



Township of McKellar

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Mayor's Report: Tuesday Feb 9, 2021

Community Happenings:

On a sad note, last week our community lost another long standing member, Mr. George Crawford. Our condolences to his wife, family and many friends.

On a brighter note, the winners of the Recreation Committee's "GET OUTDOORS McKELLAR" winter photo contest were Saira Manek, Laura Little, Paige Logan and Sandra Little, Thanks to all those that submitted their photos.

Our staff are gathering lots of community information to go out in our "electronic newsletter" with our tax bills later this month. Stay tuned and check out the link.

The Recreation Committee continues to find creative ways to keep McKellar active during this pandemic by holding a "ICE FISHING DERBY" in February for three categories: 10 and under, 11-16 and adult. Simply catch a fish in McKellar in February; take a photo of the fish and fisherperson, indicate their name, age and length of fish and submit the photo to (joyhopkins@gmail.com). No fish tales unless they are really good. Prize for the largest fish per category plus all entries will be put in a draw for prizes. Good luck.

Volunteers Needed – Council has approved two new ad hoc committees; one on cottage rentals and the other to plan our 150th anniversary of the founding of McKellar in 2023; and is looking for community volunteers – see press release.

The Rental Committee will be reviewing all aspects of cottage rentals and making recommendations to Council. They will look at our current policies, define major issues and seeing what other similar communities are doing, having open public meetings and a final report within a year for Council's consideration.

The Sesquicentennial Committee will be developing a plan to celebrate McKellar's 150 birthday in 2023. They will look at how other communities have celebrated their events, gather public input and develop an exciting and meaningful program for our community celebration for Council's approval Applications and terms of reference are on line and can be completed by April 1, 21- no fool

Reports:

Staffing update: We are pleased to welcome our new CAO/Clerk, Mr. Lance Sherk to McKellar early in March. We are in the process of securing a Treasurer as soon as possible.

EMC update – Our Emergency Management Committee is meeting weekly on Tuesday mornings until the lock down is lifted. They have made two recommendations to Council for consideration:

- i- Vaccinations- to allow our Health Unit to use our Community Centre for COVID-19 vaccinations as needed
- ii- McKellar Market: to reopen our McKellar Market for this summer under strict COVID-19 protocols as determined by our Health Unit

We are hoping that our Health unit will re-open our rinks, snowmobile trails and tobogganing Library Board is holding monthly meetings remotely, looking for a few new members and working on their 2021 budget ask, annual report to Council and protocols when allowed to open.

ROMA: The Rural Ontario Municipalities Association held their remote conference on Jan 25,26,21. Summary is attached and on file. Whitestone and McKellar made an excellent deposition to the Minister on connectivity. Right in the middle of it, we lost our connection which was not planned but effective. In my summary notes, I suggested that Councillor Kekkonen and Public Works Superintendent Greg Gostik work together to make a BLUE BOX report to Council by 2022 for implementation in 2024 – see attached summary.

Communication: Council will be releasing a series of press releases on our many ways we listen to and communicate with our citizens. As well, we hope to have our new McKellar and Area Communication Contacts on line this week.

Pool Information: Shortly, staff will be circulating some background information on the proposed Pool and Wellness Complex. A public meeting will be held in the near future.

Airport announcement: Seguin just received a grant of \$5 million to extend their runway.

Staff have resumed working on our new Website.

Our Environmental and Lake Stewardship committee met on Jan 23, 21 and will meet again on Feb 21 at 9:30. Today we made a deposition, recommending the consideration of a septic re-inspection program for McKellar. As well they are working on completing their overall report for public viewing this summer full of educational ideas and future considerations for Council. A special thank you to Dr. Carl Mitchell who has offered to conduct a research project this summer with UT students at no cost to the municipality.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Saturday February 21 – Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee – 9:30 am, cc – remotely
First Budget meeting- Tuesday Feb 23 6:30pm, Council
Thursday Feb 25, 3:30pm - Recreation Committee – remotely
Tuesdays in Feb am - -EMC meetings
Monday Feb 22 - Library Board – 10am -remote
MP and MPP meeting tbd and the WPS Pool and Wellness meeting –tbd
Council: Tues Mar 9, Council: 6:30 pm