



Sinclair / Finlayson Ward Township of Lake of Bays Councillor Rick Brooks **Christmas Report 2022**

No that picture is not me but it is a 'Brooks'. That's my cousin Doug who we lost in 2019. He was a world class carver, painter and beyond that was a natural as the perennial Santa Claus for the Bobcaygeon Santa Claus parade for years. We miss him dearly. ***NOW....are we all ready to become a truly 'Hallmark' movie winter scene this weekend?***

Here's a couple of things to share with you at this time;

Sinclair Transfer Station:



The District of Muskoka continues to make upgrades; the lighting is now complete, the cameras are all now operational and yes the step platforms are still there and our attendant does her best to ensure they are cleared of snow in a timely fashion.

Winter Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 8-4PM / Saturday 9-4PM / Sunday 12-5PM

Holiday Schedule:

CLOSED Dec. 25th, 26th and January 1st.

Our Roads & Driving to the conditions:

We can not stress this enough, winter in Muskoka is here and lasts a long time, so get used to driving according to the road conditions, not the speed limit signs. We all need to heed the



concerns when shared about impending storms, if they do not come to pass, that's a bonus, but last winter most times they did come through with a vengeance and some residents unfortunately got caught, not paying attention to the warning signs and ventured out.

Our Public Works truly does an excellent job throughout the winter and for every negative call received we get 10 positive calls so kudos to Superintendent Steve Peace and his crew.

Keeping the roads and highways safe is a shared responsibility between police, emergency response providers, and drivers alike, so always drive to the conditions of the roads.

Please assist the Public Works Department with Winter Maintenance and do not park or stop any vehicle on the road between November 1st to April 15th.

Vehicles found to be interfering with winter maintenance may be removed (towed) at the owner's expense. (See attached memo from LOB Public Works)

More Winter tips and necessary tidbits:

- **snow tires...**if you don't have them yet...get them...PLEASE.
- **driveway and/or lane way snow removal...**those who can't do it themselves, be sure to be checking with local companies to ensure they can take you on as a customer ASAP and be sure they have the proper insurance. Recent years that has become a major deterrent for smaller companies and individuals who previously offered their services. You need to be aware, most insurance companies have fine print that if you do not keep your access clear, insurance could be refused in the event of a mishap, such as a fire crew could NOT access to attend a fire or medical emergency on your property.
- **Road Safety...**There is a sign as you access Limberlost Road off of 60, it says "**Drive according to the road conditions**"....we had that installed a few years ago for exactly this time of year. Its not uncommon for people to become complacent and that's when trouble comes. Given that any of our roads can be partially snow covered and as such given winding roads and shaded areas of roads the conditions can change to slush and freeze in a heartbeat, if you're not paying attention it can be dangerous. To avoid becoming a statistic, please drive with caution and don't use the posted speed as a minimum or even a prerequisite...and watch for wildlife, deer quite often travel in multiples, so if one crosses the road be prepared others may be following.... relax and enjoy the scenic drive.
- **Access.....**again, I share this for emphasis, not only for you but your dwellings access roads need to be maintained clear for fire, OPP and other emergency services as well as those important fuel deliveries.
- **Hydro....**winter weather can quite often provide some issues with hydro, more so that summer months and the big difference being the need to stay warm. Maintain communication with your neighbors, ensure all are safe and sound, check out local rental services for availability in the event you may need to rent a generator.



The ASHMuskoka Project;

The **ASHMuskoka ash collection program** continues to be a HUGE success, having yet another banner year!

Thank you to all our ash donors.

The next drive is scheduled for **SATURDAY, January 21st.**

Check it out on their website

www.ashmuskoka.ca

9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rosewarne Transfer Stn., Bracebridge



Township of Lake of Bays, Muskoka

Please be advised that the Municipal Office will be CLOSED from 12:00 p.m. on Friday, December 23rd, 2022 until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2022. 🌲 The Mayor, Council, and Staff wish you and your family a very safe and happy holiday season! ❄️

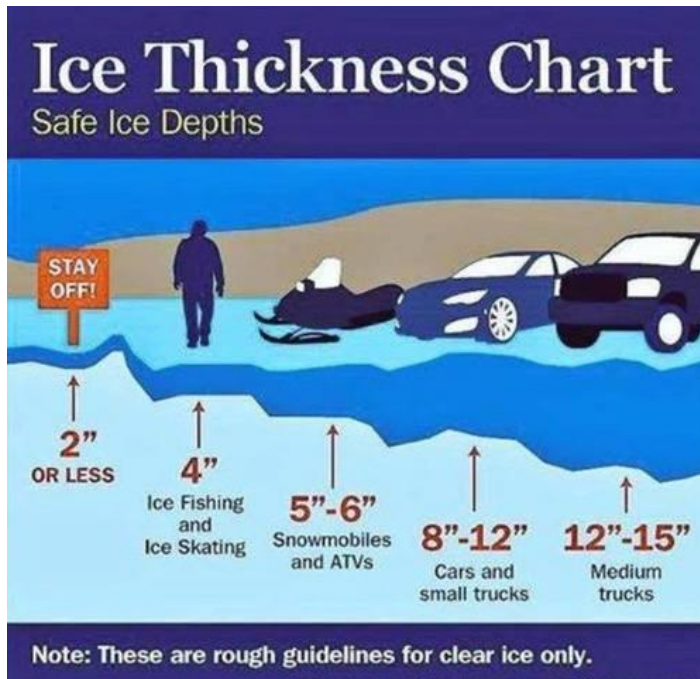


Holiday Skating:

A special thank you to [Graydon The MPP](#) for sponsoring holiday skating this season. That's right! There's public skating and shinny while the kids are out of school, including a public skate on Christmas Eve, at the Lake of Bays Community Centre in [#Baysville!](#)

🌲🛷 Check the skating schedule at: <http://ow.ly/mWWK50M8NzV>.

Think before you travel onto the ice;



Ice begins to be "safe" at around **4 - 6 inches thickness**. Do not even walk on ice 3" or less in thickness. However, even at a 9" - 10" thickness, there may be unforeseen hazards such as a flowing current underneath that is ceaselessly weakening the underside of the ice.

Final Thoughts:

As we are now into our new term of Council, I have shared before how proud I am to continue to be your Ward Councillor for Sinclair/Finlayson. I am pleased to be taking on additional tasks and appointments this term, now as the Council representative on the **Huntsville/Lake of Bays Chamber of Commerce** as well as the alternate representative on the **Library Board**, and most recently appointed as **Alternate District Councilor** representing the Township at the District of Muskoka.

Going forward I am pleased to say that I will be continuing to host our Ward gatherings as long as you the constituents feel there is a value, so make me aware if there are topics you'd appreciate hearing about or sharing, and I'll continue to provide timely e blasts when there are issues to share and as always, I continue to welcome all questions or concerns.

As for this new term, ***just keep watching!***

All the best,

Rick Brooks,

Councillor Sinclair / Finlayson Ward

Township of Lake of Bays

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