

## Candidate Bio – Paul Ashford



Hi, I'm Paul Ashford and I'm excited to be running for re-election for the Summer Village of White Sands Council this summer. I live in Calgary, and I've been so fortunate to have owned a second home in White Sands for the past 23 years with my wife Julie and my three daughters. I call White Sands and the lake my "happy place", and I'd love nothing more than to see the village hold on to its natural charm and connected community, even as White Sands evolves and the surrounding areas grow over the coming decades.

I've learned so much in my first year on Council, and I intend to build on that experience to help White Sands remain a vibrant and desirable family community, long into the future. Mayor Lorne has been a dedicated mentor to me and the other new Councillor, and we've all worked together effectively as a team with administration to improve communication and resolve challenges. One of the issues we identified was ambiguity in several of the existing policies and bylaws, with the result that administration did not have clear guidelines for their operations and residents were experiencing frustrations. We've updated, clarified, and enhanced many policies including snow removal, beach-gate access and shoreline protection. We have implemented the golf cart pilot bylaw and updated the traffic and OHV bylaw, which were key mandates communicated from the community. Opening the Front Street office has been important for providing improved services to residents and improving communication between residents, administration, maintenance staff, and council. It has been exciting to see the passion and dedication towards improving our village shown by residents, council members, and village staff!

If honoured to be elected to continue representing residents of White Sands, my priorities, along with our new team, will shift focus towards longer term projects, including renewal of our Summer Village lease agreements with the Alberta government, lake stabilization and access, enhanced nature trails and recreational amenities as identified in the recent recreation committee survey, and advocating for managed and controlled regional development. Along with this will be ongoing diligence in managing the spending and expenditures for the village and within the various authorities and commissions that our tax dollars support. I will continue to be a voice for White Sands residents, receptive to the diversity of vision and direction communicated from the community.

A bit about me: My love of the White Sands community is rooted in its rural charm within a quiet and beautiful natural setting, on the edge of the best lake in Alberta. It brings me back to my childhood, where my early memories are of boating on Georgian Bay in Ontario, on the wooden cabin cruiser that my father built over four years while I was a toddler. I was instilled with a love of nature, adventure, challenge, hard work, and practical solutions to problems. Those values led me to an education in Geotechnical Engineering at UBC, where I learned that love of nature, environmental stewardship, fiscal accountability, and managed growth are all mutually achievable.

My career is in the oil and gas industry, specializing on the operational engineering side of the business with a more recent focus on greenhouse gas emissions management. I've added value through optimizing production and costs, reducing emissions, and championing value-adding opportunities. I have a hands-on approach with an attention to detail, and I've built a reputation for identifying opportunities and solving problems through effectively analyzing and then finding the solution that fits together all the puzzle pieces to find the best answer that stands up to validation and scrutiny. This approach has been effective at work, around the house and cabin, and on Council

I've been exposed to a broad variety of technical, leadership, and managerial roles through my career, with assignments in head office, field, and international locations. I have had success bringing people together, building strong relationships with effective communication among field and office staff, executives, stakeholders, and regulators. My deep engineering, business, and managerial experience adds a level of bench strength to the White Sands Council to ensure that the best short- and long-term decisions are made for the many complex issues facing our community.

I am excited and optimistic to see that several capable candidates have stepped forward to run in the 2025. I will be honoured if I am re-elected to Council this fall, and I will continue to faithfully represent the interests of the White Sands community through the coming years.

*Paul Ashford*