



MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 24, 2018

Effective October 1, 2018, the Tawatinaw Valley (Pine Valley Resort) Ski Facility will be closed permanently as a municipal recreation facility.

Westlock County Council voted on July 24, 2018 to close the ski facility permanently, effective October 1, 2018. This was a decision not reached lightly and not without heavy hearts.

The facility, built in 1967 as a centennial project, has served several generations of families in and around the community. Today, the facility is aging and in a fairly short term requires well over a one and one half million dollars in upgrades and replacements to ski-lift infrastructure, snow making facilities and other equipment, as well as an ongoing commitment of several hundred thousand dollars each year in operating costs.

An open Request for Proposals (RFP) invitation by the County earlier this year to operate and/or purchase the facility as is, generated two proposals for operating the facility, both of which left the obligation for facility upgrades as the responsibility of the County, along with considerable annual operating costs.

Given the many fiscal challenges of funding core infrastructure and services in the County, the current local property tax levels, the costs required to update and operate the ski facility, and the results of the October 2017 plebiscite on the ski facility (54.3% of ballots cast in favour of selling the facility), County Council made the difficult decision today to close this recreation facility.

County staff have been tasked by Council to research possible options for the future of the property and the chalet, including but not limited to: moving and re-purposing the chalet building; core testing the lands for potential aggregate source and supply; sale by auction, or other means, of the lands and facilities. Once further information is gathered Council will hold an informational Open House on the possible options for moving forward.

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