

Mayor's Report: Tuesday, May 19, 2020

COVID 19 Update:

The Provincial and Federal government are prudently and slowly taking steps to reopen our communities based on the evidence and advice of all our health officials. Meanwhile we are all still coping with the pandemic, COVID 19, and working diligently to keep people safe and curb the virus. Our CEMC (Fire Chief- Ed Bier, Clerk-Tammy Wylie, Public Works- Greg Gostick, and Mayor Peter Hopkins) meet regularly on Tuesday a.m. to ensure we take the necessary steps to comply with all health and safety issues while looking at ways we can best assist our community.

Announcements and updates are coming daily and often. We all thought we were on a provincial Fire and Fireworks ban this weekend. Late on Thursday, this was reversed much to CEMC disapprovals in our area. Thankfully only a few small incidents occurred in McKellar were reported

The key to our future is you. Because of your actions- self isolation, social distancing, staying home except for necessities, washing your hands, wearing facemasks and following common sense practices, we are moving together towards a ``new normal``. We all must continue to practice safe conduct if we are to thwart the pandemic while waiting for a vaccine which may take up to a year.

We are fortunate that we have many community volunteers helping making masks and equipment for our health workers, firefighters helping with food deliveries for those in need and many neighbours simply checking on neighbours . This is what our McKellar community is all about.

On the good news side, The Ridge at Manitou golf course is open for play as of Sun under many safe adaptations. Welcome back to Scooby's who is open for take out. Boat launches and marinas are open. Slowly re-opening our Transfer Station services but the bottler drop and reuse tent will not be open in the near future for safety reasons. Thanks to the MLCA for successfully arranging the Tree Planting program which was held last Saturday with over 85 individual orders for trees in McKellar. All the volunteers practiced safety as the cars rolled up for pick up. A special thank you to Wave Weir and John Cole and all the volunteers who made this happen.

Unfortunately, our two excellent world class summer camps- Kodiak and Manitou have decided to close for the summer and reopen in 2021. We respect your thoughtful, responsible and difficult decision and look forward to re-opening in 2021.

Again Council thanks you for all that you are doing to prevent the spread of COVID 19 and staying safe. We will get through this by working together.

Through all this, Councillors have been working hard through remote meetings in McKellar, the area and the province. Reports of these meetings are circulated through correspondence. We have also been working remotely for you at home. We have been involved with the following meetings: our CEMC, Budget and Council, GBBR and climate change, area Heads, new WPS wellness centre, WPS Health Centre and as well as my regular meetings with the Clerk. We will all appreciate it when we can get back to more open and transparent regular public meetings.

I would like to sincerely thank our excellent office and library staff, Public Works and Fire Fighters for staying safe while helping us through this difficult time. Your efforts are appreciated. We have continued to work on our 2020 Budget, new website, new Business and Municipal directory, taxes, road orders and plans and staffing issues while offering virtual stories by the Library.

We would all like to thank all our special area emergency, health and first - responders for their daily sacrifices to keep us all safe and free of COVID 19.

We are still in a state of emergency until further notice. Some committees and services are looking at ways to meet remotely and open safely to the public. Stay tuned.

Keep helping your neighbours. Keep social distancing, stay home and stay safe. If you have any questions simply call or email Council or staff.

Since we are still in a state of emergency. All recreational activities and municipal facilities are closed or cancelled until further notice.

Thank you for your understanding during this precarious period.

Finally, our sincere condolences go out to those who have lost friends and family to COVID 19 and to the recent loss to our Snow Bird team.