

## **The McKellar Plan**

Dec. 21, 2010

The following is a compilation of ideas, issues and concerns from a wide array of individuals, council, committees, organizations which attempt to address transparency, municipal, and regional concerns. Over the next few months, through a variety of community advisory committees, existing committees, organizations and staff, we hope to gather valuable input in order to prepare a longer term plan which will enhance the quality of life in McKellar in the future.

We asked Council and the public for their immediate input on issues by Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010. There were many submissions. Hopefully we can prepare a short term plan at the December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Council meeting that will entail some immediate action items by resolution; the formation of a few community action groups, and some discussion on other suggestions that may need more input and cost analysis. The intention is to utilize interested community members in the identification of specific issues and to make recommendations back to Council before Apr 1, 2011. We will also be utilizing the expertise of staff to review various specific issues regarding finances and staffing. Finally, we have excellent current committees and organizations that will continue to work hard developing their plans of action.

Based on the recommendations of the various committees and financial considerations, Council will draft a longer term plan which will attempt to address the major issues and be in tune with the new budget. Then, an open forum TOWN HALL meeting will be held in the spring for community comment. Revisions, where necessary, will be made and then Council can approve the Plan and begin implementing it as we start the new fiscal year.

It should be realised that not all recommendations can be implemented due to cost, By-laws, timing, and merit.

We will monitor the Plan on an annual basis and take corrective action as deemed necessary.

**Major Issues for McKellar:**

1. Official Plan Issues
2. Road Issues
3. Financial, Fiscal, and Staffing Issues
4. Economic Development Issues
5. Transparency Issues
6. Facilities, Programs, and Services Issues
7. Sense of Community Issues
8. Project issues
9. Regional Issues
10. Water Quality Issues
11. Other issues for consideration

**1. OFFICIAL PLAN ISSUES:**

- Final approval by OMB of OPA 7 and then repeal the Interim Control By-Law #
- Prep new council regarding the Appeal and process to OMB - 6 months
- Meet with the Planner, Environmental Consultant, and Lawyer
- Hold any interim discussions and negotiations
- Add your own
- ACTION: All Council

## **2. ROAD ISSUES:**

- Establish a Roads Community Advisory Committee
- Review existing road report
- Listen to all parties
- Listen to staff
- Identify all road issues
- Develop a short term action plan for Council while recommending some long term solutions
- Add your own

ACTION: FORM A ROADS COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE,  
CHAired BY JIM MCCOLL

### **3. FINANCIAL, FISCAL, AND STAFFING ISSUES:**

- To review all financial and staffing issues
  - To review banking systems for economies
  - To review current staff salaries and positions
  - To review Council salaries within WPS and surrounding communities of similar size, tax base and the like in order to attract energetic community minded people to get involved
  - To look at ways of replenishing reserves
  - To identify and explore all possible granting agencies
  - Develop a list of major Capital items
  - To explore all alternate ways of raising funds like Endowment Funds, Gifts In Kind donations, and special project funding
  - Explore the best ways to develop and access these grants and funds
  - Explore economies with other municipalities
  - Explore economies of electronic communication systems
  - Investigate "best practices" of similar size municipalities
  - Look at better ways to explain and display the budget
- ACTION; CLERK TO WORK WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF STAFF, TED STROUD, OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL , SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES, AUDITOR, AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

#### **4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:**

- Continue the excellent efforts of the Economic Development Committee
- Continue to review the 2004 ED Plan and Report
- Support current successful projects
- Explore new initiatives that make McKellar a year around destination
- Look at incorporating environmental and agricultural committees as part of EDC
- New intern shared with Historical Committee
- Develop a long term plan that will attempt to enhance the tax base, create local employment, encourages new businesses and development while preserving our natural environment and the quality of the lakes.
- Support existing businesses
- Add your own

**ACTION: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

## **5. TRANSPARENCY ISSUES:**

- Develop a Transparency Community Advisory Committee
- Look at a wide variety of ways to make Council more transparent such as: Revising the web site, redoing the handbook, various ways to receive suggestions, posting of agenda on bulletin boards, visitor sign ins, exploring electronic communication systems
- Ways of welcoming people
- Explore Q and A session at Council - strict rules, time
- Recommend changes to the By Law # 2009-24 and amended #2000-20
- Regular newsletter – 2-4 times a year -First to be Mar 2011 - see TB example
- A time to meet informally with the Reeve
- Welcome sign at entrance to office
- Keep large Bulletin Board up to date / explore electronic Board at entrance
- More explanation re budget items in minutes
- Work at having efficient and effective Council meetings
- Review Council operations By Laws
- Explore utilizing electronic aids during meetings
- Written reports and depositions before Council meets
- Add your own

