

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

- SPRING 2022 -

Guiding principles provide the Township with guidelines to inform decision making when implementing the direction of the Community Economic Development Strategy. This Strategy and the resulting Township efforts are directed by the following guiding principles:

COLLABORATION

It's the way we work! We work as a team, as a community, across organizations, and the region to obtain the best possible outcomes.

SUSTAINABILITY

Respect for the environment, our residents, our visitors, and our neighbours. We ensure our actions are responsible and sustainable both today and into the future.

INNOVATIVE & THOUGHTFUL GROWTH

We think outside of the box and find unique ways and ideas to foster growth that is in alignment with our small community.

DIVERSE

We support and promote diversity within our community and within our local economy.

CREATIVE

We are inspired by our natural environment, and we foster and promote the arts and culture industries, events, and opportunities throughout Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls.

RESILIENT

We are forward thinking and aim to grow and develop in a manner that ensures that we are in the best possible position to face challenges and changes in our world.

At the Township, we are approaching this upcoming summer season with optimism. Optimism for a return to a more normal summer season, full of vibrancy and a more fulsome return of our summer residents and many visitors to our small community. Many of our activities over the past few months have been to support this expectation of increased visitation and a much busier summer season.

Community Economic Development Strategy

Work has been completed on the Community Economic Development Strategy, and it will be in front of Council for approval in early May. We are grateful for the widespread community input into this important document for our community. Many local businesses took the time this past fall to complete our economic development survey, and many more chose to come out to our in-person engagements sessions. This input was invaluable in forming this new strategy which will act as our economic development roadmap over the next few years. Once approved, this document will be publicly available on our website.



LCBO and Financial Institutions

The Township recognizes that the lack of financial services in our community is a significant loss. We continue to reach out to financial institutions and actively meet with them to discuss all options for the provision of in community financial services.

The Township also continues to actively engage with the LCBO and Provincial Government to secure LCBO service in the Sioux Narrows Community as soon as possible.

Growing Creative Industries

In 2020 & 2021, the Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls participated in the Mapping of Creative Spaces Project in Northern Ontario. The project was coordinated by Arts Build Ontario and the NORDIK Institute. The Arts and creative industries provide very real and unique opportunities for community development within our municipality, and the report contains excellent suggestions and comments to consider as we move forward. As a follow up to this project, over the next few months we will actively engage with the Arts Build Organization, and community partners on the creation of a northern development plan to address the increased need for creative spaces in our community and across Northern Ontario.

Housing

Since our last update in December, Statistics Canada released the first round of 2021 Census Data. This information confirmed what we believed, Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls is experiencing strong growth. Statistics Canada has reported a 28.8% population increase in our community. This increase is compared to decrease in NWO urban centers such as Kenora and Dryden, but is consistent with growth in other remote areas of the region, such as Kenora unorganized.

In August 2021, the Township began actively looking at the housing situation in our community, and has recognized that there is need to improve housing in the community. Seniors housing was identified as being in particular high demand. In February we launched a seniors housing survey in conjunction with the KDSB. In March, Council passed a resolution agreeing to contribute 2 municipally owned parcels of land in our community (one in Sioux Narrows and one in Nestor Falls) to a joint seniors housing project with the KDSB. The KDSB has submitted funding proposals to start the planning (including location selection, which is still yet to be determined), and design of these units. Once this is complete, further applications will be submitted for construction. We anticipate that construction could begin as early as fall 2022 or Spring 2023 to bring 8-10 new seniors housing units into our community.

IMPORTANT DATES AT LOCAL PROVINCIAL PARKS FOR SUMMER 2022

May 20 - Sioux Narrows and Caliper Lake
Provincial Parks open

August 26 & 27 - The return of the Moose N'
Fiddle Festival (Caliper Lake)

September 10 - Artists in the Park
(Sioux Narrows Provincial Park)

NORTHERN ONTARIO SPORT FISHING CENTRE

This summer, the Northern Ontario Sport Fishing Centre is excited to introduce its new family activity centre. In Partnership with Science North, we are bringing the Northern Nature Exchange Program to the centre, along with other fun (hands on) interactive exhibits. Be sure to stop in and see what it is all about.

