



2011

Council Year in Review

City of Kenora

12/1/2011

5 December 2011



City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor Canfield & Members of Council

From: Karen Brown, CAO
Heather Kasprick, Deputy Clerk

Re: Council Term in Review

Recommendation:

That a copy of the report reviewing the achievements for the first year of Council be posted on the City's portal and made available to the media.

Background:

This is the first year of the new Council for the City of Kenora. With the first year of any Council there is a great amount to learn and undertake so there is value in reflecting on the highlights of many projects and achievements by the City of Kenora departments within this first year.

This report represents the culmination of various decisions made by the current Council as well as projects approved through the capital and operating budget. It is not exhaustive, but it does contain the highlights of the last year as seen through the eyes of City administration.

This report has been divided into the following sections:

- Items initiated by the previous Council, completed this year
- Items initiated and completed under the direction of current Council
- Other interesting department highlights

2011 Council Highlights *Items Initiated by the previous Council*

Anicinabe Park Washroom: The Anicinabe Park required a new accessible washroom for visitors which included the demolition of two old washrooms. The cost of the new washroom project was \$400,000 with the cost to remove the old washrooms being \$20,000.

Columbarium: One new columbarium was added in 2011 to the Lake of the Woods Cemetery to bring our total complement to 5. Total cost of this capital purchase was \$35,000.

Downtown Revitalization – Phase II (Contract 400): Implementation of the first phase of the Downtown Revitalization Project was completed in the term of the previous Council. Phase II included works to the Plaza, site landscaping, electrical, boardwalk installation, dock relocation and the construction of the tent foundations. Contract 500 included the tent design, fabrication and erection of the tent. This project is funded through many programs including the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corp (\$2 million), FedNor (\$2 million), and the Rural Economic Development Program (RED) for \$.25 million.

Highway 17 East and West Gateway Project: With the initial project being significantly under budget, the City obtained permission to extend the project from the Keewatin Bridge to Norman. This work was completed in October 2011. Funding was received for this project through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund in the amount of \$4.7 million dollars.

Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre: This project was completed in conjunction with David Nelson Architecture and City of Kenora Facilities Coordinator John Nabb, as Project Manager, and Solid Construction. The project was a \$3,115,000 project and was funded partially through Phase II of the Building Canada Fund, receiving \$2.1 million dollars. The City building was fortunate to receive a Woodworks award for the creative use of wood in the building and received the award in Ottawa in November.

Land Ambulance – After several years of debate and offers to the Kenora District Services Board, an offer was made to the KDSB for a piece of land located directly beside the Fire and Emergency Services Building on 14th Street North. The site prep has commenced and building under progress.

Wharf Rehabilitation: Through a 1.2 million dollar funding program from Transport Canada upgrades and accessibility improvements were completed to the Matheson, Main Street and Second Street Wharfs.

2011 Council Highlights

Items Initiated and Completed under the Direction of the Current Council

Aamikkowiish Non-profit Housing: A piece of property was provided to Aamikkowiish Non-profit housing for the development of a duplex for low income housing. The construction of this duplex has begun and as part of our Official Plan, will add to the much needed low income housing in the area.

Allan Cup Sponsorship: The City hosted and sponsored the successful Allan Cup hockey tournament in April with a gold sponsorship of \$8,000. The economic impacts to the community for that weekend were significant in otherwise a quiet time of year in the area.

AMO & ROMA/OGRA: Council had good representation at the annual AMO and ROMA/OGRA conferences in 2011. We were successful in receiving the Minister meeting requests in most areas to discuss the various issues outlined in the packages. Mayor Canfield also represented NOMA as well as the City meeting with most Ministers on Regional issues such as the Roads and Bridges funding.

Animal Control-By-Law Enforcement: Second full time officer added to make the seven day operation complete for the whole year. This is to respond to the demand for increased by-law enforcement in the City.

Bicycle Routes: Under the direction of the recently formed Bicycle Committee, the first bicycle route was signed and stenciled (from Keewatin to Roundabout) in the fall of 2011 with more routes to be completed in 2012.

Big Belly Receptacles: The City installed 16 Big Belly solar powered recycle bins in the downtown area. These bins were funded 50% through the Waste Diversion Ontario program and a successful "Yum Yum" advertising campaign was held to promote the use of the new bins to divert recyclable materials from the garbage bins.

