



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

**Office of Community Services and Tourism**

<b>Prepared For: Corporate Planning Committee</b>	<b>Report No.: AP 2017-17</b>
<b>Agenda Date: November 28, 2017</b>	<b>File No.: 9.32</b>

### **Preamble**

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

### **General**

In October staff focused on completing fall closure tasks as well as enhancing the delivery of Municipal services. This finalizes the seasonal changeover and focuses the Department's activities around the MMCC and the services it provides. Most seasonal programming is in full swing, with curling starting in November to round out the winter line up. Management staff worked on finalizing funding agreements for the projects completed this summer, as well as to start upcoming projects.

### **Capital Projects**

#### **Tourist Information Centre – Roof and Landscaping**

The contractor has been chosen for the TIC roof and this project is on schedule and due to be completed before December 15<sup>th</sup>. It is the last major deliverable on the Goose/TIC project. Two minor deliverables are in progress: Landscaping to increase the visibility of the Goose and LED Lighting inside the Centre. The landscaping project has been out for quotation, and will be completed before year end. Algoma Power was not able to help with removals, however they have offered their services in the spring with advice on planting for a sustainable future on the hillside. The LED lights have been ordered and staff will install them throughout the winter. This will conclude the Project.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

**Prepared By:**

**Alex Patterson, Director,  
Community Services and Tourism**

**MMCC Retractable Wall**

The retractable wall for the MMCC has been ordered and the contractor booked for late November. The project is on schedule and will take one week to install. During this week regular programming will be able to continue, with no Banquet hall bookings and only curling nights supported in the Lounge.

**Olympia Ice Resurfacer**

The Olympia Ice Resurfacer continues to be expected in December. Staff continue to operate the old resurfacer, which will be retired to occasional or outdoor usage when the new unit is received.

**MMCC****Canteen Services**

The Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre continues to be a place where fitness, recreation and socialization are increasing. To meet the demands of growing programs and families being in the building for continuous hours the canteen is in operation 7 days week during peak times. The menu offers traditional canteen food and healthy options like veggie cups and yogurt tubes.

All canteen staff attended a safe food handling course and has worked in conjunction with Algoma Public Health to provide the highest standards possible. Continued training in customer service is planned for the near future.

**Arena and Curling****Curling Ice Installation**

The curling ice was installed without any major issues throughout the installation. Staff have been able to install the ice within a more precise tolerance this year, with ice at a consistent inch throughout. Maintaining the ice at a reduced and consistent thickness will have a positive impact on utility bills throughout the season. The curling ice was ready for the first Monday in November. Staff had small issues with hacks falling out over the first few weeks, but was remedied by re-installation. Staff will investigate new hacks for the next season as the current ones are very old and starting to get loose.

**Parks and Trails****Parks Shut Down 2017**

In October, staff balanced the needs of the MMCC and winter shutdown of Municipal parklands. Staff worked to remove swings, prepare trees and gardens for the upcoming snow, and mark or move hazards such as picnic tables and benches. Staff have some

final tasks to complete in November, however the majority of work has been completed successfully.

### **Beck Park – Tree Damage**

A storm in late October damaged one of the major trees in the Park, and it put several nearby structures at risk. The tree had no unobstructed fall zone, therefore staff enlisted the help of an arborist to remove the tree. Beck Park is the property of Algoma (formerly Essar Steel), and therefore staff received permission to remove the hazard and were able to pass all costs along to Algoma.

## **Community Events and Recreation**

### **Fitness and Programming**

Preliminary numbers of memberships and fitness class participation indicates an increase over a similar period last year. This is great news and shows that upgrades to the facility, particularly the Gym, have paid off in additional use and increased satisfaction.

### **Upcoming Community Events**

With the holiday season approaching, planning with volunteers and staff for special events was a priority. Staff attended meetings with Superior Children's Centre to assist in planning for the Community Christmas event scheduled for December 2nd. Staff also met with the Special Events Committee to discuss and plan the re-implementation of Wawa's Festival of Lights and for February's Winter Carnival.

Staff also began to organize a youth curling league that will be taking place the last Wednesday of every month beginning in November.

## **Tourism**

### **Glenn Gould and Japan**

In October, the Municipality of Wawa welcomed Laywah Ang. Laywah is the Asia Media Relations Coordinator at Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership which is an agency of the government of Ontario. She is responsible for traditional and social media activities in China, Japan, Korea, India and Australia. Japanese media familiarity tours, when visiting the area, traditionally stay in Sault Ste. Marie and experience the Agawa Canyon Tour Train and depart. This is the very first time that a media has requested to stay in the region. This is very exciting and with one of their interests being Glenn Gould and the Wawa tie to him. Partnering with Johanna Rowe, Laywah and others experienced our waterfalls, Sandy Beach, the Wawa Motor Inn and other sights that were of interest

to Glenn Gould. The visit will be published in Japanese magazines throughout airports and transit areas.

### **Auxiliary Services**

#### **National/Greyhound**

October was a busy month for the delivery of National services, with 30 rentals. Greyhound services remained steady during the month, with package freight making up the bulk of the service. Staff continue to see the transportation issue created by a single bus north and south each day.

### **Other Projects**

**Nothing to Report.**

### **Funding and Grants**

#### **Wawa Waterfront Project**

Staff have completed a scheduling change to the Wawa Waterfront Project, which has been accepted by both the NOHFC and FedNor. This, along with a successful scheduling change from the Trillium foundation, will move the project dates to be completed between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2019. This will ensure the appropriate amount of time contingency is kept, as well as ensuring that all project deliverables will be met. This project will now become a part of the 2018 Capital Budget, as a holdover from the 2017 Budget. An RFP for engineering services has been sent out as per NOHFC request, and it is due December 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Municipal GHG Challenge Fund**

Staff have applied to the Municipal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Challenge Fund, for upgrades to the MMCC's Heating System. This funding application is the key to this proposed work, and sources 90% funding under the Small Municipalities Stream. Staff will await a response, scheduled to be announced in February 2018.

#### **Capital Projects 2018**

As staff prepare the 2018 Capital Budget, funding sources continue to be identified for 2018. While staff consider funding, it is our goal to find 90% funding for all non-emergency projects. This will include further upgrades to the Tourist Information Centre, the refacing of Municipal Billboards, and other projects. These will be presented along with the 2018 Capital budget.

**Conclusion**

In October, staff pursued diverse seasonal projects including attending regional tourism events, shifting operations focus to the MMCC, and small improvements to the services we offer. We are very pleased to be able to offer expanded services at the MMCC centred on youth and parents, and look forward to reviewing the results of this service expansion.

**Attachments**

**No Attachments.**

**End of Report.**