



The Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Community Newsletter January 2023

Looking Back on 2022 and Forward in 2023

When I sat down to write this article, Governor General Mary Simon's new year's message kept replaying in my mind. So much of what she said resonates with and inspires me. She spoke of hope as a "great motivator", of building inclusivity and talking to each other; "to better understand each other and respect our different views." She said many painful things too, including facing hard truths and trauma. And recounted violent "community-shattering attacks". Things we don't always think are that close to home, such as hate, aggression, anger and intolerance, but that are often closer than we realize. But the more that we "pay attention to acts of kindness, compassion and reconciliation" that "good people doing good can make a difference."

The Governor General also said that in 2022 we faced "climate disasters" and "difficult and monumental" challenges. The effects of the pandemic and ensuing economic crisis still very much, if not more so, impacts us here at Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls. The record breaking high water levels in the Lake of the Woods watershed, causing incredible damages to property and infrastructure, and extreme weather causing flash flooding and horrible wind storms that damaged businesses and homes. Central Nestor Falls and Caliper Lake Provincial Park were terribly affected by such extreme storm activity. While it has never been confirmed by Environment Canada, we suspect that it must have been a tornado that touched down in Nestor Falls in July 2022. The effects of which, cleanup and rebuilding, will undoubtedly continue for years to come.

2022 was an election year in Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls. For the first time in the history of the municipality, we did not have a ballot for municipal council or School Board Trustees. All positions were acclaimed. All the same, congratulations to the new council and school board trustees who represent us. These are community minded individuals, volunteers, who give of themselves, time away from their jobs, businesses and families, and often against much adversity and criticism.

Several large infrastructure projects started in 2022. The Nestor Falls Ambulance Base, which may even be complete by the time this article is published. The Golf Course Clubhouse renovations, which should be completed by early summer 2023. The ground work, base and boards at the Sioux Narrows winter skating rink and summer pickleball court were completed. The grant for the roof was just approved in December, so work on that will continue into 2023. The Nestor Falls 'Falls' Rest Stop grounds improvement project was completed. The Sportfishing Centre grounds improvement project was started. More work at the facility, including re-siding the building, will commence in 2023-2024. The bike trails at Nestor Falls project will commence in 2023. As well, the Nestor Falls Community Hall will see renovations begin in 2023. Much other work has been done and is ongoing. Most of which is funded by various federal and provincial grants, and regional agency financial support.

We worked in partnership with Onigaming First Nation on the 'Falls' Rest Stop project and were invited to and participated in their community's Treaty Day celebrations in 2022. We are continuing to meet and dialogue with Onigaming's Chief, Council and staff. We have met with and are continuing to work with Animakee Wa Zhing #37 First Nation Chief, Council and staff on joint community interests. We continue to work with the City of Kenora toward tourism, marketing and other partnerships. Along with the Kenora District Services Board, we are in the beginning stages of bringing senior housing development to Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls. As well, we continue to collaborate and network with many neighbouring and regional communities, municipalities, agencies and organizations. Working together has many rewards, including finding new opportunities, leveraging our voices to senior levels of government, promoting understanding, building respect and fostering better relationships. To better understand each other. To respect our different views.

We continue to work with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and environmental engineers on Waste Management, recycling and environmental compliance. Annually we are required to fulfill many operations, testing and reporting standards. Practices and policies are largely, if not entirely, mandated by the province, including upcoming changes to the recycling system across the province of Ontario. The viability of our waste disposal and septic filtration sites, and recycling programs, are pivotal to the environment's and our community's health, wellbeing and sustainability.

When I write "we", I am referring to a very incredible group of people. Municipal staff, both full-time, part-time and seasonal, municipal Council, both past and present, and countless community volunteers. The team that supports this municipality, it's facilities, programs and special events, our community, is generous, gracious, tolerant and talented. Good people who are doing good.

Finally, the Governor General said that "winter doesn't stop life." "Now is the time to tell stories, to rejuvenate and to move forward together. To keep going." In 2023, there are many things that I hope for us all. Including telling, listening and sharing stories, showing kindness, compassion, understanding, tolerance, supporting reconciliation and achieving prosperity. And, to move forward. Together.

Wanda Kabel
Chief Administrative Officer



The Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls
Community Newsletter
January 2023

**Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness
for New Clear Hard Ice.**

**7 cm (3") or less
STAY OFF!!**

*No ice is without some risk.
Be sure to measure clear hard
ice in several places.*

Ice Thickness	Activities / Vehicles
10 cm (4")	ice fishing, walking, cross country skiing
12 cm (5")	one vehicle: snowmobile or ATV
20-30 cm (8 - 12")	one vehicle: car or small pick-up
30-38 cm (12 - 15")	one vehicle: medium truck

AdventureSmart
www.adventuresmart.ca

LIFESAVING SOCIETY®
The Lifeguarding Experts

Annual Stuff a Cruiser



Once again the great community of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls came together to support our yearly OPP Stuff a Cruiser Day held on December 8th, 2022.

