

NEWS FROM COUNCIL CHAMBERS

November 20, 2019 Council Meeting. **For detailed information, please request copies of the minutes from the office.**

Clerk Chris Wray conducted the swearing-in ceremony for new Councilor Dalton MacFarlane. At the conclusion, Mayor Blaine Mersereau and Council welcomed Councilor MacFarlane to his new position.

Council approves:

- Plan to replace High Sodium Streetlights with LEDs as they are required to be replaced
- A letter of support from Council for The Kensington Conservancy proposition for a Limited Mobility Boardwalk Project

- The donation of 2-hours free ice time per week to Central Algoma Elementary School for the remainder of the 2019-20 season.
- The extension of the agreement with Cheryl Larrett for the use of the JTCC Canteen.
- The continued support of the 50+ Club with use of the hall for an annual donation.
- A letter of thanks to Hilton Beach for the donation of \$200 towards the operation of the JTCC.

December 18 Council meeting Cancelled as per November minutes. Next Scheduled Meetings: Committee of the Whole, Tuesday, January 14, 2020; Regular Council Meeting, Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 5:30pm, Council Chambers

TOWNSHIP NEWS AND INFO

Residents on Township Water - If you plan to leave your home for the winter, please ensure your water lines are properly winterized and to notify the township office.

Winter Parking - Please remember that from now through to April 2020, there is no overnight parking allowed on Township Roads. This By-Law is in effect, snow or no snow.

911 Signs - A reminder that 911 Civic Number Signs should be upright, clear and visible from/or at your driveway.

Landfill - A reminder that the landfill is closed when a statutory or non-statutory holiday falls on a regular operating day. These Holidays may include: Labour Day, New Year's Day, Victoria Day, Thanksgiving Day, Canada Day, Christmas Day, Easter Monday, Remembrance Day, Good Friday, and Civic Holidays.

Dial 2-1-1 to connect with over 60,000 **community and social services** across Ontario. Ask about health services and support, newcomer and immigrant services, food banks and meal programs, housing centers and utility help, senior services and homecare, government social assistance, parenting and family programs, disability support programs, volunteer or-

ganizations and much more.

Johnson Township Community Hall is available for bookings. Call **705-782-6723** for availability. Rental agreements are available at the arena or the township office or online. **The Gordon Lake Hall** is also available to rent for family gatherings, birthday parties, showers, etc. Call or text 705-989-5612 or 705-971 3167 to book. For more information please go to johnsontownship.ca/facility-booking

Ice Rentals – Non Prime Time (Monday to Friday 7am-4pm) - \$106.00/hr. Prime Time (Monday to Friday 4-10pm, Saturday & Sunday 7am-10pm) 126.00/hr (contract), \$133.00/hr (no contract). Prices include HST. Call **705-782-6723** or visit johnsontownship.ca/facility-booking for more info.



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Desbarats, ON
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Telephone: 705-782-6601
Fax: 705-782-6780
E-mail: people@johnsontownship.ca
Website: www.johnsontownship.ca

Hours of Operation
Monday to Friday
8:30am to 4:30pm
Saturday and Sunday
Closed

Township of Johnson

RECREATION NEWS

**JOHNSON TWP/DESBARATS
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PARTY AND FREE SKATE**

Sunday, December 08

1pm - Free Skate
2pm - Carols, Crafts, Snacks, and a visit from Santa

**PUBLIC SKATING
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

See **NEXT PAGE** for
**Free Public Skating Times
brought to you by the Johnson
Township Recreation
Committee**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Road conditions can be seriously affected by the kind of weather that occurs at this time of year, especially as it is alternating freezing rain, snow, and melting. Snow plowing and sanding is ongoing. Call us at 782 6601 x1206, if you discover a particular problem area, this line is monitored or you will be directed to call an emergency number. And please Drive Carefully and give yourself lots of time when the weather is bad.

PLEASE! NO TRANSFERRING SNOW ACROSS A TOWNSHIP ROAD FROM YOUR DRIVEWAY!!

IT CAN CREATE ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS! CLUMPS OF SNOW IN THE ROADWAY CAN CAUSE A DRIVING HAZARD AND DAMAGE VEHICLES AND SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT:

- Snow piled on the side of the road can cause **serious damage to the snow removal equipment**, particularly the plow wing of both the grader and the plowtruck when the Public Works crew is levelling the banks to accommodate snow from new storms.
- Snow piled up on ditches can lead to drainage problems in the spring with possible flooding issues when it melts.

