

Communications

Thank you all for your continued support and the opportunity to bring you up to date on Township projects and initiatives. The Archipelago is a unique, water-based township that seeks to provide a continuing semi-wilderness experience where seasonal and full-time residents enjoy the high quality of life. Our main focus is planning and the environment within this community and the wider responsibilities of the West Parry Sound area of which we are both a member and a strong financial contributor.

Our township was founded by "citizen planners in action". This implies the need for on-going and effective communication between all ratepayer organizations in the Township, including PaBIA, working collaboratively to produce an experience that reflects the needs of the community both in terms of the Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw and the neighbourhood policies that allow some flexibility to meet our immediate needs. This is an on-going challenge for our Township.

We continue to develop our Township web site to allow for better communication to all ratepayers and appreciate all feedback that you give us. We have conducted annual "Open Houses" at the Ojibway, to try and make it easy for you to talk to your Councillors. It is via Association membership that our non-Canadian ratepayers have an effective voice in local affairs, a role that was clearly intended when our Township was established over 30 years ago. The role of Associations and their relationship with Council is a continuing and vital part of our Township's effective operation.

Waterfront Phase III

PaBIA's last newsletter showed the progress in the Village to implement the Strat Plan. The road is paved and changes to help drainage/reduce flood risk have been made. The old wharf has been removed and a new dock and contractors wharf and small boat launch ramp are in place. You will note that there appears to be several concrete culvert sections running along the old wharf area west of the bridge over Sucker Creek. This is fish habitat to encourage fish after the work was done to rebuild the bridge as part of a Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) requirement. This is an important fish spawning area.

The new washrooms, a pump-out facility and landscaping will be part of Phase III and we ask that you bear with us for this construction this summer.

Many ratepayers have asked why this has all taken so long. The answer is that we have tried to secure senior level of government funding wherever possible. We have not received everything that we wanted but wish to acknowledge the on-going help and co-operation of our local MP, The Honourable Tony Clement who has shown a willingness to work with and help us whenever asked. As well, the financial support given by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation has been critical to the success of the project and specifically with the undertaking of the final phase in 2011. This approach has saved money but the number of infrastructure programmes and projects across Canada the last couple of years has also slowed project time lines considerably. We very much appreciate your understanding. Two phases down and one to go!

Boating Safety and the Government Dock Area

PaBIA President Sted Garber rarely misses an opportunity to talk about boating safety. The Township has tried to be a willing partner in this area and we ask all ratepayers to be safety conscious and courteous, respectful boaters in the Pointe au Baril harbour area, especially around the marina and government docks. It should be common sense to be OFF PLANE when passing the harbour marinas where people are taking on fuel and loading/unloading boats. Please do your bit to help improve boating safety!

Waste Management

We are pleased that our and your efforts in this area are paying off. Feedback from ratepayers has been very positive and abuse of our sites is way down. We will again offer three large item pick-up days this year and continue to fine people who leave garbage either on the docks or outside the transfer site when it is not open. Please be respectful of others and check the Township website for Site 9 Hours of Operation and open hours for the Village Transfer site. Use clear bags ONLY so that we can monitor recycling compliance. This saves money and extends the life cycle of Site 9. The Penfold family will again run their bottle drive this year, which last year resulted in about \$15,000 in contributions to local charities. This undertaking is significant and makes a big difference to local groups, so please give your recyclable bottles to the transfer station for the Penfold Charity Bottle Drive! This outstanding example of community volunteerism has led to a Township-wide policy based upon the template established by the Penfold family.

Other items

Former Councillor John Cochrane has graciously agreed to continue and contribute his expertise to the Township with regard to the water quality issues in Sturgeon Bay. This is of enormous concern to all of us. As Reeve Ketchum alludes in his message, we want to help but must be careful that the issues and responsibilities of all levels of government are clearly understood before getting into areas of senior government responsibility with your tax dollars.

Bill Prior continues to provide both leadership and prodding with regard to the issue of fresh-water aquaculture. This has been the subject of discussions with Minister Clement both in front of Council and during a recent meeting in his constituency office.

The other Ward 3 ratepayer group, the Skerryvore Ratepayers' Association, continues to function well and we have an on-going, excellent relationship with its Executive and members.

The new Species at Risk Act will impose new regulations on building sites in our Township. Check any new building plans with Township staff for details.

You will notice on your first trip North in the Spring that the Highway 69 Nobel bypass is now open. See www.highway69.ca for further details.

Thank you all again for the opportunity to continue to represent your interests. We look forward to seeing you all on the Bay soon and wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer!