



**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 2017-18</b>
<b>Agenda Date: January 16, 2018</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 November, 2017.

**General**

In an unusually warm November, staff balanced increased environmental challenges with the operation of the MMCC with a much welcomed break from usual snow clearing activities. The MMCC is now the primary focus of operations for the Department, with staff working on upgrades to the facility, special events for the winter season, as well as the 2018 capital budget.

**Capital Projects**

**Tourist Information Centre – Roof and Landscaping**

The project is nearly complete with the contractor working on the roof during the end of November and into December. A contractor has been selected for the clearing of trees along specified corridors as per MTO permit. Final accounting for the FedNor portion of the Project has been completed and staff are preparing the final claim for the NOHFC portion – this covers the Roof and Landscaping. The project will be complete December 15, 2017.

**MMCC Retractable Wall**

The retractable wall was not able to be installed in November due to supply issues with some hardware. This has delayed the project into December. Staff expect that without further delays this project will be complete before year end.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

**Prepared By:**

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

**Olympia Ice Resurfacers**

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

**MMCC****MMCC usage in November**

The Michipicoten Memorial Community Centre continues to be a hub for community events. In November the Centre hosted community events such as the Wawa Figure Skating Club's Futures Skating Competition which invited surrounding communities to compete in figure skating. Algoma Public Health used the facility for their flu clinic. The annual Fall By-Hand Festival was also held at the MMCC, giving local artisans and crafters the opportunity to display and sell their product. Another annual event that took place at the MMCC is the Lori Johnson Memorial Ladies Hockey Tournament. Teams from around the North shore participated in this successful event. To conclude the month the annual food bank fundraiser "Feed the Need" brought together a variety of businesses and community members to raise funds and collect food donations. All of these events made a very busy month at the MMCC.

**Arena and Curling****November Temperatures**

With a very wet and warm November, staff have experienced increased loads on ice making and maintenance equipment. These are primarily due to two factors: humidity and temperature. The increased temperature has a direct effect on compressor usage, and therefore the utility bill. Temperatures' indirect effect is on humidity – the higher the temperature, the more capacity air has to hold moisture. This, added to the higher relative humidity experienced in the month of November, had both dehumidification units working hard to keep up with the added load. This will have an effect on the overall facility costs, and will specifically increase electricity cost.

**Parks and Trails**

**Nothing to Report.**

## Community Events and Recreation

### Upcoming Community Events

The Canada 150 Celebration continues with a nationwide Skate Day. Staff applied for a \$1000.00 micro-grant, in partnership with Wawa Minor Hockey, which we received the end of November. Monies will be used for food, equipment and decorations to grow community pride and enthusiasm. This is a free community event that takes place December 10th, 2017.

Plans for Wawa festival of Lights are coming to a conclusion. Staff and volunteers have successfully promoted the event with approximately 30 houses being involved in the bus tour. New Christmas lights were installed on trees and on the facility at the MMCC. A brief meeting with Mayor Rody confirmed his involvement at a meet and greet and the tree lighting event. Again, this is an exciting event promoting town pride and involvement.

## Tourism

### Thunder Bay Tourism Northern Ontario Summit

The annual Tourism Northern Ontario Summit took place in Thunder Bay November 15th-17th. Staff attended a two day course through Tourism Excellence North that focused on “Experiential Tourism” with an emphasis on ensuring Wawa meets and exceeds visitor expectations and begin to develop an action plan to address gaps or areas that need improvement or attention.

The summit allowed staff to make professional tourism connections, participate in group discussions with highlights on Tourist Information Centres. Staff also had the opportunity to listen to professionals in the industry with an emphasis on social media presence and the value of connecting with visitors.

## Auxiliary Services

### National/Greyhound

November continues to see an increased amount of bookings with 29 this month. This included one vehicle that failed on the highway, stranding a customer. The customer was picked up and returned to Wawa safely. Staff worked to return the vehicle to the community, and it has been in service since. Staff were also successful on getting winter tires installed on vehicles, which has been an ongoing discussion since the inception of the service at the MMCC. This will increase passenger safety and staff believe they are essential for safe travel in the North. Greyhound service continues, and staff expect parcel service to increase dramatically in the weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays. The service also continues to suffer from having only one bus per direction.

**Other Projects**

**Nothing to Report.**

**Funding and Grants****Wawa Waterfront Project**

The RFP for Engineering Services is currently out for submissions, and staff have received a great deal of interest – over 10 requests for further information. The RFP closes December 1<sup>st</sup> and staff will have a recommendation prepared for the December 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

**Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund**

Staff are currently in the process of applying to the Ontario Sport and Recreation Communities Fund with an emphasis on Age Friendly Planning Outreach Initiatives. This grant focuses on programming, physical activity development in youth and seniors and accessibility for all age groups. The goal of this grant is to grow physical activity, development fundamentals in physical activity and create a lifelong enjoyment of physical activity in the community.

**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 November, staff focused on the operation of the MMCC with all winter programming running smoothly. While faced with delays on Capital projects, staff continue to work to ensure that these projects are completed within this budget year. Staff are also looking ahead to a new year with many successful funding applications bringing special projects to our community with the goal of improving the lives of those who reside here.

**Attachments**

**No Attachments.**

**End of Report.**