



September 2021

Report to Council

The roads department has work non-stop to have the Lagoon ready by October 1st for the clean out. The work involved preparing an area large enough and flat enough for the drainage bags to sit and allow the water to seep back into the lagoons, trapping sediment inside the bags. Fortunately, they were able to locate almost all of the material necessary on our own property and by using our own equipment we have saved about 80 - 100 thousand dollars had we tendered this work out. Our Roads crew with our own equipment moved in very short order, more than 300 loads of dirt, leveled and compacted it, created a 2-foot berm along the length and sloped the surface to permit the water to run back into the lagoon. This base they have prepared will now be available into the future when work needs to be done on the lagoons. Sand, a liner, filter cloth and gravel still need to be put in place, however all work is on track.

By doing this work in house with our own equipment our only additional cost has been fuel. It was fortunate that we had the gradeall to do this work. This machine has been invaluable.

We also have a policy in place going forward to better maintain the Lagoons and that entire infrastructure. This will greatly reduce the burden on future councils and ratepayers.

We have been working hard to find where the water system is leaking. Water being produced has greatly exceeded the water consumption for sometime and we have been diligently searching, testing and isolating areas trying to find the leak. We found it recently when the leak finally totally failed and the location became known to us. This major break is again between the Plant and the shore and that small area historically had at least five breaks in it. Why it is such a fragile area for the pipe we are not sure, the back fill originally used is very rough large stone which is not what should have been used. We are developing a plan to lay a new line from the plant to the shore next spring and properly back fill, eliminating the on-going issue in this area. Fortunately, with our equipment we are able to expose the breaks without having to contract an excavator, greatly shortening the down time for the Plant and costs.

The application for funding for repairs to the Arena has been moved to stage 2. We are not assured of the funding yet, but are still being considered. Considerable detailed information is being prepared and submitted as requested in this stage 2 process. We will be assisted in this final stage by Kresin Engineering, they did the Facility Assessment for us and will be preparing Tender documents, etc.

Trillium has announced funding to support recreation. We will be applying for funds under that program to address other issue at the arena and community centre, as well as developing and improving more of the recreational space outside and around the arena.

We welcome Patti Trotter as our new Recreation Coordinator / Marketing / Promotion staff person. We have added to the recreation duties the responsibility to begin seriously marketing and promoting our facilities and our community. We know that in order to grow the Hamlet and make it self-supporting we need to have some things that attract people to the Hamlet and that will, as a result, increase the ability of the Hamlet to fully support its self. We are looking for some ideas of a 'signature' events that we can have in summer and in winter that is unique to Johnson Township. It is our plan to make the arena work harder and for our facility to be considered first whenever an event is planned. We have been fortunate to successfully apply for and receive 35K dollars in funding for the Rec position from NOHFC for a 52-week period. In the current Covid environment, funding is specifically being targeted for recreation.

We had planned this year to renovate and add on to the Municipal office. The funds have been received from the Province and are in reserve accounts. With the tremendous increase in building materials and the difficulty in getting a contractor, we decided it was a much better use of our money if we waited until prices for materials and the demand on contractors lessened. However, we do need to install the new HVAC system to make the offices a healthier environment to work in, this requires us to do the reno first in this current space and prevent having to change any of the HVAC after the reno. The reno of the current space is a minimal.

The plan is to turn the current office space into a council chambers and a Public Works office. Then adding offices in an addition to the front of the building and meeting the Covid protocols as required. We will open this current space up to become the future council chambers and we will create one office closed off to become the Roads Super and Roads Staff office. For the remainder of this year and into next year we will reposition the current four work stations in the opened space. We do have some structural issues that will require a person with some engineering knowledge to assist in opening up this area. This will permit us to get the least costly part of this project done and meet the immediate barrier demands.

The Portable currently being used for a council chamber has significantly deteriorated and we have temporarily had to address considerable rotten wood, leakage, some mold and water damage. The repairs required to address the condition of the Portable are prohibitive.

The recent listing of properties owned by the Township within or near the Hamlet has resulted in the sale of the three lots on Amory street in one sale, and a property on Government Road just west of the Hamlet has also sold. We have two additional properties that were taken in tax sale and that have never had that process completed. These two tax sale properties will be listed as per the Tax Sale Act and if not sold in that process we will have them also listed for sale with Real-estate.

The Road Dept continue to work on the 2021 Work Plan. The huge amount of work required to prepare for the Lagoon rehabilitation and water main breaks has greatly cut into their schedule. However, they continue to push to complete all of the work they had lined up for this year. We have begun to have discussions on preparing the 2022 Work Plan for Roads and hope to have that for council and residents to review by year end. All work this year has been done in house and no tenders.

An update on the Gordon Lake Hall. Back in July there was a hot water line break resulting in considerable water damage and mold. At this time, it appears that insurance will do the repairs and restoration work.

Glenn Martin, Clerk