

NEWS RELEASE

TOWN OF SYLVAN LAKE PASSES TOURISM HOME BYLAW

BYLAW ENSURES QUALITY FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sylvan Lake, October 4, 2005: Having heard from both residents and tourism home operators, The Town of Sylvan Lake, at its regular Council meeting of September 26, 2005, passed a bylaw designed to ensure a standard of quality for visitors renting private accommodations in the community, while ensuring that neighboring homes are not adversely affected by the operation of tourism homes.

The bylaw, Tourism Home Bylaw #1359/2005, amends the Land Use Bylaw to permit Tourist Homes in the community. Town of Sylvan Lake Development Officer Al Gamble says, "We recognize the importance of tourism in Sylvan Lake and as such we're committed to providing for weekly rental accommodations in our community in accordance to an approved set of guidelines."

Addressing concerns from community residents including parking, noise complaints, and overcrowding, the bylaw calls for the tourism home operator to provide adequate parking for guests and sets maximum occupation levels. The bylaw also requires operators to provide a local contact to assist in enforcement issues.

The bylaw requires tourism home operators to apply for a development permit biennially, allowing for input from neighboring properties in the approval process. Additionally, business licenses must now be purchased annually.

"This is certainly not intended to be a source of revenue for the Town" Gamble says, "but rather a means to ensure for regulation of tourism homes so that both the visitor and neighbors receive adequate accommodation and a quiet neighborhood."

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TOWN OF SYLVAN LAKE
A Town For All Seasons

NEWS RELEASE CONT'D

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The Town of Sylvan Lake is located 18 km west of Highway 2 in Central Alberta and is home to more than 1.5 million visitors annually. Recognized as one of Canada's fastest growing communities, the Town of Sylvan Lake provides its residents and visitors with a unique quality of life not found elsewhere, with its clean environment, strategic business location advantages, and strong community involvement.

For more information, contact:

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