

## MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT – JANUARY 6, 2020 (Revised Dec 19)

### 2019 Overview:

It is always a pleasure putting an annual report together to reflect on what our new Council and staff haven't been busy doing in 2019: what we have accomplished; what is still under review; and what can we look forward to in 2020 and beyond. Your new Council has been very busy overhauling many of our By-laws, over 20 so far – improving the efficiency of our Council meetings and developing a community-based Action Plan so we all know where we are going in the next four years. We have investigated numerous major issues that were brought to our attention by you. In short, it has been a very active, positive, supportive, and collective effort of Council, staff and the community.

### A. Accomplishments: Year 1 Highlights

Our Action Plan: Our four year Action Plan was developed through a series of public meetings that generated over 500 ideas which were prioritized into over 80 actions moving forward over the next four years. We agreed on a Vision, Mission Set of Values and Objectives to guide us forward for the betterment of McKellar.

Our Vision: “Preserving the past, meeting the needs of today while planning for a sustainable future”.

Budget: Our 2018 budget was again in the black with a surplus and our 2019 financial position is expected to be similar.

By-Laws: We have revised many by-laws – too many to mention and have also retained an Integrity Commissioner.

Area Involvement: Our Council continues to work with our neighbours and be at the table with organizations and committees on matters that may affect McKellar: Planning Board, Chamber of Commerce, Heads, CiiNO, Belvedere, WPSHC, Housing and GBBR. All seven municipalities plus two first nations are meeting to create an affordable proposal for a WPS Wellness and Pool Committee which meets our needs.

New Adhoc Committees: We have created three new Adhoc Committees – Road Services, Lake Stewardship and the Environment, and Business, Economic & Tourism Committees to address immediate concerns raised by you. The committees were quickly filled with citizens who have been enthusiastically meeting monthly to investigate the issues and bring evidence-based recommendations to Council in 2020. All meetings are public and the minutes are posted on our website.

Title Change: The Head of Council's title has changed from Reeve to Mayor.

Capital Projects: A five year capital projects plan was developed.

Roads Plan: A five year roads plan was approved.

Church Renovations: A tender has been approved to begin restoring our two historic churches – Hemlock and St. Stephens.

Transparency and Openness: An electronic newsletter was sent out last February, have held many open special and public meetings, made Mayor's reports to the public in December and the MLCA in July; and lots of citizen based committees and delegations.

Grant Applications: Prepared grant applications for a new historic walking bridge in Minerva Park, widening of the Hurdville Bridge, and a new intern. The Hurdville application was rejected.

Ongoing Capital Projects: A long list of capital projects has been developed from staff, the Action Plan and citizen input, in order to be shovel ready when grants become available.

New Staff: Welcomed our new Treasurer – Karen Gerrard, who has been busy revamping and improving many of our budgeting and financial processes; and implemented RBC online banking procedures.

Amalgamation: Council passed an anti-amalgamation resolution that was well received by many small rural municipalities and approved by our District Municipal Association.

Student Bursaries: Increased our High School Bursary to graduating students from McKellar. Lily Harrison was awarded \$500.00 to continue her education in 2019.

Celebrations: Fire Chief, Ed Bier, received a provincial award for 30 years of service. Greg Gostick, our Public Works Superintendent, received his manager's supervision certificate. Joyce Hopkins was named Ontario Provincial Senior Volunteer of the year for McKellar.

Economic Development: Expressions of interest were received for a new McKellar Wool Mill, a McKellar Events Barn, a new Bed and Breakfast, and a major rejuvenation plan for the Ridge at Manitou.

Fire Department: A new fire truck has been ordered and should be arriving soon.

New M.P.: Welcomed our new M.P. – Scott Aitchison – and wished him well in Ottawa.

Municipal Beautifications: New LED lighting was installed in the Community Centre, Office, Public Works and Arena, improved signage – new directional signs were posted at key intersections, new blinds for the Community Centre, repaired the men's washroom, opened our Butterfly Park and opened our kiosk at the Pavilion in Minerva Park.

Accessibility: Improved accessibility in Council Chambers with the installation of new speakers and microphones; and a sound and video system that allows for remote teleconferencing.

Council Committees: Our on-going committees – Historical, Recreation and Library have been very active, organizing many, many events for our community. Far too many to mention, although Pickle Ball have proven so popular that a second time has been added – Fridays starting in January. Please refer to their links on our website, community calendar and electronic sign.