CURRENT COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The Township currently has a number of Capital Improvement Projects underway.

The 4 Season Recreation Facility

This project is well underway. Demolition of the existing rink surface began in Fall 2021. We have confirmed that Jarnel Construction will be onsite starting in May to complete the installation of the new concrete pad, boards etc. This work is on track and expected to be completed by July 2022. Phase 2 of the project will include the roof. We have submitted funding applications and are awaiting funding confirmations before we proceed. Once these are secured we will proceed immediately on to phase 2.

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 have engaged with Scatliff+Miller+Murray to implement the re-development of the exterior grounds of the Northern Ontario Sport Fishing Centre. This is a project that was outlined in our Highway Corridor Re-Development plan. We are currently in the design phase, and once this is complete we will be sharing the designs with the community. The goal of the project is to create a unique multi-generational community space for all to enjoy. Our hope is that this will be such a unique space, that visitors come just to see it and residents can enjoy it over and over. We expect the designs to be complete by June and that construction will start as early as late summer and continue into Spring 2023.

Cost: \$645,000 Funding: NOHFC \$316,050 (49%) Fed Nor \$193,500 (30%), Municipality: \$135,450 (21%)

The Nestor Falls Site Redevelopment

This project has reached substantial completion. Viking contractors will be on site in May and June to install the remaining outstanding items, including the interpretive panels. This site will be complete and available to explore and enjoy this summer.

Cost: \$200,000 Funding: NOHFC: \$98,000 (49%) Fed Nor \$67,700 (34%) Municipal \$73,300 (17%)

Bike Trails

We will begin our first phase of the bike trails development this summer. We have engaged Scatliff+Miller+Murray to complete the detailed design and first phase of construction. Ground truthing will begin once the snow has melted and grounds are accessible. This phase will begin out of Bass Lake Park.

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

Nestor Falls Community Centre upgrades

In March we held a community input session to discuss the needs and requirements for upgrades to the Nestor Falls Community Centre. We were pleased with the exchange of ideas and learned a lot from those who use the centre. We are working on design concepts and will be starting construction in the Fall of 2022. The existing centre will remain useable until after the 2022 Holiday Season Events, and we hope to re-open to users by March 2023.

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

Community Marketing Initiatives

In anticipation of the upcoming 2022 season, the Township has been working on marketing efforts that we anticipate will increase awareness of our community as a vacation destination, and result in increased visitation to the community.

REGIONAL MARKETING: Throughout 2020 and 2021 we experienced growth in visitors from Northwestern Ontario visiting our community. In 2022 we want to ensure that we continue to encourage this important market. We are just finalizing the 2022 Bridge & Falls Guide. In mid-May nearly 15,000 copies will be sent directly into the mailboxes of Kenora, Fort Frances, and Dryden residences.

DOMESTIC MARKETING: This Summer, we are partnering with Tourism Kenora and Destination Northern Ontario to promote the Lake of the Woods experience into Manitoba.

This partnership allows us to leverage our resources and dramatically increase the reach of our marketing dollars to increase awareness and encourage visitation to our community. This campaign is planned to run from June until September 2022. Visit livethelakelife.ca or experiencelakeofthewoods.com to see our campaigns in action.

U.S. MARKETING: We have also partnered with Destination Ontario and Tourism Kenora to promote Lake of the Woods into the Minnesota and Wisconsin markets. We have developed content focusing on lodges and resorts, attractions around Lake of the Woods, fishing and outdoor adventures. This campaign will be in market in May 2022.

The Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls has other funding applications in to support the completion of our Highway Corridor Re-development plan. We look forward to sharing these projects with you in the future as they become possible and approved for funding.

For more information on the Highway Corridor Re-Development plan and all other Township of Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls plans and strategies please visit: www.snnf.ca/planning/

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



*Sioux Narrows
Nestor Falls*