



The Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Community Newsletter December 2019

A Year in Review

“Winter is a season of recovery and preparation.” ~ Paul Theroux

The new 2018-2022 Council has just wrapped up their first year in office. We have seen a lot of change this past year and we are busy working on preparations for the year to come.

The administrative office had some staffing changes in 2019. Jeff Port, Director of Planning & Development, has retired, but will stay on part-time to provide the Township with Professional Planning, Land Use and Development services. While he is no longer here full-time, we are delighted to keep his expertise in-house. We also welcomed Heather Gropp, Community Development Officer, to our team in June. Heather brings a great wealth of education, experience and network connections to the table. We are looking most forward to working with her. Our local Ontario Provincial Police Community Officer, Karen Rustige, recently retired. Constable Karen will be greatly missed, but we congratulate her on her much-deserved retirement! And, we extend a warm welcome to OPP Constable Gord Adams, who is our new Community Officer.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing reviews each municipality's financial health through the use of key financial indicators in relation to established provincial thresholds. The Township of Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls just received our current report. We score far above average in the province of Ontario. I would like to congratulate our team, both staff and council, for their fiduciary care and responsibility. This report is reflective of the diligence and competence of our finance and collections department.

Our Fire Rescue Services Department has implemented a new training schedule, meeting weekly. Their current focus is on pre-incident planning at various properties and neighbourhoods throughout the municipality. Our Chief, Tyrell Griffith, indicates that this valuable time spent brings to light different challenges and assists them in finding solutions before an emergency may arise. We greatly appreciate their expertise, time and dedication in keeping our community safe! Woody Linton, our Emergency Information Officer, continues to build unparalleled emergency communications centres at both Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls. Our local comms centres rival those of much larger communities. We are lucky to have Woody's - and that of our local ARES members - knowledge, connections and network. In the event of an emergency, we are well connected!

Council and Senior Staff reviewed the Corporate Strategic Plan, updated and added to it. The Plan was adopted by Council earlier this summer. The established high priority items include: Solid Waste Management, Community Improvement Plan Implementation, Sioux Narrows Municipal Office Renovations and Nestor Falls Community Hall Renovations. A copy of the plan can be viewed on the municipal website, at snnf.ca. We are currently updating our Asset Management Plan, an essential working document that inventories our physical assets, including land, buildings and equipment, as well as establishes their lifecycle, current value and replacement value. This is an integral tool in budgeting, investing and planning for repairs and replacements.

Modifications and improvements to our computer networking system are also scheduled to improve system stability and security. As well, we are making health and safety modifications to our administrative offices. This includes accessibility improvements, as well as staff safety and protection measures, such as security enhancements at reception counters, video surveillance, door buzzers and alarms. We are working with the Kenora District Services Board on the development of a new ambulance garage at Nestor Falls to fully meet the needs of their service operations. We anticipate shovels in the ground in 2020.

Numerous applications have been submitted for funding for highway corridor and municipal waterfront improvements, municipal outdoor space enhancements, Canada Day Fireworks and more.

Our seasonal facilities, departments and programs are now closed for the winter. The 2019 Summer season was a success. Our seasonal staff and Maintenance Department worked hard to keep our municipal roads, parks, grounds and facilities in great shape! We saw increases in visitors and seasonal campers. Permits, licences and user fees exceeded our expectations. The Moose n' Fiddle Music Festival continues to grow. Not only are ticket sales up, but we were also on Roots Music Canada's radar this year. The Festival was both attended by and very positively reviewed by them. Our Bridge and Falls Creative Residency Program was successful again this year. We hosted professional artists from across Canada, as well as an International artist this year. This program continues to bring creatives to Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls, who stay in local hotels and resorts, shop at local establishments, as well as provide public engagement opportunities to our residents.

A huge thank you to our municipal staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment to making our public facilities, events and programs second to none. It is also extremely important to acknowledge our community volunteers. The events and programs that they organize in Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls help to make our community an amazing place to be.

This is just a snapshot of some of our current and planned activities. While winter may seem a quiet time in Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls, Council and Staff remain busy. We look forward to completing initiatives and strive to improve our existing programs and services in a continued effort to make Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls one of the best places in Northwestern Ontario to live, work and play.

