



Welcome to our September issue of *NewsBites*.

## **DISTRICT OF MUSKOKA**

On September 18, 2013, the District of Muskoka announced that it hired Michael Duben as its new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Duben has 20 years of experience in senior positions in both the public and private sectors. Currently Vice President with Enwin Utilities in Windsor, Ontario he has held senior municipal management positions with responsibilities for a number of diverse and strategic areas, most recently with the City of Windsor as General Manager of Community and Protective Services/Deputy CAO. Prior to that, Duben was a practicing lawyer specializing primarily in the areas of labour and employment law and land development matters. Duben, who is replacing retired CAO Jim Green, begins his new position on October 28, 2013. One of his first tasks will be to work with the consultant and staff on the services review project. ***The MLA congratulates Mr. Duben on his new position and welcomes him to Muskoka.***

The District of Muskoka is preparing an agreement to enter into a project and servicing contract with Minett Development Corporation (MDC), and the MDC's partner, the Ontario Clean Water Agency. Once executed, this agreement will allow public communal and municipal water and sewer systems to be constructed in Minett, which will eventually service the proposed mix of residential, commercial and resort properties in the resort village of Minett. MDC will pay the costs associated with the building, and temporary operation and maintenance of the water and sewer systems. Once the systems are fully compliant with District requirements, the District will become responsible for their operation and maintenance.

The proposed agreement is intended to ensure that there is sufficient capacity in its design and operation to accommodate Cleveland House and the J.W. Marriott hotel (which is not owned by Ken Fowler/MDC). The district will encourage the J.W. Marriott hotel to connect in the first phase.

Township of Muskoka Lakes Councillor Phil Harding stated that the township would be pleased to have the J.W. Marriott hotel as part of the first phase of operation. ***The MLA has followed these discussions and is monitoring the preparation of agreements. It is expected that the public***

***communal system will not be operational until at least 4 years after the contract is finalized.***

District Council has approved a Township of Muskoka Lakes request for a signalized pedestrian crossover on Muskoka Road 169, south of Portage Street, in the community of Bala. Installation is hoped to be completed by the end of this year.

### **SEGUIN TOWNSHIP**

The Township of Seguin's financials are in excellent shape. Its end of September surplus has grown to \$51,555. Reasons for this surplus include a 2012 tax sale and minor cost savings from programs such as septic re-inspection and swimming lessons. As the *Parry Sound North Star* newspaper reports, "Many major projects in Seguin Township are currently underway. Rosseau's new fire truck was recently delivered and the Foley Fire Hall is scheduled to be finished in October. Work on Otter Lake Road continues, and the reconstruction of the Foley Agricultural Hall is underway with a completion date set for March 31, 2014." ***The MLA congratulates Seguin Township on keeping a tight rein on their budget!***

The Township of Seguin is looking for interested residents to fill vacancies on the following committees: the Rose Point Recreational Trail Committee, Township of Seguin Humphrey Museum Committee and the Humphrey Recreation Committee. Anyone interested should submit a letter of interest to the Township of Seguin Municipal Office, 5 Humphrey Drive, Seguin, Ontario, P2A 2W8; Attention: Craig Jeffery, Clerk. Deadline for submissions is no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

### **TOWN OF GRAVENHURST**

The Town of Gravenhurst is continuing to explore whether to introduce an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) By-Law. At a Committee of the Whole meeting on September 17, 2013 Gravenhurst Council agreed to allow more time for public input on this issue. Staff was directed to advertise for public comment/input. Staff will provide all comments received to Council at their next meeting in October. Click [here](#) to include your comments/concerns. ***The MLA has been following the Council's discussion around this issue and strongly suggests you provide your comments/concerns regarding an ATV by-law.***

At the Gravenhurst Planning Committee meeting on September 24, 2013 staff recommended to Council that both a tree cutting and site alteration by-law should be considered by the Town. The primary intent would be to avoid

extensive clear cutting, particularly on shoreline buffer areas, and to work towards rehabilitation where possible. Through a tree cutting and site alteration by-law, clearing of land can be regulated prior to any proposed construction. Council unanimously agreed to have staff, in consultation with the public, produce a draft by-law for discussion in the next few months. To view the staff report click [here](#), – click on “Agenda” at the bottom of the page and refer to pages 19 through 23. ***The MLA is pleased that the Town of Gravenhurst is taking this action to protect Muskoka’s natural environment. We will continue to follow the development of this by-law.***

The public unveiling of the strategic action plan for the revitalization of downtown is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23, 2013. This plan is based on input from business owners and residents. Completion of the revitalized downtown is scheduled for December 2015. Mayor Donaldson congratulates all who were involved in this project and reminds them that the Town has set aside \$25K in 2013 for facade improvements. For the full press release click [here](#).

The MLA is interested in Muskoka’s politicians and their accomplishments, goals and thoughts on current issues. For the August 30<sup>th</sup> issue of *The Muskokan*, the MLA interviewed Township of Muskoka Lakes Mayor Alice Murphy. Our next interview will be Gravenhurst Mayor Paisley Donaldson.

### **TOWNSHIP OF MUSKOKA LAKES**

The Township Zoning By-Law Steering Committee is continuing to review and update the township’s 87-87 Comprehensive Zoning By-Law. Proposed changes are expected to be available for public review by October 25, 2013. November 16, 2013 is the scheduled date for an Open House to obtain public input. ***The MLA has been awaiting the report and will be prepared to comment on it.***

The Township of Muskoka Lakes Economic Development department held two public meetings to gather input from residents regarding tourism opportunities for the Muskoka region. Meetings were held on September 18 and 19, 2013 at the Bala Community Centre & Port Carling Community Centre respectively. As tourism is a main economic driver in Muskoka, creation of a four-season tourist destination was determined to be the key to increasing tourism in Muskoka. These meetings were designed to help plan for the future economic growth of the area through the Community Economic Development Strategy. ***An MLA Director participated in the Port Carling session.***

For those of you passing through Port Carling in the coming weeks, you'll notice that the refurbished wall mural is back in place. It is expected to remain intact for at least another 10 years.

We want to remind you all that the Bala Cranberry Festival is fast approaching. Mark your calendars for the weekend of October 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. For all the details, go [here](#).

Lastly, the MLA wishes to congratulate Brock and Willa Napier on being awarded the 'Citizens of the Year' at the gala dinner presentation of *The Muskoka Awards on September 20, 2013*. This prestigious award is given to those who have contributed extensively to the people of Muskoka and/or the well-being of Muskoka. Brock and Willa Napier are true examples of that type of generosity. We also wish to congratulate all the other winners and nominees that evening for their outstanding contributions to the Muskoka community.