



Winter 2009 Newsletter

Comments from Mayor David Conn

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I appreciate the opportunity to review the key 2008 activities in Seguin Township and to highlight the major priorities on which your council will focus in 2009.

I believe 2008 was another year of positive progress for Seguin Township in a very tough environment. Major 2008 activities featured new initiatives to protect our environment; an aggressive capital program to improve our roads and bridge infrastructure; the opening of the Ruth Dare Health Clinic; the launch of the library expansion program at the Humphrey Community Centre; continued facilitation of the Seguin Adult Lifestyle Community

project; the launch of visioning projects for Orrville and Foley; the addition of new businesses, particularly at our airport; and working with REDAC to achieve high speed internet expansion.

Very importantly, all of this 2008 activity was funded with a municipal tax revenue increase of only 2%. Further, we continue to be in a strong financial position. Thanks to excellent cost control by staff and unexpected assessment revenue received late in the year, we were able to exit 2008 with an operating surplus.

As we look forward to 2009, your Council is aware of the ever challenging economic climate. We recognize that 2009

needs to be a year of financial conservatism. This should not be a year of major new spending initiatives. Accordingly, we have been working hard with our excellent Finance Committee to ensure the lowest possible increase in the municipal tax rate in 2009.

With this environment of prudent and conservative financial management, we will continue to focus on environmental protection issues, improvements to infrastructure and economic development.

Most of our major 2009 projects are discussed in articles in this newsletter. Please take the time to read them.

It is an honour to serve as your Mayor.

New Lake Stewardship Initiative

Assisting local lake associations in their efforts to spread the word of good waterfront stewardship serves further to implement the primary goal and objectives of the Township Official Plan. To help make certain there is consistency and co-ordination of approaches among lake associations, the Township Council is considering development of a waterfront stewardship project. More details of this initiative will be available in the spring of 2009.

Winter Parking & Driving Reminder

Township crews work as quickly as possible to remove snow from the roads but parked cars can become obstacles. To ensure the plow operators can clear the snow from the full width of the road and turn-a-rounds so that traffic can flow safely and the plow trucks are able to turn around, from November 1st of any year until April 15th of the following year parking is not permitted on Township roads, Fire Routes and turn-a-rounds as per By-law 2006-112.

Please Do Your Part

- Please do not push snow from driveways or walkways onto the road.
- Please do not allow children to play on snow piles located on or at the side of a road.
- Please do not pass a plow when they are clearing snow from the road. Whiteout conditions are often created in front of plows which reduces visibility.

Assessment Update

MPAC has made a number of changes to the property assessment system which will take effect for the 2009 tax year. These include the introduction of a four year phase in of increases in assessments, and a four year re-assessment cycle. Re-assessment Notices, which show the new assessment **as of January 1, 2008**, were mailed to all Seguin ratepayers in November; if you did not receive your Notice, do not understand the information, or have questions about the Notice, you can contact MPAC at 1-866-296-6722. If you wish to appeal your assessment, you must file your Request for Reconsideration (RfR) with MPAC by March 31, 2009. Forms and further information are available on the MPAC website at www.mpac.ca.

For the first time ever the average value of non-waterfront residential properties in Seguin Township increased by a greater percentage than waterfront properties. Since we are currently working on next year's budget, we do not yet know what the tax increase for 2009 will be. However, if your assessment increased by 5.47% or less, then the municipal portion of your taxes will only be going up by the amount of our tax increase or less. If your assessment went up more than 5.47% then your tax increase will be higher.

New By-laws for Shoreline and Environmentally Sensitive areas

After extensive consultations with the community, Township Council passed by-laws to regulate blasting, tree cutting and the placement and removal of fill. These by-laws apply to lands within 20 metres of shorelines and lands that are zoned Environmentally Protected. If you are not sure if these by-laws apply to work that you may be planning or have any questions, please contact the By-law Enforcement Department for assistance at (705) 732-4300.

High Speed Internet Update



The Regional Economical Development Advisory Committee (REDAC) Infrastructure Committee is developing a database of High Speed Internet Providers while also identifying underserved areas throughout Parry Sound, McDougall and Seguin. Individuals who are presently unhappy with their internet service are encouraged to complete a survey found at www.cityfree.ca/hispeed or to please complete a hard copy of the survey located at the Township Office. The information from this survey will assist with the identification of areas in the municipality where high speed internet access is unavailable. The REDAC Infrastructure Committee can then attempt to facilitate provision of these services.

Roads & Bridge Construction

With COMRIF (Canadian Ontario Municipal Infrastructure Fund), Seguin Township has recently completed three bridge projects (two on Turtle Lake Road and twin culverts on Tally Ho Swords Road). The Ranking Lake Road, CN Rail Bridge remains under construction and is expected to open late January 2009. Road construction activities were abundant in 2007 with the completion of Hamer Bay Road, Glen Burney Road, Point Pleasant, Harbourview, and miscellaneous other road projects. Blue Lake Road and Tally Ho Swords Road (from Hwy 141 to Turtle Lake Road) were started in 2008 and are expected to be complete in between 2009 and 2011 subject to Provincial and Federal Funding.

