

COUNCILLORS SCOTT SHEARD AND EARL MANNERS



BAY NOTES

Ward 3

Pointe au Baril, Skerryvore, Frederic Inlet, Shawanaga Bay & Lighthouse Neighbourhoods

June 2019

The June Meetings of the Township of the Archipelago took place on June 20-21st, 2019.

Council Update - Financial Reports

Annual Independent Audit Results

Our auditor, BDO Canada LLP, provided the Independent Auditor's Report on the consolidated financial statements of The Corporation of the Township of The Archipelago as of December 31, 2018. Highlights include:

- Determined to be a 'clean audit' and no issues,
- Information provided timely and thoroughly,
- No accounting policies or management judgements deemed as unreasonable,
- Standard risk is the judgement of the auditor and this is a positive statement.

The one area of concern not identified in the audit was expressed by Council as 'cyber risks to municipalities'. There is a growing trend of cyber criminals gaining access to municipal IT systems and encrypting municipal records for release by ransom in Canada and the USA. Council asked that Staff begin a review of IT safeguards in place.

Strategic Asset Management Plan

Did you know that your Township developed, adopted and maintains a Strategic Plan, an Official Plan, an Emergency Management Plan, an Accessibility Plan and an Asset Management Plan?

Our municipality meets all legislative requirements through these plans but strives to deliver service to you through innovation and excellence, and in a fiscally responsible way. The GIS system is a great example of this (see below).

The Strategic Asset Management Plan must be aligned with the Township's Official Plan and reflect how the community is projected to change and the related asset impact.

9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)

Council approved the renewal of the 9-1-1 Primary PSAP services contract that is a collaborative effort with First Nation and municipalities in West Parry Sound District.

It was emphasized to Councillors that it is important for residents to have GPS coordinates as well as island name and municipal property number to expedite an emergency call.

Further information about 9-1-1 services has been shared with various community associations.

West Parry Sound Geography Network (WPSGN)

Did you know?

The Township is responsible for the development and administration of a geomatics service supporting GIS solutions for seven (7) municipalities in West Parry Sound as well as 9-1-1 Dispatch, EMS, OPP, Fire, Victims Services in East and West PS, WPS Health Centre, Social Services, school board transportation services, First Nations, GBBR, Hydro, MNRF, community networks, realtors and surveyors?

It operates on a simple browser based interface that is also available for public use. Services include mapping, automatic vehicle location (including boats, snow plows, garbage trucks and sidewalk plows), an open data portal for information such as the nearest defibrillator location, mailing addresses, civic addresses/9-1-1 numbering, species at risk tracker, Emergency dashboard, vulnerable persons database, water quality inspections, island names and numbers and GPS coordinates.

We heartily recommend that you utilize this service as a public user and you can navigate through the service at

<https://www.wpsgn.ca/v5/#>

Great News: Two of our TOA staff, Joe Villeneuve, Manager of Corporate Services and Chris Mahon, GIS Data Management Specialist, received the 'Excellence in Municipal Systems' award from the prestigious Municipal Information Services Association (MISA) as voted by their body of peers across Ontario. The award was in recognition of the rare collaborative nature of the application and services that the WPSGN provides to municipal governments, agencies and the public.

Congratulations to Joe and Chris for their leadership in the West Parry

Sound District!

Environmental Update

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Mayors initiative

Reeve Bert Liverance represented the TOA at the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Mayors Conference. The Mayors passed the following resolution to eradicate Asian Carp and Grass Carp before they invade the Great Lakes and do irreparable damage to the \$7 billion recreational, commercial and tribal fishing industry throughout the Great Lakes.

Whereas Council for the Township of The Archipelago has received a request for support of a resolution from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative regarding advancing interim measures at Brandon Point Lock and Dam to protect against Asian Carp;

Now Therefore Be it Resolved that Council for the Township of The Archipelago hereby supports the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative in their request to emphasize the urgency around taking action at Brandon Road to bolster defenses against aquatic invasive species, especially Asian and Grass Carp, entering the Great Lakes system and calls on all regional partners and stakeholders to work together to take a definitive action to address the threat.

TOA Council supported the resolution.

GBBR Water Quality Report

A comprehensive report was provided on the 'Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program Report – 2018 Results'. The report includes explanations for the following:

- Why there is a shift from regular bacteria testing
- Why monitor total phosphorus?
- Why monitor benthic macroinvertebrates?

Regular monitoring sites that would be of interest to Ward 1, 2 and 3 include: Bayfield Nares, Pointe au Baril, and Skerryvore. Enhanced monitoring site include Sturgeon Bay and Bayfield and Nares Inlets. The report will be available on the Township website in the near future.

The GBBR has added four (4) new sites in the TOA North to test phosphorus levels in the water. Natural phosphorus levels are going down significantly in Georgian Bay and Pointe au Baril area is not different. The GBBR is continuing enhanced monitoring in Sturgeon Bay for both phosphorus and oxygenation. The water stratification and oxygenation research is unique in the province and the results may be of use in addressing blue-green algae across the province. Sturgeon Bay phosphorus levels are trending down and the oxygenation research indicates that water stratification is not uniform in Sturgeon Bay – an unexpected finding. Its significance is not known at this time.

