

Council Corner –July & August 2019

I hope that each of you has had a fun summer season – lots of BBQs, sunshine and experiences with friends and family. Summer is always a great time for bringing the community together to work towards an inclusive and welcoming Town.

Over the past weeks we've celebrated with the raising of the Reconciliation Flag along with our surrounding First Nation communities, we've celebrated with a Community Parade and street fair. Our Pool, though slightly delayed, opened on July 8th and has hosted hundreds of people, young and not so young from all over. Thank you to you, the citizens of our community, for your support as the Town of Nipawin prepared for the Communities in Bloom competition following a 15-year hiatus. The cleanliness and plants all over our community brightened our spaces and highlighted our pride in our hometown. The annual exhibition was held, along with numerous other community events including (but not limited to): Canada Day celebrations at the Living Forestry Museum, the Premier's Cup, Fish for Freedom and multiple other events. I continue to be inspired by how groups in our community are reaching out to one another and building shared purpose here.



Catching up with Town activities:

- A new complaint handling process has been implemented and approved by Council to ensure that all citizen complaints are recorded and followed up on in a timely manner by the appropriate departments and to ensure outcomes are used to identify needed improvement.
- The Town of Nipawin recently implemented a comprehensive Occupational Health & Safety Program previously lacking. The Town of Nipawin has entered into a six-month service agreement with Harness Safety Group to do the initial implementation of the organization-wide program in which all employees and departments of the Town of Nipawin are required to participate.
- Following the retirement of Gloria Nagy, a new concession operator will begin operation at the Centennial Arena this season. Shannon Appenmaier was awarded the contract for a five-year term.
- The Pool @ Central Park opened on July 8th. Unfortunately, some of the planned renovations to the change area will required final completion after the swim season concludes in September.
- On August 1st the Town of Nipawin received the keys to the former Chamber of Commerce building in Central Park. Move to the building will happen over the next several weeks following some renovations and signage installation. Up to the end of July, approximately 160 visitors stopped by the temporary location with significant views and comments on Nipawin Tourism visitor site on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.
- New lighting for the Centennial Arena was recommended and an increase to the project budget was approved.
- In the fall, the Town of Nipawin will be entering into phase II of the Asset Management Plan required by all municipalities. Phase II will see the implementation of a Geographic Information System which will allow increased use of technology to input and track data.
- Over the past year or so, many traffic issues have been reported and therefore the Town of Nipawin has engaged Allnorth Consultants Ltd. to undertake a traffic assessment and improvement study. The study will invite engagement from various stakeholders.
- As a result of advice and recommendation presented by SUMA at regional meetings, the Town of Nipawin recently approved changes to the election bylaw requiring those running for office to provide a criminal record check as part of the paperwork attached to all nomination papers.
- We are on the home stretch and in the final stages toward the completion of the Water Treatment Plant. The contract #10 for the supply and installation for the membrane units was awarded and all the piping and supply pumps were installed during the last weeks of August.

Congratulations & Thanks:

- **Congratulations** to Nipawin Fire Chief, Brian Starkell on being named an Ambassador of the Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association. The board made the appointment at their most recent meeting in Wolfville, NS.
- Congratulations to the Coop Agro Centre on its relocation and grand opening on Highway 35.

- Congratulations and welcome to Nipawin, **Art on Main**, owned and operated by Carmen Drapeau.
- Welcome to Mark Hoddenbagh, new CEO of the joint Cumberland / Parkland College.
- A huge thank you to the Nipawin Exhibition Association and organizers of the annual Fair Parade on July 14th. This year's parade was the largest ever with more than 60 floats participating. Thank you to organizers and participants alike. We're all looking forward to next year already.
- Thank you and congratulations to organizers and participants on the well attended street fair following the parade. It is estimated that more than 500 people attended to see the show & shine, the vendors, displayers, food trucks and enjoy the musical entertainment.
- Congratulations to long-time family-owned businesses in our community. The Lockwood family has been in business in our community for 80-consecutive years. Over the 80 years four generations of the Lockwood family have owned and operated business in the Town of Nipawin. Other family businesses to be acknowledged for 75 years in business include Nipawin Greenhouse and the Schultz family business.
- Congratulations to the Nipawin District Chamber of Commerce on its relocation on Railway Avenue. We look forward to our continued and collaborative work together.
- Congratulations to Fire Chief, Brian Starkell, on being chosen as the keynote speaker at the recent Canadian Volunteer Fire Services Association Conference in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.
- Congratulations to Peggy Heincke on her re-appointment to the Nipawin Housing Authority Board of Directors. This is Peggy's 2nd term on the board.
- Congratulations to John & Kathy Ukrainetz of the local Dairy Queen on another successful Miracle Treat Day on August 8th. Over the past 15 years the people of Nipawin have supported this charitable event with approximately \$130,000 in donations via Blizzards.



Thank you to the Nipawin Fire Fighters' Club which recently purchased and installed a memorial cairn in remembrance of and in tribute to their fallen comrades. The memorial has been installed outside the Nipawin Fire Hall.

Reminders:

- Volunteers are the soul of a community. The Town of Nipawin continues to look for volunteers for community committees and boards. If you are interested in volunteering you are encouraged to watch for advertisements on social media, the Town of Nipawin website OR by stopping at the Town Office to let us know your interest.
- We have received several complaints by visitors and customers to our downtown businesses about the difficulty finding close/accessible customer parking at many businesses due to employees utilizing the business parking. Please ensure that employees have reasonable parking so that visitors and customers to our community continue to feel welcome and have close access to businesses and ample room to visit our downtown services. (This will be one of the items discussed during our upcoming Traffic Study.)



KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE is everyone's responsibility. A reminder that if you notice unusual activity in your neighbourhoods or elsewhere to please report those to the RCMP or utilize the 1-800 Crime Stoppers / TIPS line. This helps to ensure that the RCMP are aware and help to ensure your neighbourhoods continue to be as safe as possible.

There have been reported incidents of people being bitten by dogs running off-leash in public parks. Therefore, a reminder to those walking dogs to keep your dog leashed and to pick up after your pet.

- To contact the **Animal Control Officer, Kevin Genik, call (306) 862 6853.**
- To contact the Bylaw Officer, **call (306) 862 7710 or call the Town office at (306) 862 9866.**

The Mayor welcomes conversations with anyone who may have a concern or a bouquet. Please don't hesitate to arrange 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. **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.