

# NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2010

RON ASHMORE, WARD 14 COUNCILLOR

## Dear Residents and Property Owners:

Greetings and thank you for taking the time to read this, my latest newsletter. I will outline some of the many news items and information that have occurred at City Hall and across our Ward 14 since the last issue.

### Infrastructure

Council approved \$ .47 Million of infrastructure improvements for Ward 14 for the 2010 capital budget. The following roads will receive surface treatment in 2010: Pickerel Point Rd., Blue Water Ave., Centreline Rd. and King's Wharf Rd. Gravel resurfacing will occur on Post Rd, Rabbit Run and Sunnywood Rd. A complete list is available on my web site [www.ronashmore.ca](http://www.ronashmore.ca) for viewing in more detail. As well, additional gravel resurfacing will be done as a result of using the aggregate resources fund. Public Works and Council will be adding additional roads to this and I will work hard to include Ward 14 on this list. In addition there will upgrades to the Emily Omemee Community Centre.

Cheese Factory Rd between Post Rd. and Settlers Rd. will be reconstructed beginning in 2011. As well I have also submitted a number of other roads for improvements to be considered in the 5 year plan, including Snug Harbour Rd., as well as Mustang Rd, Sturgeon Rd., and many others. On an ongoing basis, I am also pushing for many other improvements, such as brushing, ditching and the completion of the maintenance of the Corneil and Ops 3 drain in 2010.

### Attracting Economic Development & Employment to our area

The City of Kawartha Lakes Council has established a "one stop" business resource program to assist new economic development to our area.

This consists of 5 major points to attract new business development:

- Personal and confidential point of contact for your project from inception to completion
- Coordination of all municipal and/or agency contacts you need to consult
- Information regarding available financial assistance, services and programs
- Lists of available land and buildings for sale or lease throughout Kawartha Lakes
- Access to Kawartha Lakes demographics, including census statistics and labour market updates.

For more information, contact Vince Germani, Business Development Officer at 705-324-9411 ext. 1234 or Lance Sherk, Manager Economic Development at 705-324-9411 ext 1395. They are there to help businesses set up and to attract new business to CKL.

### Community Improvement Plan (also known as Green Hub)

Our Council has approved a Community Improvement Plan (CIP). This is a planning tool under the Planning Act that may be used by municipalities in order to stimulate development, redevelopment, reinvestment and revitalization in economic infrastructure. A CIP will spark investment by identifying and defining Financial Incentive Programs, to enable the City to support projects like development, redevelopment, retrofits, and /or renovations aimed at improving, reusing, or restoring lands and buildings.

We are unique in that we are the only municipality that has formally adopted this plan. By attracting more businesses to CKL we can increase the commercial tax base and lessen the burden on residential and rural taxpayers.

### **Creation of a New Official Plan:**

The Official Plan contains policies to guide the development of the City of Kawartha Lakes while conserving resources and protecting the environment. This is the first update since 1978. The Official Plan contains new land designations for properties. This would apply most to the rural areas. It is strongly recommended that you check with the Planning Department if your property has a new designation. Contact Doug Carroll, Manager of Planning at 705-324-9411 ext 1240 or Richard Holy, Coordinator, Current Planning at 705-324-9411 ext 1246.

### **Omemees & Area**

Six new small businesses have opened up in the last year. As well, five businesses have made major renovations and makeovers.

A new skate board park was installed at the Omemees beach. The Health Unit reports that the water quality at the beach has improved, and more effective goose control has improved swimming there. Coronation Hall has had minor upgrades inside as well as new benches outside. In 2011 the Hall will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. New stone foundation signs were erected on both the east and west sides of the village. Trinity Church has a new village clock and carillon chimes.

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay passed through the village. This was enjoyed as a once in a lifetime event and will be remembered for years to come.

The new Medical Centre is open with a new doctor. We are hopeful for another doctor as well as a Nurse Practitioner to come on board in 2010.

In 2010, The City of Kawartha Lakes will be partnering with Sir Sanford Fleming College and the Ministry of the Environment to develop a new sewage and wastewater treatment plant at the existing Omemees facility. The 50/50 funding between

the municipality and the province has assisted greatly the revitalization of the Omemees downtown. The assistance of Councillor Gerald McGregor and Mayor Ric McGee has accelerated this process for the betterment of Omemees.

### **Downeyville**

New safety rails were installed on the St. Lukes bridge in early 2009. I have had Public Works make some improvements to the drainage and walking area in front of the K of C Hall, and I have asked for better speed patrol of Sturgeon Road through the village. I am also working hard to keep our Library open at the school. I appreciate all of the support in letters and emails. More is always welcome to tell Council that we want to keep this important library open.

### **2010 Assessment Notices**

As a property owner, you should be aware of the process to review the assessment values which changed effective 2009. If property is in the Residential, Farm, or Managed Forest property classification or has any assessment in one of these property classes, and you do not agree with the value or property classification on the Assessment Notice, you should contact MPAC immediately to file an RfR (Request for Reconsideration) before March 31<sup>st</sup> at:

MPAC

P.O. Box 9808

Toronto, ON M1S 5T9

Phone: 866-296-MPAC (6722) Fax 866-297-6703.

