate uptick, lately, in the number of people speeding through Edelweiss. I've been approached by several residents asking me what can be done about the speeders. The only thing we can do is appeal to everyone to be aware of how they are driving. Sadly, this has little effect on some drivers who simply do not care what they leave in their wake. Even I was forced to the side of the road recently by a speeding driver.

All Edelweiss property owners should already be aware of the speed restrictions. However, there may be folks in the community who are renting on a long-term basis and are not well informed about Edelweiss rules. If someone is renting your property on a monthly, or more, basis, please let them know that speeding cannot be tolerated in our community.

The words are – **Please, Slow Down!**

Roads - We are moving ahead with solving some our road issues. If you recall, during the spring runoff, Cassal Creek completely overwhelmed the culvert under Highland Meadow Road, sending a flood of water down the road and creating some impressive canyons in the road surface.

The road has been largely repaired by Craig and Bela, (the Russian tractor.) And during this past week, Palm construction replaced the 15 inch culvert with one 36 inches in diameter. It was a dicey excavation, because the crew had to be aware of a water line, a sewer line and a telephone line, all somewhere down in the deep excavation needed for the larger culvert. Luck prevailed, and nothing was broken or disturbed. The new culvert should obviate any future overflow of Cassal Creek.

The other major project – the repaving of Highland Road at the entrance - is scheduled to begin sometime in the next few weeks. The first phase has begun - widening of the exit road onto Goat Creek Road, and the widening of the upper part of the paved area at the curve on Homestead Road. These widening projects have increased the sight lines, both at the entrance, as you drive out of Edelweiss, and at the semi-blind curve on Homestead. Once the wider portion on Homestead is paved, it will be easier, and safer, for two cars to pass each other at the curve..

When the paving phase begins, we will attempt to make sure that one lane is done at a time so that automobiles will be able to use Highland and Homestead during the work.

Approaches to National Forest – Lately we’ve witnessed a large number of non-resident folks, their vehicles loaded with bikes, on their way through Edelweiss to the bike paths in the National Forest. This increased traffic creates an unwelcome added stress on our roads – particularly Highland Road.

We are actively attempting to discourage the use of Edelweiss roads as a means to reach the National Forest. We have informed the bike rental shops of the fact that Edelweiss is off-limits to mountain biker traffic. In addition, we have ordered some signs that are explicit in stating the Edelweiss does not permit vehicle access to the National Forest on our roads. Signs won’t stop everyone, but at least we’ll be able to say to someone, “Didn’t you see the sign?”

Nightly Rentals – The attorney for Edelweiss has opined that our CC&Rs define Edelweiss as strictly ‘residential’. This means that nightly rentals are prohibited in Edelweiss. In the past, nightly rental status was somehow granted to certain properties, despite the fact that that status was in opposition to the regulations of Okanogan County. In addition, the Okanogan County Commissioners ruled recently that no nightly rentals shall be permitted in the upper Methow Valley (including Mazama and environs) unless they are part of a planned community specifically set up for overnight rentals – which Edelweiss is not.

The Edelweiss Board has ruled that all nightly rentals in Edelweiss that are ‘grandfathered’ can remain so, with the stipulation that once the property is sold, the nightly rental permission will be rescinded.

Finally, the Director of the Office of Planning and Development for Okanogan County has ruled that all nightly rentals in the upper Methow Valley will need to desist by the year 2021.

Fire Season: Here is our annual reminder that every summer brings the threat of fire in the valley. For most of this summer we have been blessed with relatively cool temperatures and several good periods of rain. However, we’ve been in a hot dry spell for the past few days and it’s likely to continue for several more. Please, don’t let your guard down and be aware that the smallest spark can set off an inferno, so be especially careful for the rest of the summer. The outdoor burn-ban ordered by Okanogan County is still in effect and is expected to remain so until the end of September. Note the ‘No Open Fires’ signs that have been placed at the entrances to the community.

Water Issues: The final batch of water meters have been installed, some with new vaults as well. So, with these installations, Edelweiss is now in compliance with the Department of Health requirement that all water services should be metered by the end of 2016. We will begin reading the meters soon, but only as a way to determine the status of our water efficiency, not as a way of determining individual water use for billing. The Board of directors will begin assessing the advantages of meter reading for billing in the future.

Bears - Several residents have seen the critters crossing the roads, crashing through the bushes and leaving bear-piles scattered around on the roads. They don’t even have the decency to bag up their leavings! So, folks, it’s time to make sure your garbage and bird feeders are not available to *garbageous tipoverous*. Lets keep the omniverous ursidae safe by not encouraging them to hang around looking for a free meal of leftovers, or at least a mouthful of bird seed. Remember, a fed bear ... shouldn’t be!

Little roadside bags – And speaking of bagging up leavings, occasionally we’ve encountered little bags on the roadsides, containing the results of doggies having done their business. Perhaps the dogs’ owners are expecting that ‘maintenance’ will remove the bags. Well, it ain’t gonna happen! Although, we applaud the tidiness of those dog owners who pick up after little Cuddles, our job descriptions don’t include picking up after the owners. So we’d appreciate it if you would kindly take the little roadside bags along with you and dispose of them properly. Maintenance thanks you!

That’s all for now. Wishing you all a great rest-of-the-summer. Come enjoy the pool while it’s open. Maybe I’ll see you there!

Dick Volckmann