

August Messenger 2020

COUNCIL NEWS:

The Northwest Health Unit (NWHU) has issued a mandatory face mask order for its service area effective Aug. 17th. Face masks will be required in all indoor public spaces. (see additional NWHU information within this Messenger). Currently the Municipality recommends face mask use as an additional good health prevention measure.

Mayor Gord Griffiths and other regional mayors in the Kenora District Municipal Association (KDMA) continue their weekly communication with local MPP Greg Rickford to discuss issues and general Municipal affairs. Our mayor also participated in a mid-July province wide video conference with Premier Doug Ford and Minister Steve Clark Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on the Reopening Ontario Stage 3; restarting the provinces economy while easing the necessary restrictions that were put in place to contain the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak; to continue the regional approach introduced in Stage 2 that worked well; and general discussions on the Long-term growth for the province.

At the start of July, we hired two students for our Public Works Department where they will assist in the departments many summer activities. We wish them a safe summer while they learn new skills and help us to complete our work programs.

In our 2020 Municipal budget, Council supported the Public Works Departments request for additional funding towards gravel for Municipal roads where it is needed or other road surface issues exist. The majority of this additional funding work has already been completed this summer and we are pleased to see a notable improvement to some of our trouble spots.

Council has once again started in-person meetings in the Municipal Council Chambers adhering to Covid health regulations. It was great to have face-to-face (+ 2m) communication with other Council and Staff members. The official meetings were audio recorded and are available for public review upon request through the Machin Office. We hope to soon open Council meetings once again to the general public, provided we can confidently meet Covid Stage 3 regulations.

Members of Council and the Revitalization Committee met Monday July 20th at the Municipal property on Highway 17 where the Old Minnitaki School and Hall existed in the past, to review the work completed by the committee that was part of Ontario's Main Street Revitalization Initiative grant that we received. Committee members discussed their future vision and ideas of how they would like to see the empty property developed to enhance and highlight some of the history of the Minnitaki community while tying in respectfully with the adjacent Minnitaki church and cemetery area.

Mayor and Council