Changes to the Governance Model: Changing from the formal Standing Committee model to the Committee of the Whole (COW) model:

- i) Community & Protective Services
- ii) Corporate Services
- iii) Economic Development
- iv) Finance
- v) Operations
- vi) Property & Planning

Eliminating the Standing Meeting model has helped reduce the administrative paperwork with having only Committee of the Whole and Property and Planning.

Community Improvement Plan: The City of Kenora adopted a Community Improvement Plan for the former mill site. The plan contains incentives for companies

considering future development. No incentives have been awarded to date but there have been inquiries.

Downtown Revitalization – Phase II – Tent: The Phase II Harbourfront portion of the project was scaled back to reflect an updating of project costs. In 2011 the City received funding from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation in the amount of \$.8 million dollars and was able to construct a permanent tent with side walls. The structure was first used in September 2011 with the Business Improvement Zone (BIZ) also contributed to this project.

Garrow and McLeod Park Washrooms: The completion of upgrades to both the Garrow and McLeod Park washrooms (\$25,000 each) which was part of the capital budget.

Hard Surface Treatments: As part of the annual operating budgets, hard surface treatments were completed to James Road, Peterson Road and patches to Essex Road.

Health and Safety Policy Improvements: Staff developed improved Health and Safety Policies for all staff to increase awareness in working safely and taking necessary steps for safe work practices. The focus is on improved awareness and a safe work culture throughout the City. In addition to the new policies being adopted by Council, new Policy Statements in support of safe work and protection for our workers were also adopted.

KDMA & NOMA: Council approved the continued membership to the Kenora District Municipal Association as well as the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association with Mayor Canfield being elected as the Vice President of NOMA and regular participation in both organizations. Mayor Canfield also holds the Northern Zone seat at the Ontario Good Roads Association through his NOMA appointment as well as a seat on the AMO Board through this Association.

Landfill Leachate Monitoring: The City has been treating leachate from the Mud Lake Landfill for over 30 years. A formal agreement was put into place on July 29, 2011 for a six month period with the potential renewal for a further six months. This agreement is for the City to accept leachate from Mud Lake Landfill into the sanitary sewer system for treatment and disposal to prevent it from leaching into the Rabbit Lake creek which drains into the Winnipeg River.

Long Term Deer Management Strategy: Public, staff and Ministry consultation lead to positive discussions around deer management in the City. Council approved a trial bow deer hunt south of the by-pass for a 6 week period. Hunter survey cards are now being returned and a further public consultation will take place following the close of hunting season.

Master Recycling Strategy: The adoption of a Master Recycling Strategy which will allow for increased efficiencies and promotions of the recycling department. This includes a successful Waste Diversion Recycle campaign that was delivered early this fall.

Municipal Paving: Valley Drive, Bernier Drive, 8th Avenue South, 8th Street South, Transfer Station Bin Wall paving. The major connecting link paving on Lakeview Drive through Norman was completed in late fall. The Kenora Recreation Centre parking lot paving was also completed this summer.

Sidewalk Installation/Extension: As part of the capital budget, the extension of the sidewalk from Lakeview Drive (Norman intersection) to the Discovery Centre was completed.

Snowmobile Corridor: With much Council consideration and public input, Council approved the re-establishment of a through-town snowmobile corridor with the Sunset Trail Riders.

Special Events: Special Events for the City was transferred to the Lake of the Woods Development Commission this spring and an updated Memorandum of Understanding was adopted.

Surveillance Cameras: Council approved the installation of surveillance cameras in the overhead bridge as well as increased cameras in existing areas.

Thistle Pavilion Washroom: Renovations to the Thistle Pavilion included expanded washroom facilities including accessibility improvements. Total cost of this project, \$259,000.

Trails Development:

Rabbit Lake Trail-Phase II: Completion of accessible, paved trail from Nairn Avenue to Garrow Park (Trillium Grant-\$68,000). Other partners include the City of Kenora, Kenora Community Foundation, St. Thomas Aquinas High School and NW Health Unit for a total project cost of \$117,500.

Rat Portage Urban Trail: Completion of Laurenson's Creek Trail – property purchase from the Keewatin Patricia District School Board and trail development along Laurenson's Creek (Partners include City of Kenora, Keewatin-Patricia School Board, King George School, Kenora Community Foundation and Ministry of Natural Resources).