The community donated enough toys and food to fill both the OPP truck and the OPP Suburban! Also included was approximately \$600 in cash that was donated!
Our community is small, but contributed amazingly and were able to give a great Christmas to those in need.

Again, thank you everyone that helped with the donations, Santa for stopping by, and Gill's Trading Post for allowing the use of the parking lot.

Provincial Constable Gord Adams

Lake of the Woods United Church

Happy New Year! Hope your hearts are filled with many reasons to smile with thankfulness. It's great that daylight hours are getting longer as well!

Sunday services are at 2:30 p.m. at Lake of the Woods United Church, except Sunday January 15th, when our minister, Pat Chabluk is away on educational leave. Check out our Facebook page, [LOW CHAPEL](#)

Winter Landfill Hours: October 1st—April 30th

Open: Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

Sioux Narrows Landfill 9:00 am—11:30 am—Nestor Falls Landfill 1:30 pm—4:00 pm



MPAC ASSESSMENTS & INTERIM TAX BILLS

As another New Year begins it is time to review the Tax Cycle for the upcoming year and remind everyone of the important dates to keep in mind to avoid incurring penalty & interest on your property taxes.

Interim Bill - The Interim Bill represents approximately 1/3 of a property owner's annual taxes. The Interim bill is based on 35 % of the previous year's taxes. So, for example if your previous year's taxes totalled \$1,000.00, your current year's Interim Bill would be \$350.00. This is the first of two bills that are sent out, usually in early January of each year. The **Due Date** for the Interim Bill is **March 31st**. On your Interim Bill, it will say **First Installment**. This simply means that your Interim Bill can only be paid in one payment and must be received by the due date to avoid incurring any penalty & interest.

Final Bill - Once the Annual Budget has been approved and the Municipal Tax rate has been set for that year, the Final Bill is prepared and sent out. This usually occurs by early May of each year. The Final Bill is the second of two bills to be sent out and represents approximately 2/3 of the property owner's annual taxes. The Final Bill can either be paid all at once, or it can be paid in two Installments. The **Due Date** for the Final Bill **First Installment** is **June 30th**. The **Due Date** for the Final Bill **Second Installment** is **September 30th**.

Payment Methods - There are several methods of payment for your property taxes. By cheque or cash; by Visa or Mastercard . (either in person at the Township office, or over the telephone); Using a Debit Card (in person only); by electronic bill payment through your bank using your Roll number as your account number; by email e-transfer payment sending to the Treasurer at mhanson@snnf.ca (both electronic payment methods require that you have a Canadian bank account). Just a final note on payment methods. We are not allowed to keep credit card numbers on file to automatically make tax payments. We are also not allowed to automatically withdraw funds from anyone's bank account to make tax payments. Making these payments while keeping due dates in mind, is the responsibility of the property owner.

One other reminder to all property owners. If you are **moving**, please remember to call the Township office and let us know to update your address on your property tax bill. This ensures that your tax bill will arrive on time and avoid the possibility of incurring penalty & interest. Also, property owners must contact MPAC with their new address to continue to receive their property assessment notice.

If anyone has questions at any time regarding the billing or payment process for property taxes, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

Maureen Hanson, Treasurer

807-226-5241 ext. 202 or email at mhanson@snnf.ca

Sioux Narrows Nursing Station

DR. KERRY ANDERSON, MD

Tuesday, January 10th	1:30—4:30
Thursday, January 12th	9:30—12:30
Tuesday, January 17th	1:30—4:30
Thursday, January 19th	9:30—12:30
Tuesday, January 24th	1:30—4:30
Thursday, January 26th	9:30—12:30
Tuesday, January 31st	1:30—4:30

RN. CAITLIN CAMPBELL

Monday, January 9th	9:30—12:30
Monday, January 16th	9:30—12:30
Monday, January 23rd	9:30—12:30
Monday, January 30th	9:30—12:30

SUSAN MCLEOD, FOOTCARE SPECIALIST

Wednesday, February 15th	9:00—4:00
--------------------------	-----------

Please call 807-226-1081 for appointments

If you are experiencing any symptoms relating to Covid 19, please contact the Northwestern Health Unit 807-468-3147.

AMBULANCE, FIRE AND POLICE—CALL 911