

February Messenger 2020

COUNCIL NEWS:

February is a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends with activities planned in our area; February 17th is Family day, followed by the 54th annual Kin Karnival on February 20th - 23rd. The Vermilion Bay Lion Club's annual Snowmachine Poker Derby is scheduled on February 22. Our Woodland Arena has several hockey events planned as well (see list below). We hope you and your family get a chance to enjoy what our area has to offer.

On Wednesday January 8, Mayor and Council representatives had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with MPP Greg Rickford to again discuss key issues in our community and ask for his support.

Friday January 10th Council had a productive meeting with local Dryden Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) representatives, discussing our Crown land initiatives involving Municipal landfills, Ely Lake Cottage Lot development, and Crownland acquisition.

Deputy Mayor Ron Kujansuu participated in the Ministry of Health Open House discussions January 22nd and 23rd in Kenora. The meetings were part of the Province's consultations on Public Health and Emergency Health Services (EHS) Modernization and Transformation. Four meetings were held over the two days with participation from the Treaty 3 - Ojichidaa, Chiefs and Elders. Kenora, Fort Frances and Rainy River District - Mayors, Councillors, CAO's, EMS, Ornge Air Ambulance Services, Ontario Health Board, and Territories Without Municipal Organization (TWOMO). Excellent discussions on many of our local and regional concerns were expressed; working together, levels of service, staffing, land ambulance flexibility/certification, new technologies, cost increases and funding were the main topics.

Council representatives participated Thursday January 23 in the Provincial Draft Forest Sector Strategy review in Kenora along with other Municipal and Industry representatives. The Draft Strategy is the result of communication with Indigenous partners, industry, municipal leaders and the public started in September of 2018. The new Forest Sector Strategy will aim to stimulate job creation, promote economic growth, and reduce unnecessary burden and costs for businesses, while ensuring our forests continue to be managed sustainably.