



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

Office of Community Services and Tourism

Prepared For: Corporate Planning Committee	Report No.: AP 2018-06
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Preamble

This report details the activities of the Department of Community Services and Tourism in the month of May, 2018.

General

In May, the Department focuses on opening all parks, tourism resources, and the Tourist Information Centre, before the busy tourist and summer season. This includes preparing summer advertising campaigns, recreation programming for youth, and organizing changes and service updates to the Marina. It is truly a holistic staff effort, with summer students, part time and full time staff all working together to ensure everything is ready for the summer season.

Capital Projects

Wawa Waterfront Project

The Wawa Waterfront Project continues successfully, with tender documents completed by the engineer before May long weekend, and reviewed by staff before being released in late May. Staff have had several interested contractors, and look forward to presenting the results to Council at the June Corporate Planning meeting. The method of including all year one construction deliverables in one tender saves both staff time and engineering costs, and has ensured that the project remains under budget. Staff also completed the RFP for the Goose Market, and expect construction to start soon. This will allow for business development in the downtown core, as well as provide an additional tourist attraction to encourage visitors to travel through the downtown core to access the market – thereby encouraging additional foot traffic.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Prepared By:

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

CST Plow Truck

Staff have received proposals from each dealer in the community, and are currently seeking additional information from each dealer before making a recommendation to Council.

MMCC Storage Garage

Staff have received very disappointing results as part of the RFP process for the garage. Unanticipated by staff, the proposal to create an addition to the facility was met with many unknowns due to the original construction of the facility. The lack of as built or design plans for the original facility meant that the engineering costs alone were over budget for the project. While this has delayed the project, staff are re-advertising the RFP with a specification for a separate garage. The separate garage was part of the original project and does not carry the same issues as the proposed addition. This RFP will close at the end of the month.

Scenic High Falls

Staff have begun work on the Scenic High Falls project, beginning with the design of interpretive signage detailing the project, its goals and outcomes. This will be installed early spring as staff begin preparing the site for summer work.

MMCC**MMCC Special Events Hosting**

As the MMCC switches to summer hours, the facility continues to be used frequently by the community. In May, the facility hosted 10 full day special events that were above and beyond our standard facility bookings for recreation programming, committee meetings, and other regular usage. This trend poses a special challenge for staff as we work to balance our duties in the community, such as parks and tourism assets, with the operation of the MMCC. It also creates difficulties as the facility is often in demand when staff are not scheduled. Many activities require a staff member to shift off their day duties to cover the evening, which disrupts the normal day activities. Other times the facility is opened for a specific user group, and left unattended for staff to then return and lock up. Staff will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves, and expect the installation of a fob access system will improve this situation somewhat.

Arena and Curling

Nothing to Report.

Parks and Trails

Queen's Park

Staff have continued to work on issues in Queen's park. Staff have completed an assessment of trees in the park and have determined which trees will be removed and where replanting will occur. Staff will continue to remove dangerous and decaying trees as well as plant additional and diversified species in the spring. This will help secure the future of the park as well as eliminate hazards before they impact public safety.

Staff also made the decision to not hang swings this year at the park, after significant rust pitting and holes were discovered in the swing set foundations. This condition had been noticed last fall on one side of the swings, which were removed. The other foundations have not lasted through the winter. Staff have ordered a new swing set and plan to move it beside the existing playground. This will both make the park safer for winter sliding, as the swings were an obstacle in the path of travel, as well as make summer maintenance easier by providing longer runs in the park for the large reel mower. Staff expect to have the new swings shortly and have them installed in July.



Lion's Beach House Improvements

Staff have been working on the washrooms in Lion's Beach, with the goal of improving them for the upcoming Goose Market Project that is part of the Wawa Waterfront Project. The beachhouse interior is being renovated to redo plumbing fixtures, walls and lighting to provide a more inviting and nicer location for the use of the community. Staff are working to ensure that the facility is ready and the dock is in before Canada Day weekend.

Marina

Staff continue to work with the Marina operator on an agreement for 2018. Staff have also prepared a new reconciliation system to ensure financial transparency of the process, and are working to implement this in June. This implementation will occur this summer, with staff starting with forms and stickers that will be used to track boats and users at the slips and continuing work on the launch system once this has been fully implemented. Staff expect that this system will take some years for most users to become accustomed to, but it will allow for easier reconciliation of the funds collected at the Marina as well as provide more accountability for the process.

