

COUNCILS MESSAGE Messenger – March 2019

COUNCIL NEWS:

January and February have been busy months for the Mayor and Council attending numerous committee meetings, conferences and training seminars.

Our Mayor had the opportunity to participate in the Ontario Pre-Budget Consultation meetings held in Dryden January 21 where he was able to present our Municipality's concerns over small municipalities continuing to receive Provincial funding as a necessity to deliver adequate service to our citizens. Concern over the high costs of hydro and how it affects small communities was also discussed i.e. arena costs.

Council participated in the Annual Kenora District Municipal Association (KDMA) meetings in Red Lake Jan. 31 – Feb. 2nd. It was an excellent opportunity to meet other municipal leaders in the region to discuss similar Municipal issues. Our council also had a chance to talk with Federal Ministers the Hon. Marc Garneau Federal Minister of Transportation and Hon. Bob Nault Member of Parliament for Kenora.

On February 11 our Mayor was in Kenora participating in the Forest Industry Round Table discussions where he had a chance to talk with the Hon. John Yakabuski Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry for Ontario; on some of our Municipal matters.

Our Deputy Mayor and one of our Councillors participated in a training session in Dryden on February 19 along with Mayors and other Councillors from the region. Instructors from the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Office provided the "Essentials of Municipal Fire Protection" which covered a detailed overview of Provincial and Municipal fire regulations, structure and responsibility.

Council and Municipal Staff have completed a preliminary review of the 2019 Municipal budget. As budgets are finalized a date will be set for an open public meeting to review the budget before Councils' approval at a General meeting.

We would like to make everyone aware of that there is a new updated Animal Control By-Law #41-2018 for the Municipality that came into effect in 2018 outlining the care and control of animals (pets and farm), domestic fowl, licencing etc. The new by-law can be reviewed on the Municipality's website listed under ->Town Hall->By-Laws, or by visiting the Municipal Office.

A reminder that Municipal Council would like to provide residents more communication opportunity to discuss general items of interest in the community. Therefore, the Mayor and Council will remain at council chambers for approximately ½ hour after the closure of the General Council meeting on Monday, March 25, 2019. A maximum of five minutes will be provided per person. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor or designate will oversee the discussions and protocol. These discussions are informal and no records or minutes will be taken. We hope the public will come out and participate in these discussions.

Mayor and Council

MUNICIPAL NEWS

The Woodland Area hosted a Hockey Academy Jamboree organized by Lillian Berg School with participation from other schools in the area for a mini tournament. Over 120 Kids of all ages showed up to compete for a day packed full of hockey. Everyone had a blast! Vermilion Bay Minor Hockey also put on the IP Jamboree (< 5 years of age) where 5 teams and over 95 kids participated. All players went home with medals and smiles on their faces. A successful 2nd annual curling Kurlival Bonspiel was held during the Kin Karnival where 6 teams participated. Lillian Berg School held a family skate day where over 85 kids and their families participated.