Septic Reinspection

The summer of 2008 marked the eighth successful season of the septic re-inspection program run by the Township. This year the program focused on Lake Joseph, Little Lake Joseph and Lake Rosseau. In all, 322 properties were inspected. There were no serious issues identified with any of the systems. Common minor deficiencies were over growth and heavy objects on the beds and these were readily corrected. It is important to remember that if trees and shrubs are allowed to grow too close to or on septic beds and tanks, their roots may clog or damage your system. Likewise parking cars, equipment or driveways on septic beds can cause damage to your system as well. Maintaining natural grasses on the top of the bed is a good way to aid in evaporation and prevent erosion. We look forward to undertaking this program again during the summer of 2009.

Water Quality Monitoring

A new Water Quality Monitoring Program was undertaken during the summer of 2008. Twenty four lakes were tested. These included: Horseshoe, Virtue, Isabella, Maple, Sugar, Diamond, Blackwater, Napken, Turtle, Duck, Gilbank, Forget, Silver, Scott, Long, Cosh, Star, Otter, Portage, Sucker, Three Legged, Whitefish, Little Whitefish and Clear. AECOM (formerly Gartner Lee Limited) environmental experts will provide a detailed monitoring report to the Township in early 2009 as part of their report on a Watershed Phosphorus Model and Management Input for Recreational Lakes in Seguin. Plans are in the works now for undertaking the water quality monitoring program during the summer of 2009.

Tax Payment Reminder

A reminder that tax payments must be in the Township office by close of business (4:30pm) on the specified due date in order to avoid penalty charges of 1.25%. It is the responsibility of the ratepayer to ensure that the payments are delivered to the Township office on time. Interest of 1.25% is also added to all outstanding taxes on the first day of every month. Taxes can be paid by cash, cheque or debit at the Township office, through online or telephone banking at major financial institutions, or through the mail. We also offer a pre-authorized monthly payment plan; information and forms are available on our website.

Orrville and Foley Visioning

Township Council engaged BMI/Pace Architects and created two citizen committees from Orrville and Foley to develop a vision for their respective communities. Work on the draft reports is now underway. Public workshop meetings to discuss the draft reports are planned to be held in early February. Each report will present a community vision and include a range of actions to be implemented over time by all community stakeholders and the township as financial, physical and community resources permit. Copies of the draft reports will be available on the Township web site and from the Planning Department in advance of these meetings. Comments from the residents of these communities and all residents of Seguin are welcome. Contact our Planning Department at 732-4300 for more information.

Waste Management

By popular request, Seguin Council is extending the successful 'Free Waste Days Program' to the 2009 summer season. From Saturday, June 27 to Monday, September 7, bulky household brown goods, white goods and scrap metal will be accepted at the Christie Landfill site at no charge (note: a CFC removal fee will be applicable to items containing refrigeration). Watch our website for further information.

Are you RECYCLING? Don't forget to recycle all your containers, paper products and cardboard. Please remember that all bulky goods and construction and demolition debris must be disposed of at the Christie Landfill Site. Leaving large items and construction debris at the Transfer sites can result in by-law enforcement and a fine. Do your part. Help keep Seguin clean and save your tax dollars by elimination of costly clean up efforts.

Upcoming Seguin Events

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| Jan. 23-25 | North Muskoka Lightning Tournament—Humphrey Community Centre (HCC) |
| Feb. 10 | Valentines Day Dinner—Orrville Community Centre (OCC) |
| Feb. 16 | Initial Opening of Humphrey Public Library—HCC |
| Feb. 21 | Pancake Breakfast 8am-Noon, HCC, 10am-Seguin Dog Sled Mail Run, Humphrey to Rosseau Post Office, HCC, Noon-2pm Musher's Lunch, RMH |
| Feb. 27 & 28 | Seguin Senators Tournament—HCC |
| Mar. 8 | Legion Speaking Contest—RMH |
| Mar. 16-20 | March Break Day Camp—HCC |
| Apr. 15 | Easter Parade, Village of Orrville |
| Apr. 25 | Georgian Jumpers Dinner—OCC |
| May 7 | Mayfest—Humphrey School |
| May 16 | Market on the Green, 10am-2pm, Village of Orrville, Every Sat. |
| June 27 | Canada Day Celebrations, OCC |
| July 3 | Rosseau Farmers Market, every Sat. until September 4 at the Rosseau Waterfront |
| August 1 | Rosseau Classic Cruise, Classic cars & antique boats, Rosseau Waterfront |

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Website!
www.seguin.ca*