

## **Messenger - April 2019**

### **COUNCIL NEWS:**

Two of our council members travelled to Thunder Bay and participated in workshops March 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> along with Mayors and Councillors from other local communities. Presentations by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) covered topics beneficial for Councillors.

On March 11 our Mayor and Deputy Mayor were on hand in Kenora for the grand opening of the new Homeless Shelter and service hub, located beside Knox United Church. Special guests present were the Hon. Steve Clark Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Hon. Greg Rickford the Ontario Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, Minister of Indigenous Affairs. Our representatives were able to discuss Municipal matters with the two Ministers when opportunity permitted.

Council has approved new landfill fees and a payment change towards a card system effective July 1<sup>st</sup> this summer. Cash will still be accepted by the landfill attendant however the cost will be higher per unit then when purchasing a card. The move towards a card payment system will reduce time needed in cash handling by the attendant as well as create a safer environment. Sale of the new cards will be at the Municipal Office prior to July 1. Further details will be forthcoming.

The 2019 Municipal budget was approved at the Municipal meeting held March 25<sup>th</sup>. Prior to budget approval an open public meeting was held from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for public review. The budget has increased by 2% which reflects continuing downloads from the Provincial and Federal Governments. In an effort to reduce overall expenditures Council has approved shortening of the operating season for the Woodland Arena next winter. The arena will operate from October 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

Council would like to thank Mike Durocher for organizing our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Municipal volunteer Spring Road Cleaning day scheduled for Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a great initiative that brings community members together and beautifies the area we live.

Mayor and Council

## **MUNICIPAL NEWS:**

The Recreation Committee has been meeting regularly and are planning/brainstorming for summer recreation activities that would be of interest to our youth and adults of all ages i.e. baseball, pickleball etc. If you are interested in volunteering to help in our recreation activities or have ideas to share please contact Councillor Garry Parks or the Municipal office.

The Eagle River Recreation Centre as previously mentioned has seen improvements from generous volunteers this winter. Wall patching and painting has been completed on the main floor as well as washroom repairs. More work will be done by the volunteers when time permits. We are looking for volunteers who might be willing to give the hall a good cleaning on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> starting at 10 a.m. If you are interested please call the Municipal office.

Our staff are updating the Municipal website and we need your help. The website has a "Galleries" section where photos can be added. We are soliciting the general public for photos of our great community. Digital photos are preferred but hard copies can be scanned at the Municipal office. We are looking for quality photos showing various areas of the community (summer and winter) covering scenery, buildings etc. If you have existing photos you would like to share please email them to [deputyclerk@visitmachin.com](mailto:deputyclerk@visitmachin.com) or bring them to the office. This will be an ongoing project so as you take new photos in the future and wish to share, we would be more than happy to review them. The website also has a "History" section that will be developed overtime and we are looking for your historical photos as well. Please note that not all photos submitted may be used, the Municipality will do a selection. Privacy laws may also limit what photos we can use. Thank you for your submissions.