



COUNCILLOR

Carol Armstrong

Welcome to the **seventh** update on Trent Lakes Council activities. This update is a little different. It summarizes Council actions taken over the last 18 months that have a direct impact on you and the environment. And with the profound impact COVID has had on all of our lives, there is a special section on Municipal specific actions during these times.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with your ideas, opinions and concerns.

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Municipal Road Allowances on Lakes–

Effective June 16th, any private docks on unopened municipal road allowance lands will either be removed, or the owner may enter into a License of Occupation Agreement with Trent Lakes. This process should be completed by end of Summer.

Waste and Transfer Sites –The Cavendish waste transfer site has been operating with special precautionary procedures in place for waste and recycling disposal only. Disposition of brush and leaves reopened June 8th. The retaining wall at the site is a hazard and the site will be closed for the period of June 15th through July 6th for replacement.

Water Quality – The two most important things every waterfront owner can do to protect the quality of their water are: 1) ensure their septic system is properly maintained and has sufficient capacity for household use (and ensure any pet waste is properly disposed of and does not contaminate the lake), and 2) keep the 30 feet of shoreline setback in a natural state, with deep rooted native vegetation.

TRENT LAKES COUNCIL UPDATE

Apr 2020 - June 2020



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL RESIDENTS:

ATVs – A revised bylaw was passed that allows off-road vehicles to operate on any municipal road subject to requirements including possession of a drivers license, wearing of a helmet, driving on the shoulder and in the direction of traffic, and operating only during daylight hours.

Bylaw Enforcement - A 24/7 Call Centre is now available for taxpayers to contact with bylaw complaints after hours and on weekends. Call 705-738-3800 (or 1-800-347-4009), then enter 311. A comprehensive Bylaw Guide is now available: [By-Law Guide for Residents](#).

Trent Lakes uses Kawartha Guard to investigate and process bylaw violations on weekdays.

Please only contact 911 for urgent calls and emergencies.

Fires – From April 1st to Oct 31st no person shall start an open air fire between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm. A Municipal Burn Permit is required for all open air burning.

Fireworks – A new Bylaw restricts Fireworks to only four Holiday weekends, to protect wildlife and the environment:

- a) New Year’s Eve – between 8:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. the following day;
- b) Canada Day – between 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on July 1st and the Weekends directly preceding and following it;
- c) Civic Holiday – between 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on the statutory holiday and the Weekend directly preceding it;
- d) Labour Day – between 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. on the statutory holiday and the Weekend directly preceding it.

Roads and Public Works Depots – A tender has been awarded to Coco Paving to complete the rehabilitation work on Beaver Lake Road this year.

A Black Cat radar device has been purchased and will be positioned at different locations throughout the year, including the 507, to capture data on speeding vehicles.

A working group of Council and staff members has been formed to review proposals for renovations and rebuilds of public works depots in Trent Lakes over the next 10 – 20 years, and report back to Council with recommendations in August.

Septic Systems – The Municipality is continuing its rotating inspections of septic systems, considered an essential service. 300 properties in the Catchacoma area have been notified for inspection in 2020.

Short Term Rentals – As of June 4th, short term rental (STR) accommodations are open for business under the COVID-19 restrictions. Note that most complaints related to STRs are about bylaw violations – noise, fire, animals, fireworks, etc. - and these can now be reported to the 24/7 bylaw complaint centre.



MUNICIPAL RESPONSE to COVID-19

Every organization needed to pivot and adapt to the ever-changing challenges COVID-19 presented. Our Municipality is not immune. Here are a few of the initiatives Trent Lakes put in place:

- Municipal operations continued with enhanced IT processes, Work at Home procedures and modified Public Works operations
- Building and Planning applications still being accepted with some inspections taking place. Slight increase in electronic permit submissions
- Emergency Operations Centre meetings conducted biweekly
- Municipal website, Facebook and Twitter updated frequently with COVID-19 messaging
- Payment plans arranged for anyone having difficulty paying their taxes
- Interest and Penalty waived April, May and June 2020 for all ratepayers including businesses
- No NSF Fees being charged
- Donated \$10,000 to Community Care Peterborough – Buckhorn Office for food vouchers
- Spending reduced in order to offset some decreases in revenue
- Burn ban implemented (as directed by MNRF) to take pressure off Emergency Services – now lifted
- Business resources list created and regularly updated to provide critical assistance
- Coordinated with PKED on an Economic Recovery Plan
- Trent Lakes Outreach Centre trailer rental extended to allow continuation of community foodbank
- Electronic Council meetings implemented with public access to live webinars
- Local jobs created with tender awards for 2020 road projects and accessible walkways in Buckhorn



MUNICIPAL UPDATES

- **Budget** – The 2020 Budget is \$16.0 million. \$10 million of that is funded through property taxes. This \$10 million in Property taxes is 3.90% higher than 2019. BUT, all of the increase is supported through the increase in property assessment values. The tax rate is flat year over year.
- **Communications** – A key priority for Council is to improve communications with the public and to enhance ways of engaging them. A consulting report recommends changes in content, format, process and staff support.
- **Staffing** – There have been several changes in the management team at the Municipality over the last year. All positions are filled, and the CAO has been building a cohesive, committed, high performing team.

Trent Lakes Organization Chart

