



Looking Back on 2021 and Forward in 2022

There is no doubt that 2021 was yet another unparalleled year. There was, however and thankfully, a small modicum of normalcy. There was a return of many residents and visitors from across Canada and the US. Many in-person activities and services have been relatively stable. Some special events returned in the summer of 2021. The school year got off to a routine start with in-person learning. And, Christmas and New Year's wasn't entirely on lock-down in 2021.

Then, just when we began to feel like things are levelling out, we are now thrown back, headfirst, into uncharted waters. It's hard. On everyone. And, it's taking a toll. Schools are closed to in-class learning. Parents are struggling to balance work and setting their children up to learn at home. Teachers must engage their students through online portals. Businesses are struggling with staffing and pandemic limitations. Services that were once available are no longer open, or open under different circumstances. And, some facilities are closed, and many events are cancelled or postponed.

A few municipal examples of closures and limitations are the Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls fitness centres and community halls. The municipality does not choose to close off or limit their use without just cause. It is provincial regulation that prevents and/or limits our operations from continuing in the same manner as pre-Covid times. Council reviews these matters regularly, and we routinely communicate with the department of public health. These are not easy decisions, and we understand how disappointing that they are. We too are disappointed. If there is uncertainty surrounding any of the details regarding these, or any other municipal facilities, please contact us directly for answers.

The only certainty is, well, uncertainty. Global pandemic or not, things never really stay the same. The same goes for our community. Our landscape is ever-evolving. Many years ago, someone said to me, "there cannot be progress without change." It has always stuck with me. And I truly believe it. Our community is changing, but it is certainly not without progress.

We are seeing many new residents who are choosing to live here year-round. What were once typical cottage properties, used only in summer, are becoming year-round homes. While some businesses are closing, and we are sad to see them go, there are new and different ones emerging. Our volunteer groups are finding new and innovative ways to offer programming.

The municipality too is working hard to advocate, develop and foster change. We recently reported on several large community development projects. Such as the Nestor Falls Ambulance Base, a project in partnership with the Kenora District Services Board, who will lease back the facility, long-term, on a construction cost recovery basis, plus interest. The Nestor Falls 'Falls' rest area is a project in partnership with the Ojibways of Onigaming and the Ministry of Transportation. The municipality's share of the costs are funded in large part through grant funding. The golf course club house saw improvements to the washrooms and will see some further improvements to the building in the coming months. 100% funded by grants. There will be a new outdoor, hardtop recreation surface (skating, pickle ball, etc.) at Sioux Narrows. We are working on improving the façade and outdoor grounds at the Sportfishing Centre, developing biking trails at Nestor Falls and renovating the Nestor Falls Community Hall.

In addition to these facilities, we are discussing the feasibility of affordable housing development and child care services in Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls with the Kenora District Services Board. We have met with and continue to meet with financial Institutions to try and attract new in-community banking services. We have met with and continue to lobby the Ministry of Finance to reinstate LCBO services to Sioux Narrows.

We are working with Environmental Engineers and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks on both short and long-term planning for Waste Management. Landfill Sites have finite lifespans. There are some changes that we are required to implement immediately, such as waste oil, fuel, paint/used paint cans, etc. We are not permitted by the Ministry to accept these. We will, however, be looking at setting up hazardous waste collection procedures in the future. As well, it will soon no longer be free to take dump-truck and/or dump-trailer loads of construction debris to our sites. Fees will be coming into place over the next few months for the dumping of large quantities of construction/demolition debris. Some changes will be immediate, such as those noted above, and some will come into place over time, such as working on alternatives to landfilling, including possible transfer station development.

The municipality is an active All Nations Health Partner (ANHP). ANHP is a coalition of leaders in Indigenous and mainstream health and public services in the Kenora region. We are working collaboratively to improve the health care system to focus on people first and better serve the unique needs of our northern communities. We are developing a regionally specific, culturally appropriate, and responsive health system for all, including a new hospital.

Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls has been identified as an underserved area for mental health and addictions services. While our conversations are in early stages, we are working with the Canadian Mental Health Association and regional partners on the possibility of mobile, in-community outreach services.

2022 is also a municipal election year. Nominations may be filed beginning May 2<sup>nd</sup> through to August 19<sup>th</sup>. The election takes place in October and the newly elected Council will take their seats in November.