Ontario Highway Traffic Act—Section 181 states: No person shall deposit snow or ice on a roadway without permission in writing so to do from the Ministry or the road authority responsible for the maintenance of the road

Shoulder and ditches are part of the roadway. Letters will be sent out to property owners who insist on pushing snow across the road. The OPP has confirmed that they will lay charges on those who insist on continuing this practice. **PLEASE DON'T DO IT!**

Happy Holidays!



MUNICIPAL OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

Closed from **Monday, December 23, 2019** to **January 1, 2020** for the holidays, then from **January 2 to January 10** for Budget /Audit Prep. **Reopening Monday, January 13.**

REMINDER: Food Box orders are due on Friday, December 06, delivery, Thursday, December 13

WINTER LANDFILL HOURS

Wednesdays - **NOON to 5PM**

Saturdays - **9AM to 5PM**

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RECREATION NEWS, cont'd**SENIOR DROP-IN COMPUTER PROGRAM UPDATE - CONTINUES Wednesdays, December 11th and 18th**

Johnson Township Recreation and the Adult Learning Centre are providing a cell phone and/or tablet information drop-in session at the JTCC Hall. Instructor Krista Kerr will be there to help with issues or problems or just to give you an update. If there are common issues that arise, she will prepare a lesson for everyone for one of the follow up weeks.

YMCA SENIORS EXERCISE SESSION—FREE - The YMCA and Johnson Recreation are providing a 1-hour Senior's Exercise Program at the JTCC Hall on Tuesdays at 11:30am starting January 07, 2020. **A COME AND TRY session will occur on Tuesday, December 17th.**

Cheryl's Café will provide a healthy Senior's Luncheon Deal directly after each session! You can just show up on the 17th and register for the program or call Pat at 705 782 6601 ext 1205. The Program is supported by the Government of Ontario.

BIG BUCK CONTEST AWARDS SUPPER was held Sunday, November 17 with approximately 85 people attending the supper and the awards presentation. Fifty-five hunters had registered for the contest before the bow season opened at the end of September, and 14 racks were brought in with the top 3 rack awards going to **Jason Smith**, with an 11-point rack and a score of 165.5, **Caleb Parker**, our youth hunter award-winner as well, with an 8-pointer and a score of 160.8, and **Alan Labelle**, also with an 8-pointer with a score of 148.9. The Awards Supper had wonderful support from local hunters and the Business Community, and everyone went home with a prize. Proceeds of app. \$600 from this popular local event go to support Johnson Township Recreation programs.

Huge thanks goes to the Big Buck Volunteers who help with registrations and securing draw prizes: **Zahida Croskery, Cory Moore, Terry Barber, and Cheryl Larrett**. Also the Township acknowledges local businesses **McClelland's Hardware and Feed** and **17E Trading Post** for helping out with registrations and ticket sales; **Teri Winter** and students **Hunter Robert** and **Justin Clark** from the **Sault College Fish and Wildlife Program** who volunteered to do the rack

measurements; **Cheryl Larrett** and her crew for a great meal; **Marlee Hopkins** who manned the door; and to the **Bruce Mines Legion, Branch 211**, who provided bar service, proceeds from which go to support their important community work. **Johnson Township Recreation** sends a shout out to thank the 40 plus area businesses and individual supporters who donated draw prize items to the event.

HOLIDAY FREE SKATES—Brought to you by the Fundraising efforts of the Johnson Township Recreation Committee and Volunteers**FREE PUBLIC SKATING**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 6:30pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 3:00pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1:00pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 6:30pm

THURSDAY, JANUARY 02, 6:00pm

All skate times are 50 minutes.

(Arena is closed December 25, 26, and January 1. Regular Public Skating will occur at the regular time, 6:30pm, on Fridays, December 27 and January 03 – Regular admission applies)

CHILDREN/PARENTS RECREATIONAL SHINNY GAME

THURSDAY, JANUARY 02. 7:00 PM.

