

NK Council - Progress Report

By Rick Woodcock

A Message from your Mayor

October 2017

With the summer on its way out, along with endless days of rain, September has brought a few weeks of great weather. It has been an interesting summer for all, putting boats in late and taking them out early.

This report is an update to the Community with respect to the many things that I had intended to achieve in the first two and a half years of Councils' term, however there are a few important things to share prior to that report.

As many know, the Peterborough Family Health Team is advertising and actively interviewing doctors to fill the vacancy at the NK Health Centre. We have a challenge to accurately identify the potential patient volume. Over recent months/years, some patients have left in order to secure medical services in other locations. Our challenge is now to determine just how large the practice can be if everyone who wishes to roster with a fully integrated physician/nurse practitioner program closer to home were to sign up. The FHT will be circulating a SURVEY in order to assist in this determination. Please watch for this important survey. It is important to determine the number of patients in order to attract a doctor to our community.

As we approach the three-year mark of a four-year term, Council, along with the OPP and the Police Services Board continue to work with the County to address safety issues on Burleigh Street. Over the next few months, we will keep you aware of the progress.

Lastly, Council is in the process of reviewing Bylaw 2013-26 with a goal to keep cottages as far from the high water mark as practical. A Public Meeting will be held "to review proposed amendments to the Township Comprehensive Zoning Bylaw related to Expansion and Enlargement of Existing and Rebuilt Dwellings in the Water Yard". The Meeting will be held at Wilson Park in Woodview on Saturday, October 7th at 9:30 a.m.

Now to the progress report ... The Goals I had coming into the position of Mayor can be expressed in five categories:

- Open and Responsible Government
- Responsible Spending (2015 Action Plan)
- Evolve and Grow OUR Community
- Public Safety and Health
- Environmental Protection:

For each category, here is a high level summary of information, plans and actions in the past three years:

Open and Responsible Government

- ▶ Open, welcoming Council meetings:
 - All ratepayers are welcomed in an open friendly manner
 - The Mayor personally greets visitors prior to the meetings if practical
 - All visitors are welcomed to comment and contribute to topics

being discussed by Council

- Applicants/appellants/others have ample time to express opinions/concerns with respect to planning matters
- ▶ Evening and regular summer meetings:
 - In summers of 2016 and 2017, regular meetings have been held to address the increase in issues during summer months
 - The need for evening meetings was not supported by Council

▶ Round table, Town Hall and/or Open House meetings:
Several meetings have been held on the following topics:

- June 26, 2015: Superior Court Decision; Glaspell vs Ontario
- July 28, 2015: Public input session re: In-water structures
- August 27, 2015: Winter Road Maintenance
- August 29, 2015: Boat Houses
- August 31, 2015: Burleigh Bay Development
- January 26, 2016: Boathouses and docks
- May 28, 2016: Public input for proposed zoning bylaw to regulate in-water buildings and structures
- June 18, 2016: Winters Bay Application
- June 22, 2017: Road safety and Burleigh St.
- July 20, 2017: 2 ½ Years in review; what's left to do?
- August 13, 2017: Investigation of common ground/interest and discussion of communication expectations
- Others to be announced

▶ Detailed monthly financial statements:

- Several reviews of formats were undertaken
- Detailed quarterly statements are now reported every three months

▶ Five (5) advisory committees with public participation:

- This proposal was not supported by Council

▶ Develop partnership meetings with Lake Associations and Community Clubs:

- This topic was addressed at a Town Hall/Open House Meeting on August 13, 2017. Good suggestions were received.

Responsible Spending (2015 Action Plan)

▶ Zero tax increase (excluding imposed OPP increase):

- This anticipated goal was not practical for several reasons which are worthy of further discussion; in fact it turned out that additional property tax increases were required
- Tax rate increases: 2015: 0.1%; 2016: 4.7%; 2017: 6.2%

▶ Avoid deficit spending:

- Deficit spending has not occurred and annual net contributions have been made to reserve accounts

▶ Best practice and department operational reviews:

- Insight from the inside has indicated that best practices are utilized, however more can be done in this area
- Extensive measuring and monitoring has not been supported by Council
- Formal operational reviews have not been conducted however an experienced CAO was engaged who undertook a detailed review of all departments and programs

▶ Greater utilization of NKCC:

- For discussion



Please see page three for the rest of this article.