Change. We have seen and will continue to see much change. One thing, however, that remains the same is how strong, resilient, kind, and generous our community is. Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls never ceases to amaze me in how resourceful, talented, gracious, and caring our residents are. In these tough times, these are the qualities that will help us get through. That, and solidarity.

On that note, I would like to take an opportunity to thank our team here at the Township of Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls. Our council, staff and volunteers exemplify strength, resiliency, talent, kindness, dedication, and grace. Despite much adversity, many challenges, and constant change, they continue to work tirelessly and in the best interest of our community.

Wishing everyone much progress in 2022.

Wanda Kabel  
Chief Administrative Officer



**THE TOWNSHIP OF SIOUX NARROWS-NESTOR FALLS  
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER—JANUARY 2022**



In Touch

**Ice Safety**

Every year the OPP responds to numerous calls for service where vehicles and/or people fall through the ice. So...know the dangers of ice, and always carry ice picks on your person.

Many factors affect ice thickness including: type of water, location, the time of year and other environmental factors such as: water depth and size of body of water, currents, tides and other moving water, chemicals including salt, fluctuations in water levels, logs, rocks and docks absorbing heat from the sun, changing air temperature, shock waves from vehicles traveling on the ice and ice colour.

The colour of ice may be an indication of its strength. Clear blue ice is strongest. White opaque or snow ice is half as strong as blue ice. Opaque ice is formed by wet snow freezing on the ice. Grey ice is unsafe. The grayness indicates the presence of water.

Check with local guides or authorities before heading out and avoid going out on ice at night.

**If you get into trouble on ice and you're by yourself:**

Call for help.

Resist the immediate urge to climb back out where you fell in. The ice is weak in this area. Use the air trapped in your clothing to get into a floating position on your stomach. Reach forward onto the broken ice without pushing down. Kick your legs to push your torso on the ice.

When you are back on the ice, crawl on your stomach or roll away from the open area with your arms and legs spread out as far as possible to evenly distribute your body weight. Do not stand up! Look for shore and make sure you are going in the right direction.

**When you are with others on ice:**

Rescuing another person from ice can be dangerous. The safest way to perform a rescue is from shore. Call for help. Consider whether you can quickly get help from trained professionals (police, fire fighters or ambulance) or bystanders. Check if you can reach the person using a long pole or branch from shore – if so, lie down and extend the pole to the person. If you go onto ice, wear a PFD and carry a long pole or branch to test the ice in front of you. Bring something to reach or throw to the person (e.g. pole, weighted rope, line or tree branch). When near the break, lie down to distribute your weight and slowly crawl toward the hole.

Remaining low, extend or throw your emergency rescue device (pole, rope, line or branch) to the person. Have the person kick while you pull them out. Move the person to a safe position on shore or where you are sure the ice is thick. Signal for help.

**Annual OPP Stuff A Cruiser**



A huge "Thank You" to Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls for the donations made during the Annual OPP Stuff A Cruiser event held on December 9, 2021. We raised \$804.00 plus a vehicle loaded with food and toys which were all donated to the Salvation Army.

**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 31<sup>st</sup>**. 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 30<sup>th</sup>**. The **Due Date** for the Final Bill **Second Installment** is **September 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**Payment Methods** - There are several methods of payment for your property taxes. By cheque or cash; by Visa or Mastercard .0 (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](mailto: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](mailto:mhanson@snnf.ca)

Sioux Narrows Nursing Station

**DR. KERRY ANDERSON, MD**

Tuesday, January 4th                    9:30—12:30  
 Thursday, January 6th                9:30—12:30  
 Tuesday, January 11th                9:30—12:30  
 Thursday, January 13th                9:30—12:30  
 Tuesday, January 18th                9:30—12:30  
 Thursday, January 20th                9:30—23:30  
 Tuesday, January 25th                9:30—12:30

**RN. CAITLIN CAMPBELL**

Wednesday, January 12th            9:30—12:30  
 Wednesday, January 19th            9:30—12:30  
 Wednesday, January 26th            9:30—12:30

**DR. DEAN KOZAK, DENTIST**

TBD

**SUSAN MCLEOD, FOOTCARE SPECIALIST**

TBD

Please call 807-226-1081 for appointments

IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY SYMPTOMS RELATING TO COVID-19 PLEASE CONTACT THE  
NORTHWEST HEALTH UNIT 807-468-3147

AMBULANCE, FIRE AND POLICE—CALL 911