Mink Bay Trail: Grand opening of the Mink Bay Trail in 2011, Mink Bay bridge and the development of the Slabtown Way Trail.

Trail Guide: Regional Trail Guide promoted this year, which included the four designated urban trails as well as Rushing River Trails, Minaki Trails, Vernon Nature Area and Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls Trails.

Turn-a-Rounds Added: Four new turn-a-rounds for plow vehicles were created at Goss Road, Anne Crescent, Doner Avenue and the Norman Pumping station. These turn-a-rounds allow for our winter snow equipment to make safe turns and not encroach onto private property when in these areas doing snow clearing.

Water/Wastewater Long Range Financial Plan: The Financial Plan was approved in November 2011. The Plan is required under the Safe Water Drinking Act 2002. Ontario Regulation 453/07 set out the required information which must be submitted 6 months after the initial drinking water license was granted.

Youth Council: Council approved the creation of a Volunteer Youth Council for the City and are currently seeking to fill positions on this Council.

Other Interesting Department Information

- Comprehensive Parks By-law near completion
- Mink Bay Wetlands area - through the Heritage Committee, the proposed designation of our first Cultural Heritage Landscape to be presented to Council shortly
- There were 62 separate events/booking in 2011 for Parks rentals. This does not include the Harbourfront bookings
- Development of a Dog Park Committee to explore the possibility of a dog park in Kenora
- Cemetery Informational Brochure developed and promoted
- Cemetery Rules and Regulations updated and approved by Registrar General
- Introduced four new historical rotating tours at the Cemetery (Extraordinary Women of Rat Portage, Pioneer Men of Rat Portage, Red Hot History – How the Great Fires changed the Commercial landscape of Kenora and A Walk on the Dark Side (stories of the infamous characters and events in Rat Portage/Kenora)
- New Parks Orientation Guide Booklet developed
- Implementation Team developed regarding Health & Safety Audit and a putting Training Matrix for all City positions being developed
- Standard Operating Procedures for Parks updated, revised or developed
- Completed an inventory of all infrastructure on the four officially designated trails
- Educational and promotional “talking” trails DVD developed
- Continued signing of all trails
- Applications for Kenora Planning Advisory Committee - 19 applications for consent, 9 applications for minor variance, 3 applications for plans of subdivision, 1 zoning by-law amendment. The applications for plans of subdivision will create 10 lots, 1 road and a block on the Winnipeg River, approximately 23 lots, a road and one or two blocks on the southwest side of Black Sturgeon Lake and 15 lots, two roads and a block on the northeast side of Black Sturgeon Lake
- One three-part land transfer where the City both transferred lands out and accepted lands from abutting property owners
- Kenora Chapter of Habitat for Humanity has been established and the City supports this group by providing meeting place
- Downtown Revitalization Furnishings – Concepts and design being pursued for 2012 implementation
- Norman car dump cleanup of 20 tonnes of recovered steel and capped over to remove hazards and beautify the area
- Maple Street ditching and culvert replacement
- Essex Road Trestle hill ditching and shoulder rebuild
- Computer in Operations Employee lunch room and training on use for 19 employees who previously did not have access to intranet/internet at work
- 150 tonnes of cold mix patch applied for pot holes and road repairs

- Liquid tanks on sanding truck to reduce sand usage
- Repaint Keewatin Standpipe
- Filter Console Upgrade at Water Treatment Plant
- Installation of new Wastewater pump at Water Treatment Plant
- Installation of new water main – back lane between 7th and 8th Ave S
- The Transfer Site constructed and implemented a “Saw Tooth” retaining wall system that eliminated construction material deposited on the ground at the site. The public deposits there material directly into 40 yard bins for hauling to Jones road
- Successful report from the Municipal Treasurer on the Citizens Prosperity Trust Fund
- Participation in Local Government Week was successful with our first ever “Mayor for the Day” contest
- Successful City wide “Big Green Clean” clean up event
- Great attendance at the Lake of the Woods Property Owners Association show in Winnipeg
- Successful planning for hosting an evacuation “host community” for emergency relief to Northern Communities
- The CUPE Pay Equity plan was completed and finalized with 5 positions being affected