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PHOTO: JESS MCCOMB

SPRING | SUMMER 2020

## A Note from the CAO and Council

As we continue to navigate the circumstances associated with COVID-19, the CAO and Council would like to say *thank you* and applaud staff for working hard to not only continue the normal operation of the Township but also implement the changes needed to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to co-workers and the community.

Administrative staff quickly changed their daily routine to accommodate the reduced number of staff in the office by working from home. Works staff have continued to work and reduced the impact to the community, closing facilities as needed and creating operational procedures to reduce risk to staff and the community.

Following are a few examples of things we kept on track while flattening the curve:

- Council passed the 2020 budget on May 6, 2020, with no increase to the total rate.
- The financial statements for 2019 have been presented and approved.
- The works department managed drainage issues and completed street sweeping.
- Initiated projects for 2020: re-surfacing Park Street, Paradise Road and Galeairy Lake Road.

# THANK YOU!

The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board extends its appreciation to all members of the community and organizations, including its employees who – along with local, provincial and federal governments – have supported the needs of the most vulnerable population during these unprecedented times. We thank you for your care and compassion.

We can do this together.

## New Fire Chief for South Algonquin!

South Algonquin Staff and Council welcome Don Kruger, our new Fire Chief. Don has been a member of the Township of Tay Fire Department for 16 years and held the rank of captain for eight years.

He has been active in assisting with operation of the Tay Fire team and doing public education, and has also been teaching at both Georgian College and Humber College in the pre-service firefighter programs. Don holds over two dozen fire service certifications and a sociology degree from Laurentian University.

Council and staff sincerely thank both John Stubbs and Aurel Thom for the years of dedication, leadership and hard work that they have provided within our communities. Don will be working John and Aurel, who will now hold the title of District Chiefs. Some of the initial priorities include administrative policy, training plans and maintaining continuity between the two stations.

Don started in early March and although COVID-19 has made it a slow transition, he is looking forward to getting out into the community to work on fire preparedness, public education and prevention.

## ECOMUSEUM

Professor Chris Fullerton from Brock University has started some living history interviews mid-winter. The project has been delayed due to COVID-19. He plans to be back over the summer to continue chatting with folks and will be reaching out to some over the phone. The intention of this project is to interview people and document memories of our community. If you have information or an interesting location or artifact that you think is important to our heritage, please contact Professor Fullerton at chris.fullerton@brocku.ca or (905) 688-5550 ext. 3487.

This project has been partially funded by the Rural Economic Development program which includes an updated municipal website and the installation of signage and storyboards within the township.

## BRANDING PLAN

The branding and wayfinding map project has been delayed due to the cancellation of the March Committee meeting. Council will be holding a zoom meeting May 20, 2020, at 9 a.m., to discuss branding, signage and wayfinding maps.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

Due to COVID-19, council has been meeting using alternative methods. We held a Special Council meeting on March 31, 2020, using a teleconference line and streaming to Facebook. The May 6 Regular Council meeting was done using Zoom and streaming to our new YouTube channel @Township of South Algonquin Council. If you have questions on how to find these meetings, contact the office and we will do our best to help you.

## Municipal Information

Property tax final notices will be mailed out the first week of August. Please contact the office if you do not receive your billing notice. Instalment dates are August 31, 2020 and October 31, 2020.

## Whitney and Area Seniors

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at socials and activities when we can. Glad to see people staying safe.

## Canada Day

As most have already anticipated, Canada Day celebrations have been cancelled for 2020. We hope that residents have a safe fun alternative Canada Day this year. We look forward to getting back to our amazing traditions in 2021.



### In Memory

#### Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Don Cole.

Don was a super volunteer, involved with many events for all ages, anything that he could do to help, he was in! He also provided transportation to and from hospital appointments for many years, helping people when they needed it the most. He took the time to say hi and was always trying to make everyone he met laugh, he was always there to help a friend. His participation and smiling face in our community is missed.



## BOTH LIBRARIES ARE WORKING TOWARD CURBSIDE PICK UP IN JUNE.

We will be putting out a library-specific newsletter to provide the details of how you can start using the libraries again.

**South Algonquin Libraries are still providing modified services.** E-books are available to check out from the comfort of your home with your library card.

**If you need to sign up, we are accepting registrations via email:**

whitneylibrary@southalgonquin.ca, madawaskalibrary@southalgonquin.ca.

**Wi-Fi hotspots are available to access the internet from the safety of your vehicle.** Simply pull up to either location and connect to the network. Note: please email ahead of time for the password to connect. The Whitney library hotspot is accessible 24/7, and the Madawaska location is available during the following hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**If you have library books** from before the self-isolation period was implemented, please hang onto them until it's safe to return materials. All late fees are waived during this time.

**Please reach out if you need anything.** We are actively checking emails and communicating with our members during this time. Thanks everyone, stay safe!