Vallee Park Bridge

Staff investigated damage on the Vallee park bridge this month, and discovered that the timbers below the decking were showing serious signs of rot. Staff worked to repair the damage and the bridge decking that was missing was replaced to mitigate the immediate hazard. Staff are investigating the safety of the bridge with the assistance of an Engineer to ensure public safety. There continues to be significant issues with the parkland itself as well, and due to the complexity of the properties related to the park, staff are considering options for the future of the location with a plan and report to Council forthcoming.

William Teddy Park – May Long Weekend

Staff from the Infrastructure Services Department opened the barricades to William Teddy Park for the May Long Weekend and serviced the parking lot and road. Unfortunately, in the very short amount of time that the park was opened, there was a recurrence of the same issues that have been experienced in the past. Issues such as litter, significant rutting and damage continue, as well as the original safety concerns such as exposed piping, wiring, and hazards left over from the RV park remain. Staff recommend that the park continue to be closed until an appropriate and holistic solution to the redevelopment of the park may be found.



Community Events and Recreation

Youth Programming

Staff have spent the month preparing both the programming and the sports fields for the MMCC Timbit soccer and T-Ball programs. This year's numbers grew significantly compared to the past 2 years. In 2016, there were less than 50 participants. In 2017, staff worked on marketing and implemented a communication strategy, resulting in a significant increase to 114 participants. This year we have reached 195 children playing soccer and T-Ball. These numbers include children playing both sports. This program will offer leadership, coaching, and fun programming for youth in the community.

Fitness Programming

In May, the MMCC plays host to a diverse amount of programming to end the regular fitness season. This special programming is targeted at our two primary user demographics. Seniors programming has experienced very good attendance, both from municipal programming as well as programming offered at the MMCC through outside organizations such as APH. A second program – boot camp, operated by a local business and hosted at the MMCC, provides spring programming primarily for women. These programs on offer provide the community with additional resources to sustain physical activity and healthy life options.

Tourism

Tourist Information Centre Spring Upgrades

This year, staff performed much needed repairs and upgrades to the TIC, including repairs to water damage experience over many years of roof leaks, and significant plumbing issues that have built up over the past 5 years. This improvement will help the community in attracting more tourism and business off of the highway corridor. Staff also worked to improve the grounds, with another round of strategic tree removal as well as help from the Wawa Volunteer Fire Department, who completed a prescribed burn on the hillside. This also exposed the old WAWA rocks, which staff will work on this summer to return them to a place of prominence on the hillside.

ACR Passenger Train

Staff attended an information session with NEORN to discuss the future of the passenger train. The meeting included discussions on AODA requirements by the year 2020, environmental impact of highway travel and updates on Provincial decisions on the rail lines. Other attendees included Municipal councillors and local tourism providers. As previously reported, an emphasis on transportation for the aging and disabled were highlighted.

Auxiliary Services

National/Greyhound

National continues to be busy, and staff often report a month that is completely full, with customers on a waiting list for vehicles. Greyhound continues to show stable freight services, with a decline in passengers yet again attributed to the more competition in Ontario Northland.

Other Projects

Flowers, Lights, and Banners on Broadway Ave.

Staff expanded the hanging basket program this season, doubling the amount of baskets installed after the successful pilot last year. These baskets are easier to maintain and are significantly less prone to vandalism and damage as they hang higher than most can reach. Staff also worked with the BIA to ensure that banners and lights leftover from the Christmas season were removed, and last minute help from Algoma Power made the project happen. Staff expect to work more with the BIA as Algoma Power develops an agreement with the Municipality to continue this program. Staff are currently investigating a holistic cost program for beautification on Broadway Avenue should the Municipality be required to play a more prominent role in the issue.

Flowerboxes on Broadway Avenue have consistently been a challenge over the past several years, due to combination of factors. The first, and most unfortunate, is the amount of damage they receive through vandalism and waste. The boxes are often used as a waste disposal container, and a couple times a year they are tipped over during the night, leaving staff to clean them up and repair them as best they can. While the boxes represent a partnership between volunteers and the Municipality, often it is the Municipality that is left with much of the maintenance requirements to ensure that they continue to look good. Staff therefore recommend that the Municipality pursue and expand the hanging basket program or increase staff capacity to accommodate the increased maintenance requirement of having flowerboxes done properly.

