

Council Corner –December 2019



As the bells ring out 2019, and simultaneously ring in a new year, the Council, Administration and the various Departments of the Town of Nipawin wish each of you and your families a happy, healthy, safe and prosperous NEW YEAR.

2019 in review:

Over the past year, eight various sectors were the focus for work as outlined in our 2017 to 2020 Strategic plan focused on “a Town for the People”:

1. Tourism:

- With the purchase of the former Chamber of Commerce building in Central Park, the Town established its own Visitor Information Centre along with ensuring the establishment of the Central Park Municipal Reserve;
- A strong presence on several social media platforms was established in addition to continued participation in several provincial trade shows;
- Improved process for registration and participant booking for minor sports etc. was successfully implemented;
- New signage was installed at the three entrances to the Town of Nipawin.

2. Information / data-gathering for decision-making:

- Comprehensive Traffic Study involving multiple stakeholders was undertaken to ensure public safety, identify future needs, and to enhance traffic flow through the downtown area as downtown enhancement is undertaken;
- Commercial Fire Underwriters’ survey undertaken to understand equipment along with Asset Management Study as required by the Province to ensure awareness of life span and replacement needs for all equipment and infrastructure into the future.

3. Administration:

- Organizational restructuring to realign the Evergreen Centre under the Parks & Recreation Department;
- Implementation of an OH&S plan (a legislated requirement that was not previously in place);
- Full review and update of all bylaws and policies and implementation of new ones as required (example OH&S);
- New comprehensive financial tracking program (Questica) implemented to allow improved budgeting cycle, better analytics, efficiencies and reporting;
- Ensuring usage of improved data to inform decision-making.

4. Communication:

- Monthly Council Corner newsletter continues;
- Town active on various Social Media sites to provide current information to a variety of stakeholders;
- Improved Parks and Recreation Guide and Twin Lakes Visitor Guide;
- Improved Town of Nipawin website (will be expanded to a Town of Nipawin app in the New Year).

5. Community:

- Re-established Communities in Bloom after 15-year hiatus – with the public’s help the Town received an award of “three blooms”;
- Increased recreational services available at the Evergreen Centre;
- Partnership with a variety of partners, included the Saskatchewan Health Authority to see the opening of a new Family Resource Centre on main street Nipawin in 2020;
- Spay and neuter program continues to have a positive impact;
- Hosted the third annual Street Fair in downtown Nipawin and in partnership with the Exhibition Association the annual parade saw the largest number of floats ever;
- Environmental protection – Central Park was allocated as municipal reserve.

6. Economic Development:

- A significant number of businesses changed hands over the year ensuring vibrancy and indicating a confidence in the community of Nipawin and area;
- New Economic Development Officer focused on attracting commercial entities based on growth.

7. Infrastructure:

- Water Treatment Plant in final stages of completion remains on budget;
- LED lighting installed through grant funding at the Evergreen Centre, Jubilee and Centennial arenas;
- New rink boards installed at Centennial Arena;
- \$321,000 donation received to improve dressing room area at The Pool@Central Park;
- Increased rental housing opportunities;
- Pricing adjustments to infill lots;
- In consultation with an Airport Advisory Committee, a variety of improvements have been made at the Municipal Airport, including installation of WiFi, designated parking, etc.

8. Partnerships:

- Joint efforts underway with partners of Twin Lakes Development Planning Commission and the Sask. Health Authority to begin work on a future Heliport adjacent to the Nipawin Hospital;
- Ongoing joint meetings to ensure good working relationships with surrounding municipalities, regional fire partnership, SUMA, BARWA, Mayors of Melfort & Tisdale, etc.;
- Updating and resigning of outdated Mutual Aid Agreements;
- Hosted the First Nations of Red Earth, Cumberland House, Shoal Lake and the Northern Village of Cumberland House at the first Reconciliation Flag Raising Ceremony held in June 2019;
- Ongoing dialogue with Cumberland House Cree Nation and Red Earth Cree Nation with view to establishment of a Protocol Agreement.

During the month of December budget deliberations resulted in a budget for 2020 with an estimated 2.5% increase. This will be dependent on potential announced changes by the Province anticipated in March 2020.

To contact the Bylaw Officer, **call the Town office at (306) 862 9866.**

To contact the **Animal Control Officer Kevin Genik, call (306) 862 6853.**

Mayor Harper welcomes conversations with anyone who may have a concern or a bouquet. Please don’t hesitate to arrange for an opportunity to speak with the Mayor by contacting the Town Office at **(306) 862 9866** to arrange an appointment.

I am also available by e-mail at mayorharper@nipawin.com. **NOTE:** Anonymous concerns will not receive response. Please sign your concern and provide contact information.

Our website: Visit us at www.nipawin.com. If you notice something missing please let the Town Office staff know.

Garbage and Recycling Calendars for 2020 are available for pickup at the Town Office or for viewing on the Town of Nipawin website and facebook page.