



COUNCILLOR

Carol Armstrong

Welcome to the **ninth** update of Trent Lakes Council activities. Please share with me your comments and feedback.

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Councillor's Message:

Most of us will be delighted to see the end of 2020. The COVID pandemic has changed our lives in ways that no one could have imagined. And sadly, we have lost too many lives and seen too much suffering due to this terrible virus.

A New Year is coming. We should take a moment to count our blessings and to celebrate our good fortune to reside in a place with natural beauty, sparkling clean lakes, abundant wildlife, star-filled skies and vast outdoor spaces.



My very best wishes to you and yours for a healthy, happy and rewarding New Year!!

TRENT LAKES COUNCIL UPDATE

Highlights of Trent Lakes Council Decisions: **Oct – Dec 2020**

ROADS/PUBLIC WORKS

- Budget for the 2021 addition of a permanent garage structure at the Cavendish Public Works site
- Support Police Services Board recommendation to establish a community safety zone on Hwy 507 - fines can be doubled in these zones
- Request re-employment of photo radar and any other enforcement measures deemed effective on Hwy 507 - supported by a residents' petition with >500 signatures!
- Request County approval to construct 3 cross walks in Buckhorn, to augment sidewalks now planned for 2021
- Approve speed limit reduction to 40 km/h on a section of Bass Lake Road
- Approve Obstruction of Highways bylaw (includes prohibition of noise mitigation structures on municipal roads)
- Consistent with the Province, amend Off Road Vehicle bylaw to add off-road motorcycles and extreme terrain vehicles

COMMUNICATIONS/TECHNOLOGY

- Approve award for website redesign and implementation to eSolutions Group Ltd
- Proceed with implementation of live streaming/video recording of Council meetings
- Cancel annual ratepayer / cottage association meeting for 2020 due to COVID
- Support transition to e-procurement platform for tenders

FACILITIES

- Approve Community Improvement Program matching grant for Cody Inn
- Approve replacement of Deer Bay Hall roof by AGC + Associates
- Award tender for replacement of roof at Buckhorn Regional Health Centre to AGC + Associates
- Approve application to *Investing in Canada Infrastructure* fund for use in re-siding the Galway Hall in 2021

BUILDING/PLANNING

- Uphold bylaw disallowing two story boathouses
- Approve 2021 plans for licensing or removing docks on Municipal road allowances - 15 identified
- Approve PTBO Public Health to conduct mandatory and discretionary sewage system maintenance inspections
- Support draft approval of Granite Ridge Phase 2 subdivision plan

NOTE: These are updates selected by me to keep the public informed.

Any errors or omissions are mine alone. More details at:

www.trentlakes.ca/council/meetings-agendas-minutes/

MID TERM REPORT

It's hard to believe, but your Council has been in place for two of its four year term. I thought it would be timely to reflect on key accomplishments of Council during this period.

To start with, I have revisited the major “**Concerns**” raised by taxpayers during the 2018 campaign, and assessed our progress in addressing these. Next are issues related to “**Process**” where improvements are being implemented. Finally, I have highlighted major “**Projects**” that were completed in 2019/2020.

NOTE: These assessments are *mine alone*; staff and other members of Council may have different perspectives.



Complete



Some Progress. Work ongoing



No Progress

CONCERN	STATUS	PROGRESS
Quarterly Restrictions on Waste Pass		Restrictions removed July 2019 as a trial. Permanently removed for 2020 and expected for foreseeable future. Benefit: ALL taxpayers can use their 48 bag allotment throughout the year.
Public Works Depots and Fire Halls - Renovate/Replace		A Working Group of Staff and Council reviewed all previous studies, prior public input and feasible options to finalize a municipal facility strategy – September 2020. Benefit: There will continue to be fire and public works facilities in all wards. (<i>Details were included in my September Newsletter.</i>) Implementation started.
Short Term Rentals		A Working Group was created to address the concerns and considerations for short term rentals. A final report will be presented to Council in January, including proposed exemptions for “occasional” renters. Full public feedback on proposed bylaws and program documents will be scheduled in 2021. Benefit: A proposed licensing program will give the Municipality oversight of STRs operating like a business.
Quarries		The first application presented to <i>this</i> Council was November 2020 for Dewdney Mountain Farms Quarry. Determination of whether the application is “complete” was deferred, pending further information. Benefit: Council continues to advocate to MNRF for greater Municipal control and for license approvals to consider the cumulative impact of quarries in a Municipality.
Fireworks		New fireworks restrictions were implemented October 2019. Fireworks may only be set off during 4 designated Holidays per year. Benefit: Protection of the environment, wildlife and domestic animals; reduction of noise pollution.
Docks on Municipal Road Allowances (NOTE This is not targeted to Docks located on private property and unpurchased shoreline allowances.)		A Policy was passed in July 2020 along with a process to identify owners and remove private docks, unless the owner accepts liability and signs an agreement. Only 3 notices were served in 2020; 13 more will be served in Spring 2021. Benefit: Municipal access to lakes remains open for all the public to use.

PROCESS	STATUS	PROGRESS
Bylaw Enforcement		Engaged a 24/7 call centre in February 2020 to enable the public to report bylaw complaints nights and weekends. Benefit: Improved complaint process. Enforcement still needs improvement.
Independent Integrity Commissioner		Appointed an independent Integrity Commissioner and an Ombudsman for Trent Lakes in March 2019. Benefit: Eliminates any real or perceived conflict of interest by segregating Municipal Solicitor from these roles.
Communications and Public Engagement		Held a facilitated roundtable for the public in June 2019. Communications Review conducted April 2020. New website and communications process tender issued November 2020. Benefit: Greater focus on communications and new website will help. More work needed to improve communications and engagement.

PROJECT	STATUS	PROGRESS
Discretionary Septic Inspection Program		Peterborough Public Health completed 300 inspections in 2019 in the Crystal Lake area and 300 inspections in 2020 in the Cavendish area. Benefit: Minimize contamination of lakes.
Cavendish Rink / Sports Pad		With funding assistance from the Trillium Foundation, the Cavendish Rink/Sportspad was upgraded in 2019 / 2020. There were some issues with the work; remediation was required and has been completed. Benefit: A space for the community to play – all year round.
Beaver Lake Road		The final section of Beaver Lake Road was rehabilitated in 2020.
Cavendish Land fill Site		A retaining wall and concrete pad was installed in 2020 to address safety concerns.
Sumcot Drive		Sumcot Drive was rehabilitated in 2020.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for a Better, Brighter and Truly Fulfilling New Year!!

