

## **COUNCIL NEWS:**

Many families were enjoying the great weather in February participating in the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Kin Carnival and Lions Poker Derby. We hope you had a chance to enjoy the local activities.

Mayor and Council representatives participated in the Annual Kenora District Municipal Association (KDMA) meetings in Sioux Lookout January 30 to February 1. It was an excellent opportunity to meet other municipal leaders in the region to discuss Municipal issues. The conference theme this year was around Climate Change. There was excellent information on weather data from across Canada and in our region illustrating the noticeable increase in temperatures from the 1950's and the greater frequency of major storms and disasters. Individuals and Municipalities need to be more prepared for significant weather events through planning and preparedness.

Mayor Gord Griffiths participated in the 2020 Ontario Budget Consultation discussions held in Kenora February 3 along with other Mayors and CAO'S. The Hon. Rod Phillips Minister of Finance and Kenora MPP Greg Rickford were present for the discussions. Mayor Gord was able to present our Municipality's continued 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.

Councillors Dennis Peterson and Garry Parks participated in the regional roundtable sessions on Wednesday February 12<sup>th</sup> in Kenora for municipalities and band councils providing an overview of the proposed legislative changes under the Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 (CSPA,2019) related to the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP). The sessions discussed matters relating to regulations such as: OPP Detachment Boards and OPP Governance Advisory Council. Mayor Gord Griffiths was in Kenora on the same day participating in the 2020 Federal Pre-Budget consultations with the Hon. Mona Fortier Minister of Middle Class Prosperity and the Associate Minister of Finance with discussions on how the government can continue to make life more affordable, strengthen and grow the middle class.

Council and Municipal Staff have completed a review of the draft 2020 Municipal budget. An open public meeting to review the finalized budget will be announced and held prior to Councils' approval at a General meeting.

## **Financial:**

Of the total Municipal tax revenue collected each year, Financial Downloads from the provincial government take up a large portion of each tax dollar collected. In 2019 download payments totalled \$704,731 or 38% of our total Municipal tax revenue of \$1,852,858. This included Policing (OPP) costs @ \$215,521 (31%); Northwest Health Unit (NWHU) @ \$45,039 (6%); Home for the Aged @ \$143,810 (20%); Kenora District Service Board (KDSB) \$300,361 (43%). This left our Municipality with \$0.62 of each tax dollar collected to manage our infrastructure including 88 kms of roads, 4 bridges, Fire Department, 2 Landfills, Woodland Arena, Eagle River Recreation Centre and rink, Buildings, vehicles, machinery, equipment parks etc. Municipalities in Ontario have limited control on regional and provincial download costs, this is why it is so important for all municipalities to voice their concerns individually and collectively with provincial Officials and Ministers whenever possible.

### **MUNICIPAL NEWS:**

#### **Woodland Arena:**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Little Bands Native Youth Hockey tournament had teams on the arena ice in our community on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> as well as Dryden and Eagle Lake arenas for the week. It was an excellent tournament and well received in our community.

On February 8<sup>th</sup> the Vermilion Bay Minor Hockey Association held their local Novice Jamboree/Tournament where six teams participated from Red Lake, Ear Falls, Kenora, Dryden and Vermilion Bay.

Feb 15<sup>th</sup> was the local I.P. Vermilion Bay Hockey Tournament with 8 teams and 130 youth involved.

Thanks to Bj and Jim Rhyner for their generous donation of a treadmill for our exercise room.

There is an Atom Tournament scheduled for the weekend of March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

The public are always welcome to come out and view activities at the arena or drop by and check out what our Canteen has to offer. The onsite cash machine has been a plus for many users.

Please phone Louis Robichaud at 807-216-8756 for scheduling ice time or general inquiries.

#### **Eagle River Recreation Centre:**

Thanks to Rod Campbell, Al Mireault, Mason Campbell and Dani Costello for their great efforts in patching and painting the Eagle River Recreation Centre Games Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor). Thanks for the generous donation from We-R-Eager and the Eagle River Seniors Club for paint and supplies.

A group of volunteer residents have come forward to help assist in promoting and organizing activities at the Eagle River Recreation Centre and Eagle River Outdoor Rink. Their goal is to engage our community by offering fun and exciting things to do for kids and adults of all ages. Check out their new Facebook Page “Eagle River Recreation Centre” for activities and events.

### **Machin Spring Road Clean-Up:**

The Machin Revitalization Committee has volunteered to lead this year’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Municipality of Machin volunteer Spring Road Cleaning-Up Program. This initiative is in support of the Municipalities strategic plan of “Beautification; how to make our community more pleasant to look at and live in”. We are proud of where we live and want to showcase it to others as a great community. As in previous years the size and success of the Spring Road Clean-Up Program will be dependent on the interest and support of volunteers.

Tentatively clean-up will be scheduled on a Saturday in early May when the ground is snow free and garbage can be picked up from roadways. Further details will be announced in the April Messenger and on the Machin Facebook page.

If you are interested to learn more please contact the Municipality of Machin Office at 227-2633, or any of the members of the Revitalization Committee: Erin Leutschaft, Carmene Hampe, Caleigh Ross, Norbert Bruyere, Ray Pilkey.