

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

- SUMMER 2023 -



Photo Credit: Jake Bennett

It was wonderful to feel the hustle and bustle return to the community of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls over these past few months. Events that had to be cancelled and postponed returned, we were once again in the company of our friends and family from afar as most seasonal residents and many long-time visitors returned. We also welcomed new visitors to the community. At the Northern Ontario Sport Fishing Centre we saw visitor numbers through the end of August that were roughly 70% of what we saw in 2019. At the Nestor Falls Info Centre we saw visitors numbers through the end of August that were roughly.... Of what we saw in 2019. We also had nearly 200 people attend our 12 speaker series events and workshops. We would like to thank all the community members who volunteer, and all who work tirelessly to ensure that our events and attractions continue to operate and draw visitors into our community each year. The busy season is exciting news and we hope to continue to grow and build on this momentum into the shoulder and winter seasons, as well as next summer.

Marketing: The Township has been actively engaged in marketing our community as a destination in a variety of markets this year. We have run very successful partnership "Lake of the Woods" marketing campaigns into Minnesota, Wisconsin, and areas within a days drive in Canada. Our campaigns will be wrapping up towards the end of September and we look forward to sharing some detailed results and visitor profile information in our next update.

Community and Business Survey: September 1-15

The Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls is about to begin its 5-year strategic planning cycle. We would like to hear from all community residents and local businesses in order to better understand the needs in the community and to ensure that our priorities and plans are made to best support our residents, local businesses, and life in Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls.

The information that we will gather will help the Township understand how it can support existing and develop new programs/initiatives in the future. We would appreciate all local residents and local businesses taking a few minutes to let us know your thoughts. **To provide your input please visit www.snnf.ca and click on the Community Survey or Business Survey Link.**

**COMMUNITY
INPUT
REQUESTED**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Capital Projects Nearing Completion

This summer we have been working to complete a number of Community Improvement projects throughout the municipality. Due to the current economic climate we all face, this summer we have had delays due to material shortages, labour shortages and shipping delays. We have overcome these challenges and we are expecting to wrap up the following project by the end of September.

Nestor Falls Government Dock

We have repaired and enhanced the Government Docks in Nestor Falls. We are awaiting the lighting, and shaded seating area and hope to include a welcome sign as well.

Cost \$200,000

Funding NOHFC \$180,000 (90%) Municipal \$20,000 (10%)



Northern Ontario Sport Fishing Centre Grounds

With the playground almost complete and the arrival of the 33 foot slide to the site, this project will be wrapped up imminently.

Cost \$645,000

Funding: NOHFC \$316,000 (49%) Fed Nor \$193,000 (30%), Municipal 135,450 (21%)

Four Season Multi-Use Recreation Facility

This project is awaiting its finishing touches, including finished electrical, gables, sidewalls and line painting. We look forward to holding a grand opening of the facility in the fall.

Phase II cost: \$1,400,000

Funding Fed Nor \$630,000 (45%), NOHFC \$630,000 (45%) Municipal \$140,000 (10%)



Continuing Capital Projects

Nestor Falls Community Centre Upgrades

The designs are nearing completion for this project which will feature a new entry way and larger event space. We anticipate completion by the end of the year.

Cost \$200,000

Funding: NOHFC \$180,000 (90%) Municipal \$20,000 (10%)

Bike Trails Development

The construction crews are on site and work on this project is expected to commence early in September. It is anticipated that phase one of this project will be wrapped up within the next 6 weeks.

Phase I Cost \$200,000

Funding: NOHFC \$180,000 Municipal \$20,000 (10%)

New Community Capital Project

Sioux Narrows Government Dock and Boat Launch

Phase II of the Site improvements to the Government Dock area in Sioux Narrows and improvements to the NOSFC site have commenced. We are currently working on detailed designs which will include the additional of a secondary boat launch, landscaping improvements, and lighting at the site. These enhancements are expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

Phase II Cost: \$500,000

Funding: NOHFC \$375,000 (75%) Municipal \$125,000 (25%)

Bridge Park

We have undertaken a project that will see the re-development of Bridge Park. This space has amazing views and this project will enhance the accessibility of the park providing a more user-friendly space that really highlights the beauty that can be viewed from the park.

Cost \$200,000

Funding NOHFC \$180,000 (90%) Municipal \$20,000 (10%)

Both of these new capital community improvement projects are contained in our Highway Corridor Redevelopment Plan. Once they are complete we will have completed over 50% of the projects identified in this plan.



Minister Rickford meets with Municipal Council and staff to discuss upgrades to the Sioux Narrows Government Dock. | Photo Credit: Tom Thomson

Housing

The Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls recently completed a housing needs survey in Nestor Falls. A similar survey was conducted in Sioux Narrows in 2021. The results of these survey's demonstrate the need for a variety of housing types within our community. The Township is continuing to work with our partners and different levels of government to increase the housing option available in the community.



Building Connections



The Townships community economic development plan highlights a number of goals and objectives that are considered necessary to further develop and improve the economic climate in Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls. Goal 4.1 of the plan is to “Partner and collaborate with our First Nations Neighbours on mutual Tourism and Economic Development Priorities.”

In June, leadership and staff from the Ojibways of Onigaming, Animakee Wa Zhing #37 and the Township of Sioux Narrows – Nestor Falls met to continue relationship building, discuss challenges, opportunities and working together toward a better future for our communities and residents.

We discussed common goals related to environmental stewardship, prosperity, physical and mental health and wellbeing, eliminating economic and social barriers, systemic racism, and promoting education related to understanding the use of inappropriate Anishininaabe (First Nation) symbols, sacred objects, pejorative references and titles, and perpetuating incorrect or hurtful accounts of historical events.

Land use planning, the importance of Indigenous First Nation traditional knowledge, including how it relates to environmental and species sustainability and continuity, partnering on cultural and capital projects, mental health and addictions, housing, trail projects, and business attraction were notable subjects.

It was agreed to continue to dialogue regarding leveraging our collective voices to agencies and senior levels of government, as well as sharing and building stories to reduce stigma, improving relationships and partnerships with First Nations, and gaining a better mutual understanding of our cultural differences and similarities.

We look forward to continuing to work together to build a more inclusive, understanding, welcoming and sustainable future for all.



The Township continues to work with a variety of regional and provincial partners to advance the economic interests of the community. In July, leadership and staff from the Township attended the regional Childcare funding announcement in Kenora with the Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce and Kenora District Services Board.

The Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls has adopted a number of plans and strategies that help to move our community forward. All of these plans and strategies including the Community Economic Development Plan, Highway Corridor re-development plan and others can be found under the Town Hall (community profile) tab on our website: www.snnf.ca

For questions or further inquiries specific to Community Development please contact:
Heather Gropp, Community Development Officer at hgropp@snnf.ca



*Sioux Narrows
Nestor Falls*