## South Algonquin Residents Now Have Access to Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre



The Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (RC VTAC) was established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and has now expanded to serve South Algonquin residents.

The RC VTAC strengthens access to primary care for all residents by connecting individuals who have a health issue (including COVID-19 concerns), but either do not have a family physician/nurse practitioner or cannot access their usual family

physician/nurse practitioner, with 24/7 care and support from a family physician, nurse practitioner and/or community paramedic via phone, video or an in-home assessment. It also provides referrals to other services including mental health support.

The RC VTAC is a collaboration between Renfrew County Family Health Teams, Community Health Centres, the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service, Renfrew County Hospitals and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, with the support of Ontario Health East.

**Learn more at [www.rcvtac.ca](http://www.rcvtac.ca)**

## New! Hot Meals on Wheels program within South Algonquin

Barry's Bay and Area Home Support (BBAHS) together with the Community Resource Centre (CRC) have teamed up to develop a new *Hot Meals on Wheels* program within South Algonquin.

The two groups applied to the District of Nipissing Social Administrative Board for this program and were successful. Using the kitchen at the Kidz Castle Daycare, they intend to reach seniors and provide additional food security through the new program at an affordable price point of a \$5 per meal maximum.

They will be delivering the meals once a week, and bring both hot and frozen meals "to the door." Contact

Diane Coulas at 613-756-2772, ext 2, at Barry's Bay and Area Senior Citizens Home Support Services.

*Tip for a Good Life*

*Take a 10 to 30 minute walk everyday!*

*And while you walk, smile.*

*This is the ultimate mood lift!*

**OFFICE INFORMATION:** The Township of South Algonquin Municipal Office is currently closed to the public. We are working on staff going back into the office June 1, with an open-to-the-public pending in July. This is dependent on the provincial guidelines and we will continue to update the website and Facebook as plans solidify.

**BUILDING:** During Provincial Emergency Orders, building permit applications continue to be reviewed pursuant to the Ontario Building Code and the Building Code Act. Decisions will be made based on the current emergency orders in effect.

Building permit applications may be mailed or dropped off in the drop box located outside the main doors at the Township Office. Applications can also be emailed to [building@southalgonquin.ca](mailto:building@southalgonquin.ca). Applications can be found on our website at [southalgonquin.ca](http://southalgonquin.ca).

For more information on building permits and inspections please contact Michael Anderson, CBO/By-Law Enforcement Officer, or Tracy Cannon Planning and Building Administrator, at [building@southalgonquin.ca](mailto:building@southalgonquin.ca) or 613-637-2650, ext. 203.

**PLANNING:** Committee of Adjustments meetings have been suspended until further notice. However, the Planning Department continues to accept planning applications. Applications can be emailed to [operations@southalgonquin.ca](mailto:operations@southalgonquin.ca) or can be mailed or dropped off in the drop box located outside the main doors at the Township Office. Planning application can be found on our website at [southalgonquin.ca](http://southalgonquin.ca)

For more information, please contact Tracy Cannon at [operations@southalgonquin.ca](mailto:operations@southalgonquin.ca) or 613-637-2650, ext. 203.

### **SOUTH ALGONQUIN FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Although the Provincial Fire Ban has been lifted, conditions are dry, caution should be taken when having a fire. South Algonquin Fire Department have responded to two wildfires in the past few weeks. A reminder that cigarette butts cause fires, always dispose of them carefully.

With many Ontarians now at home because of physical distancing measures due to COVID-19, it is especially important to stress the importance of preventing fires in the home, testing smoke alarms and practicing home fire escape plans.

Between January 1 and May 4, 2019, there were 31 fire fatalities in Ontario. Over that same period in 2020, there have been 51 fire fatalities, an increase of 65 percent.

The South Algonquin Fire Department would like to remind residents to remain safe and be prepared.

**BE A HERO  
IN YOUR HOME!**

**PLAN AND PRACTICE  
YOUR ESCAPE.**

- 1 Practice a **home escape plan** so everyone in your home knows exactly what to do if the smoke alarms sound in an emergency.
- 2 **Install smoke alarms** on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas.
- 3 Test smoke alarms **every month**.

For more information contact your local fire department.

The graphic includes a floor plan diagram, a smoke alarm, and a fire extinguisher icon.

## **WASTE/DISPOSAL NEWS**



### **NEW AT THE LANDFILL SITES...**

- There are now bins at both landfill sites for clean steel food cans (soup, vegetable, bean cans).
- There's a larger bin at the Lyell Landfill Site for aluminum (most soft drink cans and cat food cans are aluminum).

