

Welcome to the 3rd issue of NewsBites. With the final days of summer upon us and fall fast approaching, we continue to strive to keep you abreast of the issues that the MLA is currently working on, as well as provide the status of ongoing issues.

TOWN OF BRACEBRIDGE

Eastern Ontario Development Fund – For the past year Bracebridge Mayor Graydon Smith, supported by the district and all municipalities in Muskoka, has spearheaded a campaign to have Muskoka included within the boundaries of one of the provincial economic development funds. On August 16, 2013, Mayor Smith and District Chair John Klinck, attended an event in Barrie, Ontario where Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Employment, announced that Muskoka is now included within the geographic boundaries of the Eastern Ontario Development Fund. The Eastern Ontario Development Fund provides funding to businesses, municipalities and not-for-profit organizations for economic development initiatives in Eastern Ontario. The fund supports projects that create jobs, encourage innovation, collaboration and cluster development and attract private sector investment. *The MLA has lobbied in support of this initiative and congratulates Mayor Smith and District Chair Klinck on this achievement.*

Reducing the 2014 Budget – Mayor Graydon Smith will begin budget talks earlier than the scheduled March time frame. He announced that he will be looking for ways to cut expenses on next year's budget. Proposed service reductions are a result of shrinking assessment growth. *The MLA will be tracking budget discussions and reporting back to our members.*

New All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) By-Law – On August 21, 2013, Bracebridge Council passed By-Law 2013-063 to regulate the use of ATVs on municipal roads. ATVs will now be permitted year-round, between the hours of sunrise and sunset on Bracebridge roads and speed limits will be enforced. See [here](#) for full details.

TOWN OF GRAVENHURST

Proposed New ATV By-Law – The Town of Gravenhurst is looking at drafting an ATV By-Law which would allow ATVs use on their municipal roads. A public meeting to gauge interest was held on August 27, 2013. Local OPP Sgt. Larry Butterfield gave a presentation regarding safe ATV use on highways and roads after which followed several public deputations. Council is interested in hearing your views on this subject. Please email your comments/concerns to 'Have your say' [here](#). *The MLA attended the*

public meeting and has submitted a letter to the Town of Gravenhurst outlining our concerns. A copy of the MLA letter can be found [here](#).

Pride of Muskoka West Marina ('Dockominiums') – Pride of Muskoka West Marina is proposing to introduce a condominium-style ownership arrangement to replace its current practice of renting its dock slips. Parking spots will be sold for between \$49,000 and \$75,000 each and will include exclusive access to an assigned wet boat slip. Pride West will require approvals from several different agencies (Town of Gravenhurst, District of Muskoka and the Ministry of Natural Resources) before final approval is given. The Muskoka West Cottager Association has recently formed to investigate this development. *The MLA has met with the Muskoka West Cottager Association about their concerns. We will continue to monitor this issue.*

SEGUIN TOWNSHIP

Historical Lighthouse Saved – Community members and the Lake Rosseau North Association (LRNA) came together this summer to save the Rosseau shoal lighthouse. The lighthouse, built in 1890, is an icon of the area. The LRNA will be responsible for the restoration of the deteriorated lighthouse and the town will be responsible for the maintenance. *The MLA congratulates the LRNA, Seguin Township and the community on preserving a valuable local landmark.*

TOWNSHIP OF MUSKOKA LAKES

Hanna's Landing/Port Carling – On August 15, 2013, Hanna's Landing developers came before the Committee of the Whole requesting that their zoning amendment application be circulated. Deputations took place followed by numerous questions from Councillors. The main issue of concern was the absence of a plan of subdivision which would clearly illustrate the developer's intentions. Committee voted 6 to 1 in favour of deferring the application. Since then, the developer has appealed the Township's decision to the OMB. *The MLA does not object to the circulation of this application to the appropriate agencies in order to obtain their comments. However, the MLA believes the zoning application as presently proposed does not contain sufficient information to approve a zoning amendment. The MLA wrote a letter and delegated at the August 15 meeting. Our letter can be found [here](#).*

Hirsh Homes/Port Carling (Proposed development by the locks) – Hirsh Homes was back in front of Council asking for more exemptions to their commercial/residential combination development. The proposal is to build 3 townhouses, 7 boathouse condominium units, several retail units, a

large open-air patio and docks to accommodate the retail businesses. Council had several concerns including the overall size of this development and the lack of parking. Council agreed to defer this application. *The MLA was present at the meeting and is currently reviewing the application.*

Town Hall Meeting in Windermere – On August 17, 2013, Mayor Murphy held a town hall meeting in Windermere to review Council's achievements over the last year. The Mayor, the Fire Chief, the CAO and several Councillors were on hand for a question/answer period. *The MLA attended the meeting and asked questions concerning the new zoning by-law, work being done on the sign by-law, the proposed new traffic lights at the new Tim Hortons location in Port Carling and economic development opportunities.*

Muskoka Woods' 20 Year Master Plan Proposed Development – Muskoka Woods is looking to expand. On August 23, 2013, Mr. John McAuley, President and CEO of Muskoka Woods, gave an audience of over 60 attendees an overview of their build-out for the next 20 years. The following changes are proposed: a new greener entranceway, two new arts buildings and accompanying sleeping cabins, new common areas (courtyards, gardens, open spaces), increased vegetation and trees, a connected pedestrian network throughout the camp and 2 large boathouses, swimming dock and 5 finger docks along the waterfront. These plans require the camp to apply for a re-zoning. Neighbours and the North Rosseau Lake Association were present and spoke of their concerns; i.e. increased building density, noise, waterfront density and visual impact. *The MLA attended the meeting and will be actively involved in further discussions/meetings*

Township Seeks Input into Community & Economic Development Priorities - An online survey has been launched and community meetings are scheduled to encourage community input into community economic development planning and policy development. A community stakeholder survey is available on the Township's website. The community meetings, originally scheduled for August, will now take place on September 18, 2013 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Bala Community Centre, and on September 19, 2013 at the Port Carling Community Centre from 6:30-8:00 p.m. For more details, see [here](#). *A representative from the MLA will be attending the Port Carling meeting on September 19th.*

The MLA Interviews Township Mayor Alice Murphy – On Labour Day weekend, the weekly newspaper, the 'Muskokan', published the results of our interview with Mayor Murphy. The MLA posed questions regarding environmental protection issues, the Bala Falls project, government

spending etc. The article can be found [here](#). *The MLA will be approaching the Mayors of other municipalities for similar interviews.*

DISTRICT OF MUSKOKA

Resort Study – On August 19, 2013,, District Council voted to receive the Resort Study done by PKF Consultants. Three key areas of change to the report were suggested as follows: 1) adjusting servicing policies; 2) allowing mixed use developments on private services and 3) being more permissive in allowing down-zoning of resort properties. The District staff report, in response to the consultant’s recommendations, will be coming forward in the near future. *The MLA has been actively involved in this process and will continue to review and comment on the District’s staff report when produced.*