

Town seeks Public Input on Lake Dredging Project

June 24, 2011– *For immediate release*

Chestermere, AB – As the weather warms, Chestermere comes alive with residents and visitors enjoying the Lake. Unfortunately, with the warmer weather also comes an increase in lake weed growth. While this has been an ongoing issue for some time, Council has now decided to explore some new options.

“The Lake is a central feature of our community and we want to keep it looking great” said Mayor Patricia Matthews. “While weed harvesting helps control the weeds, it is only a temporary solution. So this year, Council is exploring a longer term answer: dredging the lake.”

As Chestermere is part of the Bow River water system, the Town is limited in its ability to use chemicals or fish species to control the weeds so Council has decided to explore dredging. Dredging is a process that would deepen the lake by scraping off the bottom of the lake bed.

The idea behind dredging is that by deepening the lake, sunlight won't be able to reach the weed roots and the weeds won't grow as much. At this point, Council has received proposals from several companies who are offering to do the work. Timelines range from several months to three years and costs vary from 10 Million to 30 Million dollars. However, Council is seeking the public's opinion prior to considering a contract.

“There are many factors to consider before moving forward” said Mayor Matthews, “and Council would like the support of the community before pursuing such an extensive project.”

The Town is inviting every household to offer an opinion on lake dredging over the summer months by participating in a survey. The survey contains some background information on the project and a question about whether or not the Town should pursue the project.

Between July 1 and August 31, Residents can download the survey at www.chestermere.ca and mail it to msmienk@chestermere.ca, fax it to 403-207-7080, mail it to 105 Marina Road, Chestermere, AB T1X 1V7, come in to Town Hall to complete it or complete it online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DredgingSurvey>

-30-

The Town of Chestermere is a distinctive recreational lake community in Southern Alberta committed to being a safe, family oriented, and sustainable municipality.

For more information, contact

Megan Smienk
Communications & Legislative Coordinator
403-207-7036/msmienk@chestermere.ca