Wishing you and yours a safe, healthy and happy Christmas & New Year.

Wanda Kabel, Chief Administrative Officer





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Sioux Narrows Volunteer Award

Sioux Narrows is a town very fortunate to have so many amazing volunteers. Be it in service of organizations such as Parent Council, Rec Committee, Bassin' for Bucks, Fire Department, Arts Festival, Sunrise Echoes Seniors Club and many more; our people give their time generously. A heart-felt thank you is owed to all those who donate their time and, in so doing, make this community such a special place to live and be a part of.

With this in mind, we are starting a program to recognize people who exemplify the spirit of volunteerism in our community. Please take a moment to reflect on the volunteers who have made a difference in your life and send us your nomination(s) for the first annual Sioux Narrows Volunteer Award. Nominations can be dropped off at the Sioux Narrows Town Office – Attention Dawn Madden or emailed to Lorda18@hotmail.com. Please write the name of nominee and reason why they should be recognized on the ballot.

The recipient of the 2019 Sioux Narrows Volunteer Award will be announced at the Spring BBQ, May 9th, 2020.

Sioux Narrows Public School Community Christmas Concert



Thursday, December 19th

SN Community Hall
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Concert starts at 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy coffee and goodies.

Bake Sale

Items Available by the Parent Council and community volunteers!!!

Nestor Falls Public School

Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 19th
6:30 p.m.

NF Community Hall
Everyone Welcome



9th Annual White Elephant Sale

Sioux Narrows Community Hall

Wednesday, December 4th
11:30 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

Open to all of the children from all of the communities

We are looking for donations of new or gently used items that children can purchase for their families. Cost per each item is 25 cents. We also need volunteers that day to help the kids shop and wrap.



Please call the school to donate and ask for Suzanne 226-5245.

Merry Christmas



SIoux NARROWS RECREATION COMMITTEE
Presents the First Annual

CHRISTMAS DINNER & DANCE

Friday, December 13th
Sioux Narrows Community Hall
Doors Open at 5:00 pm

Ukrainian Dinner
Festive Christmas Outfit Competition
SANTA! PRIZES!
Dancing & Holiday Cheer

Tickets \$10 Available at Mayer Hardware, Gill's,
Copperfin Credit Union
Kids 10 & Under Eat Free - Cash Bar



Lake of the Woods Chapel

As we move into the season of Christmas celebrations, I look out my window and see the gently falling snow.... will it stay this time, or will it go? We know how lovely Christmas lights are with snow as a backdrop!

For December, our Sunday services continue to be held at 2:30 in the afternoon.... we welcome your presence!

December 8th is White Gift Sunday....gifts wrapped in white tissue paper with colourful ribbon will be gathered and then delivered to Birchwood Terrace for any residents there who have no friends or family to remember them at Christmas. On Sunday, December 15th, Communion will be celebrated. The Christmas Eve service on December 24th will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you to all who helped with the Christmas Bazaar by donating baking, crafts, soup, and sandwiches.... your time and effort is greatly appreciated. The proceeds from the event will be donated to local charities.

May the blessings of Christmas abide with each of you now and in the coming year.

SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN!

Join us to get your picture taken With Good Old Jolly Saint Nick!

DECEMBER 7th
11 to 4
At the Sioux Narrows Hall

Leashed Pets are welcomed

\$10.00 gets you a digital copy of your photos

Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided while you wait courtesy of Parent Council.

Made with **Poster Maker**

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Sioux Narrows
Community Hall
Sunday, December 15th
6:00 pm



SN Public School Parent Council

OPP STUFF A CRUISER



You are invited to come to the Annual OPP Stuff A Cruiser in support of the Salvation Army Miracle Marathon. Please drop by with any donations of non-perishable food items; new unwrapped toys or gently used winter coats.

Thursday December 5th
9-11:30 am at the Trading
Post Parking Lot - Sioux
Narrows

SIoux NARROWS NURSING STATION

Please call 807-226-1081 for appointments and leave your name and phone number.

You will receive a call back with your scheduled appointment date.

AMBULANCE, FIRE AND POLICE CALL 911