Councillors Peter Frost (Ward 2) and Scott Sheard (Ward 3) assisted Tom Lundy former Councillor and current Member Safety Director for PaBIA in testing new PaB sites chosen for phosphorus testing. Locations included a location in the open waters south west of Sugarloaf Island, Pym Rock and in front of the church in Pointe au Baril harbour. Water clarity and water temperatures were also recorded.

GBBR Forest Health Report

With respect to forest health, Council received the Forest Health Update – 2018. Environmental conditions (weather) and significant forest pests were reviewed including Pine Sawfly, Beech Bark Disease, Forest Tent Caterpillar, Twig Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

Of great concern, EAB has moved north into the TOA. If residents discover signs of the Emerald Ash Borer and wish to remediate, the same chemical that has been used in Pointe au Baril to address the Pine Saw will work with on EAB. Otherwise, the stricken tree should be removed and burned.

The Report also describes the cyclical nature of the Forest Tent Caterpillar. The GBBR recommends that residents only take out the caterpillars if the tree is dying, otherwise they are an important food source for birds and their silk is used for nests.

The full report will be available next month on the Township website.

[Better Understand the Environment](#)

Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation (GBGLF)

The GBGLF has been conducting extensive research on the wetlands of Georgian Bay from Port Severn to the North Channel of Manitoulin Island. The east coast of Georgian Bay has the most significant, high quality wetlands anywhere in the Great Lakes system and North America. *Their research has convinced Environment Canada to support research in Georgian Bay separately from Lake Huron!*

Currently, the Foundation is studying how long it takes for wetlands to return to equilibrium after re-flooding occurs with high water following a period of low water. One of the factors influencing the results is meadow marsh – the trees and other flora that grows during low water, but takes time to die off with re-flooding.

Georgian Bay is particularly susceptible to meadow marsh compared to the Great Lakes. The research on wetlands also includes the mapping of inland vernal pools. Vernal pools or ponds are seasonal pools of water found in forests provide not only habitat but means for amphibians and vertebrates to travel to nesting sites.

These pools are safe havens because there are no fish found in them. The presentation will be available shortly on the Township website.

[Vernal Pools](#)

Fire Rating

The current fire rating is '**HIGH**' and that means the following:

- Fire danger is **SERIOUS**
- NO Open Burning except contained campfires for cooking and warmth
- FIREWORKS PROHIBITED.

Please do not use fireworks during this time.

NO FIREWORKS

Meet your Ward 3 Councillors!

Septic integrity is important to our community and your Ward 3 Councillors have established this fact at Council and to our scientific advisors.

LET'S CHAT!

Community Brief - Pointe au Baril

South Shore Road Traffic Calming Initiative

At the request of residents along the South Shore Road, TOA Council has asked Staff to plan and implement, on a trial basis, multiple traffic calming initiatives along this road that serves a significant part of our community including residents, tourists, businesses and cottagers.

It is our understanding that traffic concerns have been expressed by the Community for decades and that singular remedies have not delivered results.

The stretch of road identified of greatest concern begins at the Township docks continues to the Community Centre and Nursing Station and up the succeeding hill heading south and west. Measures in combination may include but not limited to the following:

- increased OPP presence,
- speed humps,
- road painting,
- signage,
- speed limit reduction and
- other measures.

While the speed limit is 40 km/hour in that area, the road has little or no shoulders and the curves in the road also impact visibility and speed. Please mind your speed when travelling along the South Shore road

and look for the new signs near the Community Centre. The children's playground and use of the Community Centre is significantly up.

Speed and Wake PaB Harbour

The high water levels are impacting the shorelines of residents and businesses on both sides of the harbour. We have witnessed boats travelling at high speed and/or with large wake throughout June and now into July.

Please be aware that we are all responsible for damage from our wake and a great neighbourly policy would be to travel at a maximum of 8kph or 5mph when entering or exiting the harbour. It adds only 4 minutes to your transit time to and from Neil Cameron's dock and you are obeying navigation rules!

Habitat for Humanity

Progress continues on this tremendous community initiative. However, volunteers are needed for the next phase of construction and as importantly, the Committee has issued a call for funds to pay for the roof trusses.

We urge you to support this cause as affordable housing is a significant challenge in our community.

Community Brief | Ratepayers Associations

Shawanaga Bay Islander's Association AGM | 27th JULY 2019

The Shawanaga Bay Islander's Association AGM is scheduled for July 27, 2019 at Lot 7, 51 Richwood Drive, Skerryvore beginning at 10:00am.

PaBIA AGM | 4th AUGUST 2019

The PaBIA AGM is scheduled for August 4, 2019 at the Ojibway Club beginning at 9:00am with a Pancake Breakfast.

Please visit the PaBIA website for further details.

Skerryvore Ratepayers Association AGM | 5th AUGUST 2019

The Skerryvore Ratepayers Association AGM is scheduled for August 5, 2019 at Skerryvore Park, 5 Tamarack Drive, Skerryvore beginning at 10:00am.

Please visit the SRA website for further details.



Did you Know ... ???

Infrastructure within The Township of The Archipelago includes:

- **approximately 80.45 kilometres of private roads**
- **approximately 82.7 kilometres of Township roads**
- **3 bridges and structural culverts**
- **1 community centre (Pointe au Baril Community Centre)**
- **1 library (Pointe au Baril Public Library)**
- **1 nursing station and paramedic facility (Pointe au Baril Nursing Station)**
- **1 public works office / garage**
- **1 marina (Holiday Cove Marina).**