**ACTION: CREATE A COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPARENCY** chaired by Tamara Black

## **6. FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICE ISSUES:**

- Create a Facilities, Program and Services Community Advisory Committee
- To identify programs that meet the needs and interests of the community, especially the youth
- Document all users groups
- Develop a list of volunteers to assist with organizing recreational programs and ways of recruiting volunteers
- Approach community organizations for volunteers
- Look at the usages and convertibility of the McKellar Multi-Purpose Recreation Complex
- Look at uses of the new Youth room
- Ways to make the community centre " the centre of the community"
- Look at ways of reducing vandalism and improving security and safety
- Review rental costs and from other communities
- Look at ways of generating cost recovery income
- Add your own

**ACTION: CREATE A COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGARDING FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, CHAIRED BY Peter Hopkins**

## **7. SENSE OF COMMUNITY ISSUES:**

- Develop ideas to enhance and build a sense of community; for example
  - Involve more people on committees
  - Create a Vision for McKellar statement - open competition
  - Honour individuals and groups for outstanding achievement
  - Regular community newsletters including positive happenings in McKellar
  - Celebrate special COMMUNITY EVENTS – Fall Fair, Fishing Derby
  - Appreciate all volunteers
  - Develop a plan to celebrate the opening of the new facilities
  - Involve all areas of the township
  - Hold a clean-up McKellar Day on Earth Day April 22
  - Hold a children’s fishing day on Provincial fishing day
  - Create a welcoming package for new residents
  - Add your own

**ACTION: FORM A COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP WAYS TO ENHANCE SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND PLAN THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW FACILITIES AS A “ CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY IN MCKELLAR” IN THE SPRING chaired by Jury Naklowich**

## **8. PROJECT ISSUES:**

-Complete the following projects:

-Wilderness Trail – finish overall trail plan, parking, investigate nature signage, use of volunteers for maintenance especially interested youth

-Community Centre – Heritage Room, Youth Room, paving, shelving, fridge

-McKellar Multi-Purpose Recreation Complex – convertibility to multi use

-Boardwalk – check safety – slippery - complete to Minerva Bridge or Beach

-Investigate cost of a regular sidewalk

-Bridge to Minerva Park - revisit costs

-Complete Bridge – Roadway on Centre Road

ACTION: STAFF AND COUNCIL

## **9. WPS REGIONAL ISSUES:**

- Need to collaborate and cooperate on projects and services that are affordable and improve the quality of life in McKellar
- Need to be at the table to bring forth issues, have a voice, discuss and resolve issues for the common good and for Council's approval
- Be involved with Regional committees and some new representation on shared committees
- Explore other WPS committees that complement us
- Have representation on REDAC
- Look at efficiencies on cooperative projects, services, grants
- Need to develop a regional funding formula for collaborative WPS projects
- Solicit community input regarding major WPS projects to ensure necessary participation and utilization such as the proposed plan for a full service YMCA and Aquatic Complex
- Explore a rotational system for Committee representation on shared Municipal committees
- Add your own

ACTION: ALL COUNCIL

## **10. WATER QUALITY AND WATER SAFETY ISSUES:**

- Numerous mentions were made regarding the quality of the water in our lakes
- Support current Lake Stewardship initiatives from FOCA, MLCA, MCA and the Georgian Bay Biosphere group
- Increase water testing in all lakes
- Review the need for a By-Law officer
- OMB APPROVAL OF OPA 7
- Have various Lake Associations collaborate on water issues
- Explore sewage/septic system issues
- Water craft issues and regulations
- Safe beaches
- Protecting and increasing the fish population
- Water levels
- Crowdedness
- Large rental units

ACTION: ALL WORK WITH EXISTING LAKE ASSOCIATIONS AND MCA TO ENSURE THE QUALITY OF OUR WATER

## **11. OTHER ISSUES:**

- Look at reducing the number summer council meetings to one per month in May through Sept. Special meetings called as needed
- Investigate the cost and feasibility of solar lights for mail boxes
- Review titles
- Hold Remembrance Day on Nov 11
- Review By-Law regarding property standards
- Decorum in Council

## **Section B - Implementation**

CREATE FOUR NEW SHORT TERM COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR ROADS ISSUES; TRANSPARENCY ISSUES; FACILITIES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ISSUES; ONE TO DEAL WITH THE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY, AND ONE TO PLAN THE OFFICIAL OPENING AND CELEBRATION OF THE NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE FACILITIES

### **Basic Concepts:**

- Involve interested expertise from the community
- 1 council member to chair each advisory COMMITTEE
- 4-7 community members per committee with wide representation
- Hold 4-7 meetings beginning in January and be completed by Apr 1
- Make short term and long term recommendations to Council to add to the Long Range Plan by April 1 with any financial considerations
- Develop a list of relevant issues, read all previous reports, look at other communities
- Listen to all parties, ages, groups, staff
- Add your own

OTHER ISSUES WILL BE DEALT WITH BY COUNCIL, STAFF, AND EXISTING COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS.

Although this interim draft plan entails a lot of ideas and suggestions, it should clearly understood that not everything will be approved and implemented by Councils due to cost, time, and appropriateness.