



**Sinclair / Finlayson Ward
Township of Lake of Bays
Councillor Rick Brooks
Interim Winter Report 2023**

WOW...we made it through the tornado of 2017 and now we made it through the "snowmageddon" of 2022is there anyone who still does not believe in climate change?

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

Firefighter Recruitment:



The **Huntsville/Lake of Bays Fire Department** is looking for volunteer firefighters has launched the 2023 recruitment campaign as of TODAY.

Individuals interested in applying are encouraged to attend the Recruitment Information Session on **Sunday February 12, 2023, 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm** at **[Station #1 – 1 Payne Drive, Huntsville.](#)** All perspective applicants along with significant family

members (spouse, partner) are invited to attend and will be provided with the opportunity to learn more and ask questions.

Applications will be accepted online starting February 1, 2023 until February 24, 2023, at 4:00 pm. Please note, you will be required to submit your resume with your application.

Learn more: <http://ow.ly/3S5b50MFKwv>.

Roads:

As shared every time we "meet...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 through the recent past, most did come through, and with a vengeance.

Residents unfortunately not paying attention to the warning signs and ventured out – got caught. 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. (If you haven't seen the video on the Township website-check it out)

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.

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More Winter tips and necessary tidbits:

Roads: Parking

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)

Winter access to your property:

Driveway and/or lane way snow removal is critical...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.

I am driving by far too many driveways of very nice cottages and seasonal residents and seeing the driveway full of snow...all winter. 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.

Hydro:

Winter weather can be cruel...and quite often provides some issues with hydro, as unfortunately we experienced over the Christmas season...unlike the summer outages, 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...or consider purchasing one yourselves...again access, ensure the propane delivery can be made when needed.

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 **Sat. February 18th.**

Check it out on their website www.ashmuskoka.ca

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

Rosewarne Transfer Stn., Bracebridge

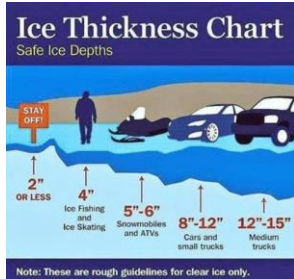
THINK SPRING... The issues of algae blooms remain high on everyone's mind...consider signing up for a zoom discussion to be held on February 9th

For more information: friendsofthemuskokawatershed.org or call **705-640-0948**

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Think before you travel onto the ice - please;

There are always those who know better, they've always been able to cross that lake by 'this date'....but times and climate changes. We are seeing a disturbing increase ending in misery.



it's a fact that Ice begins to be "safe" at around 4 - 6 inches in 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 spring or flowing current underneath that is ceaselessly weakening the underside of the ice.

Final Thoughts:

As we are now well into our new term of Council, I have shared before how proud I am to continue to be your Ward Councillor for Sinclair/Finlayson.

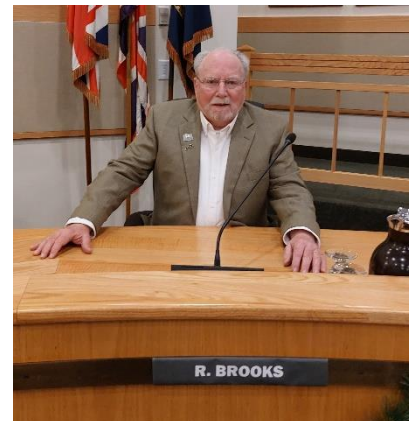
Through all the turmoil over the recent past, with staff changes, weather events and of course an ongoing pandemic, our staff have simply been **INCREDIBLE**....need I say more.



I am pleased to be taking on additional tasks and appointments this term, recently sworn in as **Alternate District Councilor** representing Lake of Bays 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. Until then, 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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