New Library Staff: Our new Library staff has been very busy organizing many events to attract new users. Please welcome – Terri Short, Lynne Campbell and Debbie McMurray. A special retirement event was held for Joan Ward, our founding and longstanding Head Librarian.

Community Organizations: We are very fortunate in McKellar to have many outstanding community clubs and organizations that organize many, many special events throughout the year and who add significantly to our quality of community life.

Water Testing: Would like to thank the Ridge, MLCA and the Health Unit for their due diligence in their on-going testing of the water quality of our lakes.

Pioneer College: Thanks to Wave Weir for bringing back numerous McKellar Pioneer College workshops.

McKellar Market: A special thanks to Jan Gibson for creating a positive and very successful market.

Please refer to our website for more information on our plans, events, committees and projects; or ask anyone on staff or Council.

**B. What is Still Being Reviewed:**

- i) Adhoc Committees will be holding public meetings and making future recommendations to Council. Two committees – Business and Economic are still developing their actions for public review before going to Council before May 1<sup>st</sup>. Roads resolutions are under review by the Roads Committee of Council.
- ii) Our Zoning By-law is being reviewed, and a future public meeting date will be announced.
- iii) Our Property Standards By-law was deferred due to public demand and a simpler version is to be drafted for Council's consideration.
- iv) WPS Wellness and Pool Committees are getting organized and meeting with consultants as to location, costs and nature of the new facility and future public meetings. Councillor Haskim is our representative. Updates will be posted on our website.
- v) The Provincial Government wants local municipalities to find individual and area efficiencies in their operations, as downloading of some costs will be coming in 2020 and beyond.
- vi) Council will be making recommendations to improve our Transfer Station and ways to improve our recycling processes.
- vii) Council will be looking at various property rental issues.
- viii) More By-laws will be reviewed over the course of the year.

**C. Moving Forward:**

- i) Final reports and recommendations by our Adhoc Committees on Roads, the Environment and Business Development before May 1, 2020.
- ii) A new salary-based remuneration system for Council begins in January 2020.

- iii) A new business directory will be mailed to everyone in March 2020.
- iv) An electronic newsletter will be available on the municipal website mid-February.
- v) Final approval of our new Zoning By-law.
- vi) A simpler Property Standards – Clean Yards By-law to be developed.
- vii) Public meetings on the WPS Wellness and Pool project will be held.
- viii) 2019 Public Works projects will include: a new surface treatment Broadbent Road to Dickenson Road, new surface treatment on Camp and Inn Roads, new surface treatment on Balsam Road to the Cemetery and slurry seal for Burnett's Road.
- ix) Introduction of a "paperless" Council meeting January 6, 2020.
- x) A new and improved McKellar website is being developed.
- xi) Smart Co. will be announcing an exciting update on improving high speed internet in the area.
- xii) Intend to hire new intern to help with research, special events and projects.
- xiii) A new "Welcome to McKellar" package for new residents is being developed.
- xiv) A new integrated phone system will be reviewed.
- xv) Intend to purchase new and improved software for financial records, as well as a new server.
- xvi) To finalize the prioritization of Capital projects for future grants.
- xvii) Intend to develop a realistic and balanced budget considering efficiencies and provincial downloads.
- xviii) Will continue to acquire land for commercial development.
- xvix) Continuation of our excellent McKellar Market and Pioneer School educational workshops..
- xx) Continue with several beautification projects – tourism and business signs, safe boating signs, corrected road and lake signage.
- xxi) Will be celebrating our many excellent volunteers.
- xxii) Various departments will be making annual reports to Council.
- xxiii) Four groups will share the recycling of "bottles and cans" at the Transfer Station of a monthly basis.
- xxiv) Investigating sharing a Planner to assist McKellar clients through the planning process.

- xxv) Highway 124 is expected to be widened from Parry Sound to McKellar in 2021/2022.  
xxvi) We will be celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> – sesqui-centennial birthday in 2023.

#### **D. Summary**

It has been a very busy and active 2019. With your support many positive things have been accomplished with more to come.

Thank you is never enough.

None of this would have happened without your input, involvement and support. Whether you attend meetings, give depositions, sit on committees, make suggestions, join many community clubs and organizations or simply support the many McKellar community events throughout the year, your input is always welcomed and respected.

Thank you for being involved with your Council and community. We are a healthier and better community because of your involvement and your support.

On behalf of Council, Morley Haskim Mike Kekkonen, Don Carmichael, Marco Ancinelli and myself, I wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy, enjoyable and prosperous New Year.

If you have any questions, concerns, issues or ideas, please let us know.

Respectfully,

Peter Hopkins, Mayor  
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