



Township of McKellar

701 Hwy #124, P.O. Box 69, McKellar, Ontario POG 1C0

Phone: (705) 389-2842

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Mayor's Report

Monday August 10, 2020

Community Happenings:

1. We have had great press coverage lately with front cover fishing stories, student bursaries and the market, thanks to Sarah Cook. The McKellar News column is published in full on line with photos, but not always in the North Star due to space availability.
2. Our new McKellar Business and Municipal Directory has arrived and is being mailed out as we speak. A very special thank you to Phil Boyd and Julia Archer for their many years of producing excellent brochures. As well, thank you to Ina Watkinson for her usual due diligence in assisting with its production. Any future directories will be electronic.
3. Tai Chi is up and running and has moved to the arena Fridays at 10am.
4. The Market is very busy, receiving excellent comments, community support and has added music to the mix.
5. Mike Kuenkle is getting permission from the Health Unit to busk at Scoobeys.
6. The Simcoe-Muskoka YMCA has closed its operations due to financial concerns from COVID 19 and this may have an effect of the pool deliberations.

Reports:

1. **CEMC meetings:** Our CEMC-emergency committee- (Acting Clerk, Public Works, Acting Fire Chief and Mayor) meet every Tuesday morning at 9am to ensure we are following federal/provincial Covid 19 guidelines and reopening plans. We are also a part of our WPS area Emergency Committee. Ultimately, McKellar makes the final decisions through Council on major issues as recommended by the CEMC. Presently, we are still in a state of emergency until further notice, but looking at determining proper protocols to open the Community Centre for special meetings and making our office and library safe to reopen in the future. Summary meeting reports are posted on our website. We continue to encourage everyone to stay safe and follow proper protocols; social distancing, facemasks, hand sanitizing and getting tested if symptoms arise.
2. **Special Projects Meeting:** Council held a special meeting on July 23, 2020 to itemize and prioritize numerous projects over the next few years. Action items include the development of an RFP to move public works and create commercial space; follow up on the historic walking bridge grant and project, completing the renovation of the two churches, Hemlock and St Stephens; implement our new Roads policy; creating a new boat launch in 2021 and improvements to the Community Centre. Many more projects were outlined along with the creation of a new ad hoc Committee to plan our 150th Anniversary in 2023. (see minutes on file)
3. **Staffing:** Council has been busy replacing staff with excellent interim persons as was circulated. We are now in the process of recruiting a new permanent CAO/Clerk and Treasurer/Special projects staff while looking at a longer staffing plan with possible shared efficiencies.
4. **Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee** has met several times, please see minutes. They have been working on their draft interim report of top key issues. Each issue will contain what the issue is, what has been done to research/ resource the issue, positive educational suggestions and follow up actions over the next few years. They have created a vision statement to guide council. They hope to have an interim report to the MLCA and Council in September. One of the key issues that has been addressed will have a public meeting to give their ideas and recommendations before going to Council. We have a place for one new person on the committee. Simply complete a committee application form, and attend a meeting. Next meetings are Thursday, August 13, 2020 and Thursday, August 27, 6:30pm.



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5. CC. A "Clean up our Lakes" project is planned for Saturday, August 29, 2020 from 9 am-12 pm by bringing waterfront debris to the two boat launches, Stewart Park and Lakeshore Drive- see flyer. Encourage everyone to scour their lakes and collect plastics, styrofoam and other pollutants and drop them off by boat, car, trailer in the containers so we can see how much tonnage we receive. **No personal garbage please.** This may become an annual event like our parks and roads spring Earth Day clean up.
6. **Broadband:** There are all sorts of groups vying for federal and provincial grants to improve their broadband capacity. We have WPS Smartco and the CENGEN project; Muskoka Net Work, Cogeco. There was an attempt to create a larger base with collaboration between WPS and Muskoka groups but that is not happening. We need to hear from all groups and get a collective plan together in order to access these grants. A virtual meeting with the minister is planned at the AMO conference next week. Proper connectivity is a high priority in WPS.
7. The **WPS Pool Committee** has released its survey results which will be on our website.

Upcoming Events:

1. Environmental Committee meeting – Thursday Aug 13, 20-6:30pm CC.
2. AMO conference is being held remotely in Aug. Will be involved in two WPS delegations- The Pool and Broadband, along with particular conference sessions.
3. August 29, 2020 from 9 am-12 pm: **"Clean up our Lakes" community project-** containers will be available for water related items that pollute our lakes.