



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

Thanksgiving Report 2023

I know the weather has been awesome of late but if you recall, Mother Nature can turn on a dime once we get into October, so I trust everyone has their appointment to get their snow tires on...their wood box filled and planning to get their pantry supplied in the event we are snowed in....I need not remind everyone of last Christmas, when we became a truly 'Hallmark' movie winter scene.

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

Fire Department Status:



Not to sound repetitive but for those of us who call this home, the potential of fire is always at the top of our minds when we have extended dry conditions, please continue to be very careful with open fires.

Concerns in lake of Bays?

Please contact By-Law Enforcement, **Chris Collings** ccollings@lakeofbays.on.ca
Huntsville/LOB Fire Dept. Public Educator, **Steve Markham** steve.markham@huntsville.ca

On a related note, the **Fire Services Governance Committee** of the Councils of the Town of Huntsville and Township of Lake of Bays Council will have our first meeting Oct.23rd. The initial Committee will be comprised of two from the Township of Lake of Bays; Mayor Glover and myself as well as CAO Bryan Brown in an advisory capacity. I look forward to the challenges we will be addressing over the coming term and beyond.

The ASHMuskoka Project;



The Friends of the Muskoka Watershed have several excellent programs, one of which is the "ASHMuskoka Project". Their ash collection program continues to be a HUGE success, and the results are showing the positive impact, thanks to yet having yet another banner year! Many of our donors have been saving ash since the spring, and brought more than one can to the latest drive. Thank you to all our ash donors. We have another drive on **Saturday, October 21st.**

Check it out on their website www.ashmuskoka.ca
9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rosewarne Transfer Station, Bracebridge

Sinclair Transfer Station:



After some discussions at a recent AGM on the issue of returnable bottles, I met with the Dwight Lion's Club and the deal was made. For those who may have attended the site on this past weekend you will have noticed their trailer is now there by the re-use Building and ready to accept your donations.

Please be respectful, have them in cases or boxes preferably and as the trailer fills, our new attendant Donna can make the call and they will take care of it.

Winter Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 8-4PM / Sat. 9-4PM / Sun. 12-5PM

Our Roads & Driving to the conditions:

I don't wish to scare you, but winter is coming...for those who enjoy 'weathering' the winter here, the picture below need not remind you of those challenges ahead. We all need to heed the



concerns when shared by our staff or local medias 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.

Holiday Safety:

Whether it be Thanksgiving or Christmas season, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) is reminding everyone about the importance of fire safety as Ontarians get together with friends and family to celebrate. "As we look forward to the holiday season, it is important that we each take steps to ensure our homes and loved ones are safe," said the Solicitor General. "Fire safety experts remind us that household activities can result in fires.

"Cooking and smoking are leading causes of home fires in Ontario," said Ontario Fire Marshal Jon Pegg. "Stay alert and keep your family safe during these holiday seasons. Never leave a pot cooking on the stove unattended, always butt out cigarettes and consider using battery-operated flameless candles. If you're using candles with flames, make sure they are kept away from decorations and anything that can burn."

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Sinclair / Finlayson Residents Committee Update;

Since hosting this when I took office in 2018, we have been graced with some very busy but keen attendees who were here to share what's new and exciting in our part of Huntsville/ Lake of Bays and in the audience some concerned residents who may have taken time out of their day as well, but the attendance in recent events has been low. Having said that, we truly appreciate those neighbors who do attend, however we need to look at how we might adjust our schedule to ensure we can engage more concerned residents....I know they are out there as I hear all the time, "I wish I could come, but..."

Having said that, and looking especially to our newer Association executive members, please let me know your thoughts on meeting day and time as well as frequency, and of course subject matter. We have had some excellent presentations from staff, but we need to hear from you first, what would interest you and your residents. I look forward to your input.

Volunteerism in Huntsville/Lake of Bays;

Wearing any one of my 'hats' I will share with those who might like to step out of their comfort zone and help on a project, or even simply a one day event.

Project Porchlight Wednesday, December 6th, involving all our emergency services, but led by the fire Department, and its goal to support the Salvation Army Food Bank with your donations. They bring the donations in, however it is our group of volunteers that later that evening and over the next few days sort and box everything collected.

Volunteers are welcome; The Kiwanis Club assists with the receipt and sorting of the donations that night and the next day, please let me know should you wish to assist. Contact me, Rick Brooks 705-635-2101 or email at rlbrooks.associates@gmail.com

Food4Kids Muskoka this is a new initiative that I am involved with that has its goal to alleviate student hunger throughout Muskoka. We have launched this fall at three local schools and already have just announced an expansion of this program to include Irwin Memorial PS in Dwight. We are very pleased that Tim Horton's has established a seasonal smile cookie campaign and '**Food4 Kids Muskoka**' is the local charity of choice. We will be dressing holiday cookies November 13-19th – interested? Let me know and I'll get you on the list. Check it out: www.food4kidsmuskoka.ca

Final Thoughts:

As we are about to enter year two of this term of Council, I look forward to working with the residents and association contacts throughout our Ward. Going forward I will continue to provide timely e blasts when there are issues to share and 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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