

## **From the Mayor's Desk: Mayor's Activities Beyond Council Regular Business**

On a daily basis Mayor, Council, and Administration undertake many activities on behalf of the Municipality which are not as evident as Council Meetings. This article provides a summary of my Mayoral activities in the past month which were in addition to the regular business of Council.

1. Attended the Out of the Cold Shelter AGM.
2. Attended a Four Party Agreement (FPA) meeting in Thunder Bay as the Municipal representative along with Health Canada, Ministry of Health, and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. At the meeting we decided to hold a strategic planning session in June to plan the FPA's future. As well as advocating for health care and long term care for our community it is important that we stay at this table as health care is the largest employment sector in Sioux Lookout.
3. Attended Ontario Energy Board Hearing in Toronto to present the Municipality's case for natural gas extension.
4. Attended Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) annual conference in Thunder Bay. The CAO and I, as Directors, sit on the NOMA Board and attend Board Meetings and represent the Municipality as well as the region. During the three days of the NOMA Conference, along with staff, we were able to have separate meetings with senior representatives of various agencies to discuss Municipal matters, agencies included: CN Rail, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Keewaytinook Okimakanak Technical Services, Rockex Mining, FEDNOR, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. I also participated in the Premier's announcement at Confederation College for funding for the Thunder Bay Campus and for the co-location of the College in our new high school and made a point of inviting the Premier to Sioux Lookout. Six Provincial Cabinet Ministers attended the Conference and during the question period I thanked Associate Minister of Health Damerla for visiting Sioux Lookout in January and reminded the Minister of the Provincial commitment to the long term care project in Sioux Lookout.
5. As a Director on the Board of the Ontario Municipal Water Association I attended the annual Provincial water conference in Windsor. As well as Board Meetings and activities I was asked to represent the small remote northern perspective on a Panel in a Town Hall discussion moderated by Lyndon McIntyre of CBC's The Fifth Estate.
6. Attended a Rotary Club Meeting at which QEDHS Principal Steve Poling provided Rotary with an update on the new high school. I provided thanks to Rotary on behalf of the Municipality for Rotary funding for the Cafetorium.
7. Attended the monthly Chamber of Commerce meeting which I do on a regular basis to keep in touch with the business sector in the Municipality.
8. Participated on the monthly Wawatay Municipal Radio show during which we discuss Municipal matters which will be of interest to the Wawatay audience.
9. Attended a Friendship Accord meeting in Slate Falls and met with Chief Lorraine Crane and Chief Clifford Bull to discuss matters of mutual interest.
10. Attended a GSA Alliance Club coffee night event at the Youth Centre to support the young people and their efforts.
11. Attended a Construction Association meeting. The Construction Association is in the formative stage and could be an important vehicle to support and promote local contractors.

12. Facilitated the initiation of a Situation Table for Sioux Lookout and attended the initial meeting which was presented by the OPP and attended by 15 interested agencies. This table will help interagency communications.
13. Participated in Poverty Reduction Strategy meetings with several local agencies.
14. Met with Bob Nault, MP, to advocate to Federal Government on various Municipal matters.
15. As a Director attended Kenora District Services Board regular monthly meeting plus an audit committee meeting in Dryden.
16. As Vice President of the Kenora District Municipal Association (KDMA) I attended and participated in a strategic planning session for the KDMA in Vermilion Bay. The intent is to revitalize KDMA as a strong unified voice on regional issues.
17. Continuing communications and discussions with the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services regarding Sioux Lookout's policing costs.
18. On-going communications and teleconferences with Provincial NDP Leader Andrea Horwath's office related to policing costs and long term care.

I hope this provides the community with an idea of some of the activities that are undertaken on behalf of the Municipality that are beyond the core activities of Council. In some cases it is direct action, in others it is to act as a facilitator, advocate, or ambassador. Some of these are out of town and some in town. But all of these activities are done on behalf of and in the best interest of the Municipality and the people who live here. Direct results are becoming evident in positive relationships, influence, and funding.