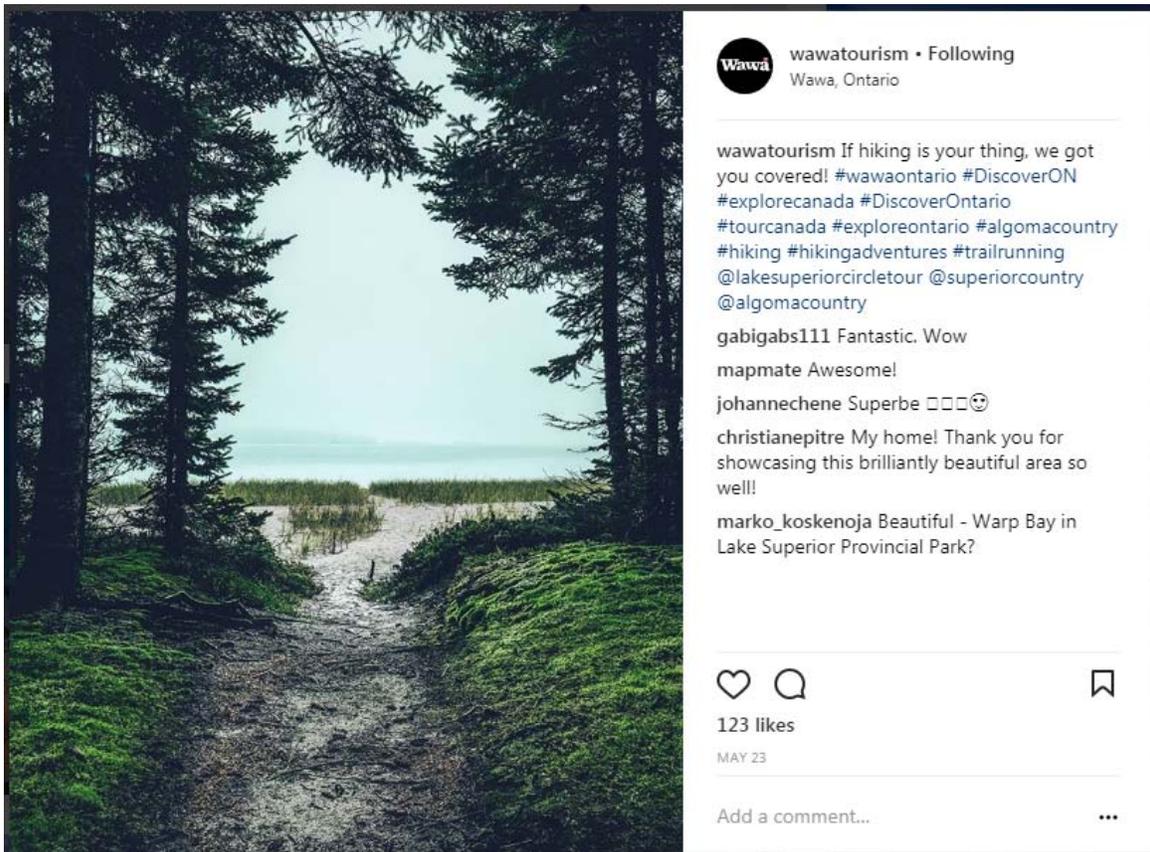
Funding and Grants

NOHFC Community Capacity Program – Wawa Drag Races

Staff have been successful in moving on to stage 2 of a NOHFC grant for improvement of the Wawa Drag Races. This grant aims to provide the Races with the infrastructure required to be more self-contained at the airport site. It will provide additional fencing and staging to allow the event to hold the concert outdoors, at the venue. It also looks to expand attractions at the site by building a burn-out box for another form of racing competition and event. The funding percentage puts this project into capital budget territory, with 90% funding of the \$50,000 required as the goal of the project.

Conclusion

May is the opening of our summer resources and programming. This month is marked with a focus on improving resources that have suffered from lack of preventative maintenance in the past. We are pursuing these items with the expected result of these improvements being an increase in the effectiveness of our tourism platform. It is one of the goals of the department to improve these key resources so the look and feel of our community is one that is taken care of, and cared for. This has benefits not limited to tourism, but in community pride and well-being – two goals that increase retention of community members and makes our community a great place to live.



Attachments

No Attachments.

End of Report.