



**The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa
Staff Monthly Report**

Office of Community Services and Tourism

Prepared For: Corporate Planning Committee	Report No.: AP 2017-07
Agenda Date: March 14th, 2017	File No.: 9.30.3

Preamble

This report details the activities of the Department of Community Services and Tourism in the month of February, 2017.

General

Tournament and Bonspiel Season

In February, staff are busy preparing for the upcoming Bonspiel and Tournament season. This includes getting ready for large events such as the Wawa Ice Fishing Derby, as well as youth and adult hockey tournaments that are coming up in the following months. Curling Bonspiels are also coming up, and staff worked this month in ensuring the ice is within tolerance for the next 2 months of bonspiel weekends.

Staffing Change

The Department of Community Services and Tourism is pleased to welcome Brian Lachine as the Community Services and Tourism Assistant. Brian will help with recreation programming and tourism marketing on a contract basis in the absence of the Department's Director.

Capital Projects

Wawa Goose Monument

The Contractor is currently in the process of completing the first portion of the Goose Project – the construction of the internal frame of the Goose. This is expected to be completed next month, where they will then begin the process of installing the feathers that will make up the exterior of the Goose. This month staff have also begun the reporting and claims process of the FedNor funding grant that will help pay for the Goose. The project is still well on schedule and will be opened on Canada Day Weekend.

Respectfully Submitted By: 	Prepared By: Alex Patterson, Assistant Director, Community Services and Tourism
--	--

MMCC**Fitness Equipment**

Fundraising has completed and the new equipment is now on its way for the fitness centre. This equipment will arrive in early March, and staff expect to install it during the March break. This is expected to have a positive effect on membership as well, making the fitness equipment selection more diverse, with less of a focus on cardio.

Arena and Curling**Curling Bonspiel – NSSSAA**

The MMCC hosted the 2017 NSSSAA Curling Bonspiel this month. It saw many participants from the Region come to Wawa to participate. It was an excellent event that demonstrates the regional significance that Wawa plays in recreation. These events have a great economic impact on the community, with many of the teams participating staying in hotels and eating at restaurants in Wawa. It is again one of the ways that Wawa puts itself on the map by supporting these regional sporting events.

Parks and Trails**Canada 150 Trees and Gardens**

Staff have begun preparations for this year's Canada 150 gardens around Wawa. These include working with the Beautification Committee and the selection of Red and White flowers for the gardens around the community. Staff are also exploring gardens and improvements around the Queen's Park Cenotaph, a project started late last year that will continue into 2017.

Community Events and Recreation**Wawa Winter Carnival 2017**

This year's winter carnival was a great success. We saw a great deal of participants throughout the weekend who came out to enjoy the festivities. The Parade this year had less participants than last, however the fireworks and bonfire were much better attended. This is partly owing to the much warmer weather this year. On Saturday, the children's arcade, dance and Science North were very well attended, as were both Rotary Pancake Breakfasts. The Wawa Winter Carnival is an excellent way that the Municipality partners with local clubs and businesses to encourage recreation and development in Wawa. This year over 450 carnival buttons were sold in support of the event as passes, an increase over previous years.

Outdoor Ice Rink

The outdoor ice rink is now closed for the season. With the extremely variable weather, the warm Carnival Weekend shut down and compromised the ice surface in a way that would make it impossible to repair without consistent cold weather. Overall, this year staff received a great deal of positive feedback about the ice rink and will look at small, cost effective improvements for next season.

Canada 150 - Dream Catchers Musical

Staff have investigated a free community event – a musical troupe of Canadians performing a diversity of art. They are touring around Canada and are funded through Canada 150, meaning there is no cost associated with the stops of this tour. Staff have placed Wawa on the list of locations and look forward to developing this event further.

Tourism**Tourist Information Centre Improvements**

Staff are currently in the final planning stages of improvements at the TIC. This will include interpretive signage and displays, landscaping and roofing/lighting improvements. Staff have been in contact with the MTO for certain landscaping improvements and a final plan for the summer will be in place in the coming months.

Auxiliary Services**Greyhound / National**

National Car Rental continues to be stable at the MMCC, with 22 separate rentals this February. Greyhound services also continue to be stable, with the normal issues for passengers of lateness and unreliability ever present. Passengers often find it difficult, especially in the colder weather, to catch the westbound bus at 0400.

Other Projects**Canada 150 / Wawa Goose Celebration Preparation**

Staff have completed the Review phase for the NOHFC grant and are now eagerly awaiting an announcement of funding. In the meantime, staff have met with community organizations and members to present a draft plan of events and activities, and have invited members to slot their organizations into the overall event. Staff continue to work with the EDC and the Wawa Music Festival to plan the event.

Funding and Grants**Wawa Waterfront Project**

Staff are currently working with Kresin Engineering and the EDC to finalize the Stage 2 application. The Stage 2 process is large, as it requires a full costing of every individual component in the project, as well as full drawings and exact specifications. Staff have received notification that the RBC Bluewater fund application has been approved for a total amount of \$45,000.

Conclusion

The Department of Community Services and Tourism is in full winter mode, and finalizing the planning phase for 2017. Staff will continue to work on the implementation of new recreation booking software to modernize and increase the capacity of the department to serve the residents of Wawa.

End of Report.