

## The May 2020 Edition of The Town of Nipawin's Council Corner

May has seen the Provincial phased re-opening of a number of services and businesses. There is no doubt that though re-opening is gradual and very welcome, it is bringing its own challenges as we all figure out the “new normal”. The most important reminder for us all is to continue the physical distancing (6 ft. / 2 meters) as much as possible. Many local businesses have tried to make that distancing as easy as they can (thank you) by placing arrows and markers and signage to guide us.



On May 21<sup>st</sup> Saskatchewan's Medical Health Officer suggested that wearing homemade masks in situations where keeping the physical distance may not be possible is another way to protect yourself. Some local businesses and entrepreneurs are making a variety of masks available for purchase. Please continue to keep the distance and stay safe.

Did you know that one in every eight women employed in Saskatchewan runs her own business? May 17 to 23 is Women Entrepreneurs Week. **Congratulations** to all local female entrepreneurs. This statistic puts female entrepreneurship in the province above the national average and fourth highest among provinces. I suspect this statistic is replicated in the Town of Nipawin.

Minister Mellor recently said, “Saskatchewan women have built familiar brands and created markets across North America.” As we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 restrictions I continue to encourage residents to **THINK SHOP & BUY LOCAL** and show your support of all local business and look for way to support the women-led businesses in our community.

Some weeks ago during kick-off at the Town's Open House, the Town of Nipawin promoted an on-line survey to allow residents to participate in information-gathering and provide feedback in regard to zoning in areas such as Coventry in regard to preferred house sizes etc.. The information is part of ensuring public input as Council continues to work on future strategies and plans that will see Nipawin poised for the future. This type of input will continue to be sought for other areas such as determining minimum house sizes throughout the community to ensure adequate and appropriate housing for all demographics of the community and area. It is imperative that the need for additional housing units of all types and sizes continue to be addressed. 41 resident responses were received.

Following several weeks of the Town Office and Visitor Information Centre being closed, they are both again open to the public daily from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic situation being declared it was deemed necessary to ensure there was good communication among the varied organizations and groups throughout the community. As a result, a Community Pandemic & Economic Interagency was begun to assist in consistent communication. That Interagency group has met weekly. In addition to Town representation, it includes representatives from: Chamber of Commerce, independent business,

ministerial, education, Cumberland College, KidsFirst, Sask. Health Authority, Social Services, Housing Authority, Senior's representative, Oasis Community Centre, RCMP, Fire Department and EMS. This Interagency has determined that it will continue to meet on a regular basis to continue to ensure good communication across multiple sectors.

Congratulations to the entire community for the active participation in a Community Food Drive held on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The generous efforts saw more than 1100 kg of food delivered to the Salvation Army Food Bank. Several organizations also challenged each other to raise funds that were donated to the Food Bank at the same time. Thank you to the people of the area for your active participation.

For some time now there have been conversations about a Community Garden. If you've recently driven down Maple Road, you will see the beginnings of that garden as it takes shape. Plots are available for rental by contacting the Town Office. Thank you to the Parks & Recreation Department for the hard work building and putting this together. I have no doubt that, like the members of Council, you are anxious to see it when it's all in bloom and in production.

Unfortunately, though all renovations at the Pool at Central Park are complete it seems unlikely that the opening of the pool during this summer season will be allowed due to COVID-19. However, the pool will shortly need to be filled with water to ensure that all mechanical systems are operational and tested.

The Town of Nipawin is pleased to welcome two new staff members in coming weeks. David Pruden will fill the role of Bylaw/EMO Officer and David Balding will join the Town of Nipawin as Fire Chief. The Fire Chief begins in the role on May 25<sup>th</sup> and the Bylaw/EMO Officer begins on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Announcements and information can be found on the website.

I welcome conversations with residents. If you have an idea, concern or a bouquet please don't hesitate to arrange an opportunity for Mayor and Council to hear your ideas. Call (306) 862 9866 to arrange an appointment or by email to [mayorharper@nipawin.com](mailto:mayorharper@nipawin.com). (**NOTE:** Anonymous concerns, written or by phone, will not receive response so please sign your concern and provide contact information.)

The Town of Nipawin's website at: [www.nipawin.com](http://www.nipawin.com) has links to all the latest COVID-10 information including links to Provincial and Federal forms and updates.

Link to the **Provincial COVID-19 self assessment tool** and other valuable information including the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan, is available at: [www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19). The website is updated regularly to ensure it remains current.



## Compost Collection

Pickup every Wednesday from May 13 – October 21, 2020  
Place carts on front curb by 7:00 AM

Please place compostable material in MTN Green Carts,  
Waste receptacles or compostable paper bags.  
Green Carts available from MTN Disposal – 862.1401