**TIP: ALUMINUM IS NOT MAGNETIC. STEEL IS MAGNETIC.**

### **LANDFILL SITE HOURS:**

- Wednesday 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (April 4 until May 23)
- Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (Starting May 30)
- Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (April 26 to October 11)

In support of the effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 and help keep Ontarians safe, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will be postponing public and corporate clean-ups until later in the year during Waste Reduction Week, which takes place October 19 to 25, 2020. Council will discuss our involvement in Waste Reduction Week at an upcoming waste committee meeting.

This hasn't stopped our local litter champs from getting out and collecting. The photo above was provided by Jill Bartley and shows Chris and Nina cleaning up North McKenzie Lake Road. Wow that's a lot of litter! Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to pick up in your neighbourhood. This effort not only helps clean up, hopefully it makes those tossing think twice.

Council makes our landfills as accessible and low cost to residents as possible. Extending hours for spring clean up and applying minimal tipping fees are examples of efforts made to stop roadside dumping. It doesn't seem to be working? Please help us keep our Township beautiful.



# Community Resource Centre

Opening Doors - Growing together - Making A Difference

## STAYING CONNECTED

During this time of social isolation, we are still here to help support families in our community.

Check out all the new ways that you can access our programs from your home!

Feel free to contact us through Facebook or e-mail [info@crc-renfrewcounty.com](mailto:info@crc-renfrewcounty.com)



### Game ON

We are running a new outreach called **Game ON! Recess** to help kids get active during their social distancing

school day. Recess is open to all school-age children from JK to grade 8 and Mentors 12+ Everyone is eligible to win our weekly prize!

Visit our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/CRCGameOn](http://www.facebook.com/CRCGameOn) to see our weekly challenges. Please share with your friends so they can play too!



### Girls Rising

Hi Girls Rising family! We want to let you know you can still get in touch with us, even just to say "Hi." It's

hard times right now and even though we can't get together we are still part of your support team! If you would like more information, please e-mail us.

We are available to parents, mentors and participants (past and present) through:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GirlRising](http://www.facebook.com/GirlRising).

Instagram: [@girlstakeahike](https://www.instagram.com/girlstakeahike) and Email: [data@crc-renfrewcounty.com](mailto:data@crc-renfrewcounty.com)

Check out our YouTube channel: [Girls Rising CRC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIOTJo3BEraMrWKliw5cyYg).



### Senior Active Living Centre

We are posting weekly calendars, staying connected through phone calls

and Facebook. Check out our Facebook

for online *Imagine Feeling Great* exercise classes and many more great resources.

If you have any questions, call 613-757-3108, ext. 217, leave a message and we will get back to you.



### Toy Bus

We're offering a variety of opportunities for you and your little ones to connect to a range of

programs throughout the week.

**Mondays:** *Zoom Along with Toy Bus* is a live circle time through Zoom at 10 a.m. on Monday mornings.

Watch our Facebook page to register each week. [www.facebook.com/pg/ToyBusPlayAndLearnGroups](http://www.facebook.com/pg/ToyBusPlayAndLearnGroups)

**Tuesday and Thursdays:** *Toy Bus at Home*, go to our Facebook page and click on the link or subscribe to our YouTube channel at: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCIOTJo3BEraMrWKliw5cyYg](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIOTJo3BEraMrWKliw5cyYg) to see the Toy Bus team singing songs, reading a story and engaging your child in an activity.

**Thursday:** *Simon Says* at 12:30 p.m. live on Facebook. Our special guest, Simon the Puppet, talks to children to help them cope with their feeling during this time.

**Sunday:** *Ride Along to Dreamland* with the Toy Bus live on Facebook. Send your child off to bed after watching a bedtime story and singing some bedtime songs.

Our Facebook page also offers lots of other great activities and opportunities.



Prenatal: CRC

### Prenatal CRC

We are still:

- Registering new participants
- Mailing out weekly grocery vouchers
- Helping with prenatal vitamins
- Offering support and connections via internet

Join *Cooking with San* by accessing our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/PrenatalCRCKillaloe](http://www.facebook.com/PrenatalCRCKillaloe) or through on Youtube at Prenatal: CRC.

Please reach out through Facebook, call 613-757-3108 ext. 205 or e-mail [beststart@crc-renfrewcounty.com](mailto:beststart@crc-renfrewcounty.com)



### Kidz Kastle

We are offering circle times online plus lots of fun activities on our Facebook pages! Email: [kidzkastle@crc-renfrewcounty.com](mailto:kidzkastle@crc-renfrewcounty.com)

Barry's Bay: [www.facebook.com/kidzkastlebarrysbay](http://www.facebook.com/kidzkastlebarrysbay)

Killaloe: [www.facebook.com/KidsKastleChildrensCentre](http://www.facebook.com/KidsKastleChildrensCentre)

Whitney: [www.facebook.com/kidzkastlewhitney](http://www.facebook.com/kidzkastlewhitney)



### Buried Treasure

Currently closed.