

COUNCILS MESSAGE - Messenger - May 2019

COUNCIL NEWS:

Spring is here and we all agree none-to-soon. Time to enjoy what our beautiful area has to offer and enjoy summer activities with our families and friends. As the fishing season nears, we look forward to time on the water dropping a line or just cruising the lake. Please ensure safety is not forgotten as we prepare for the summer activities.

Our Council participated in Economic Development Training along with other Municipalities in the region on March 25 and 26 in Dryden. The majority of this training was funded through a PACE grant which was based on Machin partnering with Dryden and Ignace in the application process.

On March 29th our Mayor and a Councillor were in Kenora with other local Municipality Mayors from the region at the invitation of the our local Kenora Riding MP Hon. Bob Nault where they were able to meet in round table discussions with the Hon. François-Philippe Champagne - Minister of Infrastructure and Communities. Minister Champagne reviewed his governments commitments to supporting Ontario through various funding partnerships to help communities. The regional Mayors expressed their collective concern that available Federal funding does not fit the priority needs of our small communities. Therefore, there are very few grants that small Municipalities can apply for. A meeting was then held with the Hon. Greg Rickford Kenora – Rainy River MPP who announced a one-time investment for small municipalities to improve local service delivery and efficiency in our communities. The investment can also be used for capital investments or other municipal projects. The Municipality of Machin received \$284,600.

Our Municipal Mayor and a councillor attended a three-day Emergency Planning Conference in Dryden April 2-4th along with more than a hundred emergency service providers, workers, government officials and other local leaders to share best practices when dealing with a crisis or emergency.

An open house Business and Economic Development meeting was held April 18 in the Eagle River Recreation Centre. This meeting was an opportunity for businesses and the general public to come together to restart business discussions within the community. Some of the topics covered were; current economy, opportunities and working together. A list of ideas was produced on potential economic opportunities and promotion of our community. Council will next review the list of ideas to develop a preliminary action plan. A general consensus from the business members present was to start a Business Association, with members from businesses within the Municipality and also the surrounding unorganized areas. We all share the same economic issues and need to work together. The group felt that a new Business Association would help to open communications within the business community to work on economic issues that affect them and how the community can grow its business base. Preliminary discussions proposed the Association might meet two to three times per year. Lydia Lecot has offered to be the contact person to help start the Association. If you are interested in learning more or helping to develop a new Business Association please contact the Municipal Office or Lydia (please see Lydia's add/info in this messenger). Council is committed to continuing open

communication with our businesses' and residents on our community's economic development to help keep the businesses' we have, to expand where possible and to attract new businesses.

In 2018 Machin applied for provincial funding under the "Ontario's Main Street Revitalization Initiative" program and was successful with a grant of \$38,500 being approved. A Revitalization committee was then formed which developed a draft proposal of projects that the Municipality should consider for 2019. The proposal has a common theme and look for the initial revitalization. The committee is currently in the process of fine tuning the 2018 proposal before submission to council for their review and approval. Once the plan is approved, work can be scheduled with completion of the project during the summer season. A big thank you to the committee members for their continued hard work on this project. We look forward to the visual enhancement this project will bring to our community.

Completion of the Townline Road rebuild is scheduled for this summer. Bay City Contracting from Thunder Bay has confirmed their commitment to completing the project to standard. The chip and oil surface material that was applied late last season to the southern section of the road will be assessed to determine the best remedial treatment for areas that are not up to the standard required. These areas will then be repaired. The subgrade on the northern section of the road which did not receive surface treatment in 2018 will see last year's new subgrade reworked before the final chip and oil surface treatment is applied.

Please join us in wishing Cory Camphorst a very happy retirement as the Municipal Landfill Attendant, he has earned it. Cory was employed for 14 years and did an excellent job serving the community. We have all enjoyed his pleasant smile and friendly chats on our travels to the landfills. Cory has offered to continue caring for the summer flowers, a task he enjoys which also brightens our community greatly. HAPPY RETIREMENT CORY.

We would like to welcome Andrea Hatton to our Municipal Staff as Backup Operator for our Water Treatment Plant. She currently has Operator-In-Training (OIT) certificates in Drinking Water and Wastewater systems which will help in her integration with our water plant. Andrea comes from Oakville in southern Ontario and is looking forward to experiencing our great outdoors with her hobbies of biking and hiking.

Wayne Boomhower has been hired as the new landfill attendant. Wayne has been part of our Public Works summer staff for several years and has often worked as a relief attendant at our landfills.

Council has approved Todd Montgomery's application for the position of Machin's Fire Chief. Todd has been a Deputy Fire Chief with the Municipality for three years and a volunteer with the department for sixteen years.

Please welcome Andrea, Wayne and Todd in their new roles.

MUNICIPAL NEWS:

The Woodland Arena held its annual Tonydome curling bonspiel in mid-April which was again a huge success. This brought to an end another busy season of ice activities at the arena. Thanks to Sherri, Louie, Terry, Val, Lydia and the other committed volunteers for their hard work over the winter months.