



# *Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls* **COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

**- FALL 2022 -**

## **HOUSING**

Housing is identified as an area of great concern within our community economic development strategy. The Township is making concerted efforts that will support and facilitate the development of new housing in the community. These efforts promote housing diversity, affordability and accessibility. This is in addition to finding ways to maintain and protect the existing housing stock in the community. Specific actions taken to date include:

- At the August 2nd meeting The Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Council sold the property located on the south side of the SN community hall to the Kenora District Services Board for the development of an affordable Seniors Housing Complex. A similar opportunity is underway in Nestor-Falls and we will provide updates as that progresses.

- In August, Council issued an Expression of Interest to developers for potential housing developments on the property formally known as Pioneer Park in Sioux Narrows. This Expression of Interest was well received and we are currently working through the process and will keep the community apprised of future developments. The EOI was well received by developers. We will be providing future community updates as they are available.

This summer we saw a return to a more normal pace in the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls. We were able to welcome more visitors and seasonal residents to our community than we have over the past 2 years. However, this year was certainly not without its challenges.

We experienced increased visitors at our Northern Ontario Sport Fishing Centre and Nestor Falls information Centre over the previous two years. Through June, July and August the numbers at the Sport Fishing Centre were approximately 30% behind our peak year of 2019, while the Nestor Falls Info Centre saw a slight increase in visitor traffic over 2019. The numbers for so far for September are looking strong. Interestingly this year we welcomed more travelers from across Canada than we have previously. Provincial border crossings from the US continue to hover between 50-60% of what they were pre-pandemic.

Both Sioux Narrows Provincial Park and Caliper Lake Provincial Park (until its closure) had busy seasons. While we are awaiting final numbers at the end of the season, we believe that this year campers and visitors to our parks was higher than we have seen in recent years.

We also had a difficult and heart-breaking natural disaster situation to overcome in Nestor Falls. While the clean up still continues in Nestor Falls and Caliper Lake park, we remain grateful that there were no serious injuries and we are so proud of how the community came together and the amazing response from our emergency services personnel and Municipal Leadership.

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**“The Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls honours our unique natural environment, paying close attention to the ways in which we build community. We will promote and collaborate with the outstanding stewards of our community to foster innovative, yet thoughtful growth.”**



# CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

## Bike Trails Development

We are pleased to share that the implementation of our first phase of our Bike trails study is underway. The trails have been designed and are out for tender. This phase will be focused around the Bass Lake Park area in Nestor Falls.

On August 16, 2022 the firm designing our trails Scatcliff+Miller+Murray facilitated two stakeholder meetings with interested First Nation and community representatives, elected officials, business owners, and trails enthusiasts and advocates to discuss the Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Trails Concept Plan. The meetings started with a brief presentation outlining the SNNF Trails Concept Plan and the detailed designs developed for Phase 1 of the Concept Plan. The purpose of these meetings was to build awareness for the project, and to identify new opportunities and partnerships for this project. As a result of this meeting, it was recommended that we focus our efforts around building the trails close to the centre of the community townsites and linking Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls. We are grateful for the support some of our first nations neighbours are expressing for this project, and we look forward to working with them on it.

We are purposely designing and building these trails so that they can be certified by the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). This will allow us to host certified races, and larger cycling events once they are complete, and will generate significantly increased tourism visitation and economic impact to our community.

**Cost: \$200,000** Funding: NOHFC \$180,000 (90%), Municipality \$20,000 (10%)

## Nestor Falls Community Centre Upgrades

We continue to work on design concepts for this project. Construction is expected to start this Fall. The existing centre will remain useable until after the 2022 Holiday Season events, and we hope to re-open to users in the Spring of 2023.

**Cost: \$200,00** Funding: NOHFC \$180,000 (90%), Municipality \$20,000 (10%)

## 4 Season Multi-Use Recreation Facility

The weather and availability of building materials have presented challenges for this project. Jarnel construction is on site and working to complete phase one of this project. We expect to have the concrete pad poured and rink boards installed by the end of October 2022. Phase 2 of the project will include the roof. We have submitted funding applications and we are awaiting funding confirmations before we proceed.

**Phase 1 Cost: \$1,003,000** Funding: Federal \$401,000 (40%) Provincial \$334,000 (33.3%) Municipal \$267,000 (26.7%)

**Phase 2 Cost: \$1,400,000** anticipated funding \$1,260,000 (90%) Municipal: \$140,000 (10%)

## Northern Ontario Sport Fishing Centre Grounds

We are finalizing the design work for this project and expect that it will go out for tender by the end of September. This will allow for construction to take place later this fall and over the winter. This project will see the inclusion of accessible walkways, as well as an updated playground and other site improvements. This space will be one of a kind in the region, and a great place for our community to gather.

**Cost: \$645,000** Funding: NOHFC \$316,000 (49%), FedNor \$193,500 (30%), Municipality \$135,450 (21%)





## Family Activity Centre at the NOSFC

This summer we were thrilled to open up our family activity centre at the Northern Ontario Sport Fishing Centre. This centre features the Northern Nature Exchange Exhibit from Science North as well as a northern sound identification game, and fish species identification game. It is a great space for children and adults alike to visit over and over and to learn about the nature that surrounds us.



## HAVE YOU SEEN THE COMPLETED NESTOR FALLS SITE RE-DEVELOPMENT?

This project was completed in August 2022. It was a wonderful partnership between the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls, the Community of Onigaming and the Ministry of Transportation, in addition to our funding partners at FedNor and NOHFC. This redevelopment had created a unique space with accessible views of Nestor Falls, historical and cultural information about the site and a fun picnic space.

**Cost: \$200,000** Funding: NOHFC: \$98,000 (49%), Fed Nor \$67,700 (34%), Municipal \$34,300 (17%)





## Mark Your Calendars

### Small Business Week is October 16-22



We are currently working with partners including the Northwest Business Centre, the Northwest Innovation Centre, the Kenora and District Chamber of Commerce, LOWBIC, the City of Kenora and the Business Development Bank of Canada on small

business related events to take place in the region that week.

On Monday October 17, 2022 from 3p.m.-5p.m. the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls will be hosting a Business open house and celebration at the Northern Ontario Sport Fishing Centre. We are looking forward to celebrating our local business community.

### Digital Success in the Changing Marketplace Workshop on November 7, 2022



The Township has undertaken a visitor data collection project, which will give us a strong indication of the visitors to our community and how they have changed as a result of the pandemic. Visitors information

from 2019, 2021 and 2022 and been gathered and will be analyzed and presented at this workshop to provide interested businesses with a strong understanding of where visitors to the community originate and if and how that is changing.

This presentation will be immediately followed by a Digital Success in the Changing Marketplace workshop presented by Allysion Pele from the Northwest Business Centre.

Please watch the Township Social Media and business email updates for more details.

**For more information on the Community Economic Development Plan, the Highways Corridor re-development plan and all other Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls plans and strategies please visit: [www.snnf.ca](http://www.snnf.ca)**

**For questions or further inquiries please contact: Heather Gropp, Community Development Officer at [hgropp@snnf.ca](mailto:hgropp@snnf.ca)**



*Sioux Narrows  
Nestor Falls*