

Happy New Year North Kawartha! Mayor Carolyn with my annual year in review video update.

The past year saw several changes in our staff. We said goodbye to our Chief Building Official (CBO) Travis Toms, and Receptionist Amanda Smith. However, we welcomed a number of new employees: Mark Jeffrey as our new CBO, Matt Aldom returned to the Deputy CBO position, Greg Cherniak as Building Inspector, Janine Cik as our Junior Planner, Julia Driedzic as a Planning Assistant, Breeanne Martin as an Office Assistant, and Keely-Anne Johnson as our Receptionist.

After years of advocacy and hard work we attained some significant achievements for our Community. The Province of Ontario approved Community Safety Zones along two sections of Highway 28 and Peterborough County will now allow ORVs on the majority of the County roads in North Kawartha, allowing for much needed connectivity to trails and other communities. We have also entered into the long awaited Service Level Agreement with the North Kawartha Public Library and partnered with them to create a Business Hub/Maker's Space in the multi-purpose office at the main branch.

Our Roads Department has been busy with a number of projects. They completed the surface treatment projects for Hulls' Road and Jack Lake Road and the major reconstruction and paving of Mount Julian/Viamede and Reid's has been completed. We also saw the re-opening of the Crowe River Bridge after 3 years of closure and detours.

Staff have been busy implementing new technology for things like 'hybrid' Council meetings, 'Cloud Permit Planning' and Asset Management Software, eSend and Virtual City Hall to better serve residents through online access to their tax accounts, property information and payment history along with more options for tax payments. Staff also did a lot of work to remove dangerous trees, recapture the trails and create a new parking area for Riverview Park. We are now ready to create a Park Plan based on community needs and feedback.

For the first time ever, Council has approved an official Township Brand and Logo as part of our new Visual Identity System. We also created a new Municipal Grant Program to support local Lake Associations in the fight against Aquatic Invasive Species. Council submitted updating mapping for our settlement boundaries to Peterborough County to prepare for future housing developments in our village and hamlet areas.

Another first was the Declaration of a State of an Emergency for North Kawartha after the devastating derecho storm on the May holiday long weekend. This declaration remained in effect for

nearly a month while staff, residents and hydro crews worked to recover and restore power and access to all parts of our Township.

In addition to all this, it was also a municipal election year and staff were extremely busy ensuring that everything went smoothly for the telephone and internet voting options provided to residents. We held our Inaugural meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2022. Your Council for the 2023-2026 term is myself and Jim Whelan acclaimed as Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Jim O'Shea returning as the Ward 1 Councillor, Colin McLellan re-elected as the Ward 2 Councillor and RuthAnne McIlmoyl as your newly elected Councillor at Large.

I want you all to know how grateful I am to be back for another term as you Mayor. Despite the challenges of the past four years, my desire to represent this community has not diminished. If I learned anything during the past term as Mayor it's to expect the unexpected, take nothing for granted and to always act in the best interests of every North Kawarthan. I am excited to see where the next four years takes us and I wish you all health and happiness for 2023. Until next time, take care and be well.

Thank you.