



beachPAGES

Town levee draws residents from across community and region

Town council hosted a New Year's Levee at the RecPlex on Sunday, Jan. 13.

"On behalf of all council members, I want to thank everyone who joined us for this event. It was fantastic to visit with so many people from our community. It was great to hear about your Christmas holidays and your plans for the year ahead," Mayor Nina Bifulchi said. "I also want to thank staff for making this event possible. It is my hope that council will hold the levee again next year. This is a nice way for us to come together as a town."

Tax bill

Enclosed with this newsletter is your tax bill. If your bill indicates a balance forward, it's important to note that interest has been calculated to the current billing date. Interest will be applied at 1.25% on the first day of each month thereafter.

E-Billing

To sign up for e-billing for tax and water bills, please e-mail: e-billing@wasagabeach.com.

Please include the following information:

- 1) Your municipal address;
- 2) Your name and telephone number;
- 3) Your e-mail must come from the e-mail address that you would like the bill sent to.

Paying your bill

Payments can be made the following ways:

- 1) In person at town hall, 30 Lewis St., Monday to Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- 2) Use our drop box beside the front door (cheques only).
- 3) Payments can be mailed to the address indicated on your bill.
- 4) At most financial institutions.
- 5) Through online banking.
- 6) Pre-authorized payment plan.

Charges

Tax records, reprints of tax or water bill: \$10.

Payment Transfer fee: \$5.

Mayor's Message

It is hard to believe that we are already in February.

Since Dec. 4, when council was sworn-in, we have been busy working as a team to prepare for the year ahead, as well as for the full four-year term.

One of our first projects was determining our priorities and goals for this term of council.

Over a series of five meetings with town staff, we discussed our priorities, as well as departmental priorities, and developed a list of 11 points.

As a result, the priorities for this term of council are as follows:

- 1) Determine the town's role in the development of the Downtown Area and the Beachfront;
- 2) Determine the best location(s) and build a new twin pad arena and new library;
- 3) Promote and facilitate the construction of affordable, attainable, and safe housing;
- 4) Support the private sector in growing and diversifying the tax base;
- 5) Continue to build a safer and healthier community, mindful of the needs of the various neighbourhoods in town;
- 6) Implement changes to council's governance and structure to improve accountability and transparency;
- 7) Maintain the financial health of the town while meeting the service needs of the community;
- 8) Build relationships with outside organizations and stakeholders based on mutual respect for the different roles that are played in the development of a community;



9) Review the town's assets and determine a strategy to deal with them in the best interest of the municipality;

10) Build pride in the community through effective communication, events and initiatives;

11) Build an efficient, well functioning, customer oriented organization to deliver on council's priorities.

As you can see, we have substantial work ahead of us. These 11 priorities represent what we heard from the community during the election campaign. They also represent the needs of various municipal departments. To achieve these priorities, council and staff will work diligently in an environment that reflects mutual respect, trust, honesty, and transparency.

Ultimately, our goal is to build a better town for everyone to live in. That does not mean just a better town for today, but for years to come.

Please note you can always contact my office by calling 705-429-3844, ext. 2225, or through e-mail at mayor@wasagabeach.com.

I look forward to sharing more with you in the near future.

Sincerely,
Nina Bifulchi, Mayor.

Town is reviewing its direction with the development of downtown and beachfront lands

Town council has decided to undertake a review of the development of town-owned lands in the downtown and at the beachfront.

At council's December Coordinated Committee meeting, council agreed to let the Letter of Intent with FRAM Building Group Ltd., lapse at the end of December as a first step in the review process.

The town, in July, under the previous Council, entered into a Letter of Intent with FRAM for the development of Town-owned land in the downtown and at the beachfront.

Council has requested Mayor Nina Bifulchi and appropriate staff to reach out to FRAM Building Group Ltd. to determine the company's interest in working with the Town and other prospective developers in the future development of Town held lands on Main Street and at the beachfront as the next step.

Mayor Bifulchi and staff will report to council on discussions with FRAM at the end of February.

"Developing these properties is something council takes very seriously and we must ensure that we get this right. We have a new council with new ideas and it is our hope that we can find the right development partners to work with council in creating developments that are acceptable to our community," the mayor said.

Wasaga Beach Events

April 20

Easter Eggstravaganza takes place in Wasaga Beach. The fun happens from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the RecPlex, 1724 Mosley St. We'll have the Easter Bunny on scene, there will be an egg hunt at 11 a.m., and several other activities for children during the big day. For additional details, check out the Special Events section of www.wasagabeach.com.

Town looking at what is best location for new arena and library

Members of Wasaga Beach Town Council will take a closer look at what is the best location for a new arena and library.

"How we handle taxpayer dollars is vitally important so we need to give careful consideration to where these new amenities should be built," Mayor Nina Bifulchi said.

The previous council considered building a new arena and library as part of a community hub at Main and Beck streets. The project was part of the proposed new downtown. According to the Community Hub Economic Analysis of March 2018, the total capital cost for the public sector components of the hub would be in the range of \$45-million, inclusive of land.

However, at the Jan. 8 Committee of the Whole meeting, the new council passed a motion to pause the community hub process for now and consider all potential sites in town.

"We don't have any provincial or federal dollars committed towards the community hub, and we've now been told by the province that all funding for hubs has been suspended while it undertakes a review, so it's important to consider other options, especially when we don't own all the land," Mayor Bifulchi said. "It's also important that the new council considers all factors in making one of the biggest decisions of this term of council. The pause will allow us to do that. We have a responsibility to do our due diligence on this file."

Council has directed staff to look at a variety of sites that might be suitable. Staff will provide a report on their work to members of council in February.

Revisiting the location of a new library and arena is in-line with direction council took in December, when it decided to undertake a review of the development of town-owned lands in the downtown and at the beachfront.

"We need to ensure that we get this right. Ultimately, we want development that is acceptable to our community," Mayor Bifulchi said.

Town decides not to opt in to allow cannabis retail locations in town for now

In December, town council received a report on the Province of Ontario's cannabis retail legislation.

Council also agreed not to opt in to allow retail cannabis locations in town at this time.

Meanwhile, council requested staff to perform further analysis of the community impacts of

allowing retail cannabis operations in Wasaga Beach.

Staff will report their findings to council no later than December 2019.

Council would like to have a better sense about the ramifications of retail cannabis operations before it considers allowing them in Wasaga Beach.

The town has advised the Registrar of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of council's decision.

Councillor George Watson new head of NVCA

Mayor Nina Bifulchi, on behalf of town council and all staff at the Town of Wasaga Beach, congratulates Councillor George Watson on his election as chair of the board for the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA).

On Jan. 25, 2019, NVCA board members chose Councillor Watson to serve as chair.

"George will be a very capable and effective chair of the conservation authority. He has an extensive background as a municipal councillor. George is bright, conciliatory, a good listener, principled, and always prepared," Mayor Nina Bifulchi said. "As a former conservation authority chair myself, I know George has the skills to provide the leadership needed at the

NVCA."

Mayor Bifulchi thanked the board for putting its faith in Councillor Watson.

The conservation authority is a community-based watershed management agency that is legislated under the Conservation Authorities Act. The authority is mandated to ensure the conservation, restoration, and responsible management of water, land and natural habitats through programs that balance human, environmental and economic needs.

The NVCA's board provides guidance and leadership to the authority. Municipalities appoint members to serve on the board.

