

# Council Notes May 6, 2008

## **Shoreline Road Allowance**

Reeve, Jim Whelan mentioned that the new price for shoreline road allowances will not go into effect until Jan 2009. This delay is to give residents an opportunity to purchase their shoreline road allowances before the substantial increase takes place. The new price is similar to those charged by other townships.

## **New North Kawartha Community Directory**

Susan Suhr, from the North Kawartha Library, presented council members with the new North Kawartha Community Directory which will be available free to everyone in the area. The striking cover shows amazing photos of the four seasons and the caption reads "Open All Year". There are a record 53 paid advertisers this year. Council thanked Ms. Suhr verbally and with a round of applause calling the publication a "fantastic" achievement.

## **Back-Lot Construction on Chandos Lake**

The possibility of back-lot construction on Chandos Lake packed council chambers with members of the public including Jim O'Shea, president of the Chandos Lake Property Owners Association. Although the Official Plan states that there will be no back-lot construction within 300 metres of the lake, the township plan permits construction on "existing lots". According to Mr. O'Shea, there are 9 lots around the lake that were established many years ago prior to the Official Plan and other by-laws. The owner of one of these lots is applying to have the lot rezoned permitting the building of a seasonal residence. Although the meeting was not a public forum, Reeve, Jim Whelan allowed members of the audience to speak because of the importance of the issue. However, he pointed out that this rezoning could be permitted according to the views of the township lawyer. Council heard shouts of statements such as "Just because it CAN be done doesn't mean it SHOULD be done!" Another audience member stated that the township should buy back the property to stop any chance of back-lot construction because the lot in question was sold by the township to the current owner for taxes owing.

Because of the weak legal position of council, the recommendation for rezoning was approved by all members of council.

## **Medical Centre Donor Wall**

Reeve Jim Whelan, stated that the new wall showing names of the donors to the new medical centre, will be constructed sometime in June.

## **Generator for the Medical Centre**

Council approved the purchase of an 80 kW generator for \$ 33,000 for the Medical Centre. This generator will supply the entire building and will be completely automatic.

## **Multi-Use Facility**

Gary Gerald, Director of Parks and Recreation, discussed the status of the new Multi-Use facility. Council approved a Design-Bid-Build process over a Design-Build process for several reasons;

1. This process is more suited to the size of the project (\$ 9.4 million).

2. Site development can be done while the building development continues.
3. There is more time for public input.
4. There is better control of the budget and construction schedules.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Architectural / Engineering phase will be mailed this week to prospective firms. Councilor, Carolyn Amyotte wanted to assure that there were energy-conservation measures in the plans. Deputy Reeve, Barry Rand said wants a lot of public input to the project. An open house to get public input will be held sometime this summer.

The top three Architectural / Engineering firms responding to the RFP will be required to present their qualifications and proposals to council.

### **New Nurse Practitioner coming to Apsley**

Reeve Jim Whelan, was pleased to confirm that Sally Kahn will be assume the position of nurse-practitioner in Apsley sometime in June. Ms. Kahn is presently practicing in Toronto but is looking for a more rural setting where she can make a difference. She is a nurse-practitioner as well as a public health nurse and currently teaches at York University.

### **Request for Town Hall Meetings**

Cathy Dudley, a resident, presented a petition requesting that council hold Town Hall meetings as well as the more formal, council meetings. She explained that Town Hall meetings offer a better venue for exploring new ideas and concepts or seeking explanations of project plans. She also explained that some residents are uncomfortable with the structured council meeting environment or simply cannot attend meetings during the day. Council received the petition but indicated that all of the council meetings, including strategic planning sessions are public therefore there is a lot of opportunity for public input.

### **County Report**

Reeve, Jim Whelan presented the county report. He said that there is concern that some of the broadband towers are still not on-line.