A non-competitive, fun night for children ages 4-13 and their parents. Children must wear hockey equipment. **Admission FREE**

PAID FOR BY JOHNSON RECREATION FUNDRAISERS**LOCAL and AREA EVENTS**

- **ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY - Sunday, December 08**, 1pm start with free skate sponsored by the Desbarats Women's Institute. Snacks, crafts and a visit from Santa to follow.
- **CHRISTMAS GATHERING & MEMORIAL TREE LIGHTING** - Sunday, December 8, 4pm. Desbarats United Church. With entertainment by members of the O'Schraives w/students. Carols & Potluck to follow.

- **CALVARY BAPTIST LADIES CHRISTMAS DINNER - Tuesday, December 10** 6:00pm at the Calvary Baptist Church, Desbarats. An evening of singing, dinner and fellowship. FREE: For tickets contact: Elsa **705-782-6923**. All Welcome.
- **CHRISTMAS DOWN THE LINE** - Saturday, December 07, 10am-6pm, Come visit the Stores and Restaurants in Desbarats, Bruce Mines and Bruce Station for creations by local artisans, gifts, décor, vintage, antiques, Christmas specials, clothing, accessories and more! Pick up your Passport at any participating business - visit a minimum of 3 locations and enter to win a Gift Basket valued at over \$200.
- **Elves Christmas Workshop** at the Bruce Mines & Plummer Additional Union Public Library. Thursday 12th December, 5:00pm till 7:00pm. - Come out and enjoy cookies, hot cocoa, crafts, and a family story time. To Register or for more details please call/text Megan at (705) 542-5661 or e-mail at capc@childcarealgoma.ca
- **27TH ANNUAL PARADE OF LIGHTS 2019— Saturday, December 14**, Echo Bay, 7pm. includes a parade, a visit from Santa starting at 6:15pm, a tree lighting ceremony and Christmas carols. More information: Contact Cindy at cfindlay@ontera.net or **705-248-2381** or **705-248-1166** if you wish to volunteer.
- **ANNUAL MMHA CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING — Saturday, December 14**, 4pm at the Bridge Link Medical Centre in Richards Landing. Each \$5 donated

Message from the Mayor—A number of residents have commented to me about how some properties in the hamlet of Desbarats are falling into a state of disrepair and are an eyesore for residents and visitors to our community. Other properties on the other hand are clearly maintained. This was an issue that was also expressed by residents during the election period in 2018.

Properties in a poor state of maintenance are certainly a concern of mine. Poorly cared for properties

lights a bulb on the Christmas tree. Moose Sweats, Island Market, Camille's Café, Fanny's On the Island, Black Bear Café, Gardiner Marine, Northern Credit Union, McClelland's Feed & Hardware, Kentvale Home Hardware, BridgeLink Medical Clinic, 17 E Trading Post, Municipal Offices, Post Office, or in person to Carol Sing. Remember loved ones or send Christmas greetings to friends and neighbors.

- **THE KENSINGTON CONSERVANCY (TKC) CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**—Monday, December 23, 2pm-7pm, 69 Boyer, Desbarats. Take a tour of the TKC Center! Refreshments provided.
- **DESBARATS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT — Saturday, December 28**. Kensington Conservation invites you to be a field observer in Desbarats, Richards Landing, Hilton Beach, or Bruce Mines. If you wish to participate or for more information, call Carter at **705-782-2200** (office), **705-257-5199** (cell) or email carterdorscht.tkc@gmail.com.
- **GORDON LAKE HALL CARD PARTY** – 7:30-10pm. Card parties are held the first Friday of every month, ending in May 2019. Lunch is provided. **Next date: December 6**.
- **DESBARATS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE** - meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Info: Marlee 782 4236
- **ALGOMATRAD COMMUNITY DANCES— Friday, January 03, 7:30PM**, Legion Hall Richards Landing. Music by members of The O'Schraives. algomatrad.ca. Local callers, no experience necessary, family-friendly, all welcome, by donation

erode the property values for the owner and the values of adjacent properties as well as the community as a whole. In 2020, I will be asking Council to consider a number of mechanisms that will both help residents of the hamlet to maintain their properties and encourage them to do so. If you have questions, concerns or comments on this matter please send them to me at

MayorMersereau@JohnsonTownship.ca

- **Blaine Mersereau**