Website: [www.mpac.ca](http://www.mpac.ca); e-mail: [enquiry@mpac.ca](mailto:enquiry@mpac.ca)

### **Agriculture**

The development of an Agricultural Action Plan for Kawartha Lakes began taking shape in the fall of 2009 with the formation of a committee composed of partners: the City of Kawartha Lakes, Agricultural Development Advisory Board and the Victoria Haliburton Federation of Agriculture. Additional funding came from Kawartha Lakes Community Futures Development Corporation and Industry

Canada/Southern Ontario Fed Dev. The objectives are to define issues and gaps experienced by producers and agriculture support businesses and then identify activities, programs and policies which will address those issues within a short, medium, and long term strategy.

During my term as councillor I brought a motion which was unanimously endorsed by council to lobby the provincial and federal government to expedite agri-stability payments and formulate a workable and farmer friendly risk management program.

An HST Seminar will be held March 30<sup>th</sup> at the Ops Community Centre as well as April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Oakwood Community Centre. This free seminar presented by the Canada Revenue Agency will provide information on the transition to the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) which will be implemented on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The course will:

- Show you how the new tax will impact your business
- Explain tax credits and overpayments
- Help you understand the similarities and differences between the PST/GST and HST
- Clarify your responsibilities for collecting and reporting the new HST (Harmonized Sales Tax)

### **Waterfront Issues**

An informative meeting was held in Bobcaygeon in July regarding the issue of aquatic vegetation. Also I met with concerned waterfront owners from Whispi Shores in late July with our Member of Parliament.

As a result of this concern, Mayor McGee joined interested stakeholders in establishing a working committee in order to try to get Trent Severn Waterway to better assist with permits to harvest weeds along our lakefront areas. The aquatic weed problem is serious and has had a major negative impact on not only our waterfront people were residents in general who would like to enjoy the Kawartha Lakes, by swimming, boating and fishing. I also appreciate

the good work of members of organizations like Kawartha Protect Our Water (KPOW), who have worked hard on many environmental issues in our waterways.

### **New Turning Lane at Pigeon Lake Rd 17 and Heights Rd.**

This new turning lane has greatly improved the safety of traffic in all directions at this corner. I appreciated all of the letters from constituents which helped me get this passed through council. Public works moved quickly to achieve this during 2009. The lines will have a second painting in 2010.

### **Superior Tanker Shuttle Certification may save you money on insurance premiums**

The Superior Tanker Shuttle certification is granted to rural fire departments that have demonstrated that they are capable of delivering a continuous 200 gallons (850 litres) per minute of water for a period of 120 minutes. That is the minimum, and the next mark would be 400 gallons per minute (1700 litres) for the same period for credit for commercial ratings.

Recently Kawartha Lakes Fire Rescue Services were successful in acquiring this accreditation in the following areas: *Emily, Omemees, Dunsford, Ops, Oakwood, Bobcaygeon and Little Britain*. Already accredited were *Fenelon Falls and Cameron*.

Homes within 8 km of any of these fire halls have the opportunity for a reduction in insurance premiums. You must check with your insurance company as some do not recognize the superior tanker shuttle certification.

Commercial properties within 5 km of any of these fire halls can also apply with their insurance company for a reduction in insurance premiums. Check our municipality's listing on the tanker shuttle list for all municipalities in Ontario on the web site [www.fpss.ca](http://www.fpss.ca)

### Issue traQ

Issue traQ is a system developed to record a concern or issue that you would like dealt with. Your issue will be assigned a number that ensures that it will be looked after in a timely fashion. To contact the city during daytime, call 705-324-9411 between 8:30 and

4 30. Contact After Hours Municipal Emergencies– Live by calling the after hours service provider at 1-877-885-7337.

For non-emergency requests for service, you can also e-mail to [issues@city.kawarthalakes.on.ca](mailto:issues@city.kawarthalakes.on.ca)

### Earth Day

The following is a list of the Earth Day Events in Ward 14:

<b>Town</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<i>Rain Date</i>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Meeting Place</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Downeyville	Road Cleanup	Friday, April 23	Sunday April 25	5–8 pm	St. Luke's Church Parking Lot	Dan & Leah- Ann Carroll 799-5630
Omeme	Village Cleanup	Thursday April 22	Friday April 23	5–8 pm	Omeme Fire Hall	Craig & Carole Follet 799-6744
Reaboro	Road Cleanup: All RR#1 roads in Reaboro, and also Tracy's Hill Rd from Hwy 7 to Heights Rd	Thursday April 22	Friday April 23	5–8 pm	Reaboro Park	Steve & Marnie Callaghan 328-0116

Thank you for taking the time to read this. It is an honour to serve your interests at Council and I will continue to work hard on your behalf. I will close with my contact information below.

Yours truly,



Ron Ashmore, Councillor, Ward 14, City of Kawartha Lakes

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[www.ronashmore.ca](http://www.ronashmore.ca)