



On behalf of the Town Council (including former Councillor, Ray Serack), Management and Staff of the Town of Nipawin I wish each of you, and your families good health and happiness throughout the year. Happy New Year!

At its January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, our Council sadly accepted former Councillor Ray Serack's resignation. During his time on Council, Ray unfailingly approached his responsibilities on council with a deep sense of commitment to ensuring the best interests of the community and the needs of its residents. Ray brought significant strength to the table and a viewpoint and stance that encouraged thoughtful reflection in all matters by council and administration. Thank you to both Ray and his wife, Leslee for their service. A by election will be held April 25, 2018.

### **Catching up with Town activities:**

- In response to direction from the Province of Saskatchewan, the Town of Nipawin has begun work on the development of a Capital Asset Management Plan. Urban Systems was awarded the contract to begin the gathering of the Town's capital assets. The first phase of the information gathering is required by the province to be completed by March 31, 2018.
  - ◇ Capital Asset assessment is required to identify the Town's Capital assets – sewer lines, buildings and facilities, roads, water systems, computer systems, etc. The assessment identifies the estimated length of life of the asset and upgrades and replacements that are required to ensure ongoing operations.
- Budgeting for 2018 is underway and in addition to ensuring that the Town's newly approved Strategic Plan is considered during budgeting. In addition, consideration of the anticipated needs that will be identified through the Capital Asset Management assessment must be considered to ensure planning over the next years to make certain our infrastructures remain safe, functioning, and up to date. To ensure planning into the future, investment will be required. Long range saving in reserves to ensure sufficient capital is available to keep infrastructure up to date.
  - ◇ Council's goals during budgeting included: ensure NOT more than 5% increase, to focus on capital planning over time, to utilize whatever means available to keep taxes as low as possible, to continue to focus base tax on cost of essential services and NOT to decrease the level of services. Keep in mind that the impact of Provincial budget decisions may also impact our budget.
- A Lease for operation of the restaurant at the Evergreen Centre, between Karinne Seiferling, and the Town of Nipawin has been finalized. Ms. Seiferling is currently undertaking some leasehold improvements at the restaurant and anticipates a March 1<sup>st</sup> opening. As noted in my previous newsletter, changes to catering services have been implemented, allowing renters to bring their own caterers. For more information, please contact Abbey Pihowich at the **Evergreen Centre office at (306) 862 9795**.
- Changes to the operation of the area Landfill will come into effect during 2018 as the Boreal Area Regional Waste Authority Inc. (BARWA) will assume operation of the Landfill early in 2018. BARWA is a partnership between The Town of Nipawin, the RM of Nipawin, the Village of Codette, Village of Aylsham, the Resort Village of Tobin Lake and the RM of Connaught. The new corporation is in the process of hiring a General Manager to oversee operations.
- There will be an open-house opportunity to provide input into the Town of Nipawin's 5-year strategic plan, "A Town for the People", will take place on January 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Evergreen Centre Jackpine Room.

### **Congratulations:**

- To the Skate Nipawin Club which will be hosting the Regional Skating Competition in Nipawin on January 27 & 28<sup>th</sup>. The last time the competition was hosted in Nipawin was in 2011. There will be over 100 competitors along with their coaches and families from Waldheim, Hepburn, Kinistino, LaRonge, Shellbrook, Prince Albert, Melfort, Tisdale, Carrot River and Cudworth.
- Congratulations to our Nipawin Jr. Hawks team which is currently in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the league. Come out and support the Hawks, and "make some noise for our boys".

## Reminders:

- The annual Christmas Tree bonfire and festival will take place in Central Park on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3:00 p.m. Everyone welcome for an afternoon of outdoor fun and activities.
- **NEW SPEED LIMIT.** A reminder that there is a new 30 km speed limit on Nipawin Road East (by the Skate Park). New speed monitoring signs will soon be in place at the entrance to the Town of Nipawin on Highway 55 East as well as on the entry to Nipawin at Highway 35.
- Please remember, crossing the yellow line on main street, or other streets in Nipawin is a violation of Highway Traffic Laws. To ensure the safety of everyone, please do NOT cross the centre line to park on the opposite side of the street.
- A reminder that all persons conducting businesses in the Town of Nipawin must have a current **business licence**. Renewals are due on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Applications for new licences are available on the Town of Nipawin website ([www.nipawin.com/business-development.cfm](http://www.nipawin.com/business-development.cfm)) or by stopping at the Town Office.

I'm at the Town Office regularly every week and am always pleased to meet and discuss your ideas and/or concerns with you directly. To arrange an opportunity to speak with the Mayor, please contact the Town Office at **(306) 862-9866** to arrange an appointment. I am also available by e-mail at [mayorharper@nipawin.com](mailto:mayorharper@nipawin.com).

Note: Your letters concerning issues or bouquets are **very** welcome. However, in order that you receive a reply and follow up I would ask that **all letters be signed** and that you provide your contact information.

**Looking for your photos:** People love to see photos so in the event that you have photos depicting activities in Nipawin and area, copies are gratefully received anytime. Please send your photos to us at [mayorharper@nipawin.com](mailto:mayorharper@nipawin.com).

**Our website:** Visit us at [www.nipawin.com](http://www.nipawin.com).

### Snow Removal:

Town crews keep our roads as clear and safe as possible during the winter.

Help our crews help you by:

- Parking in your driveway or garage. **Crews can plow quicker when there are no vehicles parked on the streets.**
- Drive carefully near snow removal equipment and stay well back. Flying snow from the plow may reduce visibility.
- Leave extra time for travel and slow down for safety.
- Do not push snow from your driveway onto the streets. Please ensure you pile snow on your own property.