

TRENT LAKES

COUNCIL UPDATE

Highlights of Trent Lakes Council Meetings
through **August 2021**

COUNCIL DECISIONS

- Support the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan prepared by the Advisory Committee. The vision for our community is: *"Connected and accessible recreational, cultural and parkland experiences in sustainable natural environments that enable healthy active living for all."* The full report may be accessed here: <https://trentlakes.civicweb.net/document/75637/PRC%20Master%20Plan.pdf?handle=9D14B39169214776B30D0019BCFAAB6F>
- Declare the Dewdney Mountain Farms Quarry application complete. This moves the application to the next stage of Peer Reviews of report submissions and Public Consultations.
- Award contract to fsStrategy Inc. for assessing the feasibility and cost of upgrading the Buckhorn Sports Pad, in its current location, to provide a more reliable ice surface. Options to be explored include maintenance of natural ice, addition of a refrigeration unit, and synthetic ice. Report is due in September 2021.
- Continue with Telephone and Internet voting for the 2022 Municipal election, and provide one in-person voting location with paper ballots at the Municipal offices.
- Impose an Interim Control Bylaw suspending development in the Oak Orchard area pending further studies. Revised zoning regulations have been proposed to protect the archaeological resources located within the Oak Orchard Plan of Condominium.
- Award a contract for the installation of a chain link fence at Sandy Lake beach. Parking congestion continues to be a problem.
- Approve engineering design for a new shared Public Works and Recreation & Facilities building on Hwy 49.
- Approve implementation of a video surveillance policy at waste transfer sites. There were several break-ins and robberies last year.
- Join in a consultant review of Council member compensation across all 8 municipalities in the County of Peterborough.

NOTE: These are updates selected by me to keep the public informed. Any errors or omissions are mine alone. See www.trentlakes.ca/council/meetings-agendas-minutes/



COUNCILLOR

Carol Armstrong

Welcome to the **eleventh** update of Trent Lakes Council activities. Please share with me your comments and feedback.

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NEWS:

- The Municipality has a new website!!!! . It is modern, easy to navigate, and all the content is new and fresh. I am especially impressed with the search function. It is *simple* and *quick* to find relevant information, documents, contacts and more. I encourage you to visit and explore. <http://trentlakes.ca/>
- Repeat: Better Cell coverage is coming! Rogers was awarded a contract to upgrade all the 30+ cell towers in PTBO County for 5G and expanded reach. Another 30 cell towers will be installed over the next 4 years. Funding has been requested to expand Broadband through the Eastern Ontario Regional Network.
- The hamlet of Buckhorn has gotten a big facelift! New sidewalks, expanded parking, crosswalks, new businesses and new owners. It looks like we are "open for business" and ready to welcome visitors and residents.



Short Term Rentals (STRs)

Trent Lakes Municipality has been experiencing an increase in the number of properties rented out for short term periods of time, especially in the summer season. This is driven by an increased demand for vacation time in our area, that is unmet by the relatively small number of commercial accommodations.

While many STRs are managed responsibly and the renters respect the environment and their neighbors, this is not always the case. The number of complaints against STRs has been growing, and for those next door, their cottage sanctuary escape has become a nightmare experience.

A working group (WG) was formed to review this situation in depth and recommend policy options for Council to consider. A recommendation was tabled in January 2021, but because of pandemic restrictions, deferred to this September.

The WG report recommends Council draft a licensing program for short term rental properties, **exempting** those who only rent their properties for a few weeks to help pay for taxes and maintenance. That draft would then be shared with the public and a full consultation period would be held.

I encourage you to read the full staff report, here <https://trentlakes.civicweb.net/document/71412/Short%20Term%20Rental%20Licensing%20-%20Revised%20Report.pdf?handle=3104A374C8354F769D61A69CF43F281>

If approved, there will be extensive opportunities for your input. In the meantime, however, if you agree directionally with the report recommendations, **I encourage you** to write to Council supporting them, so we can proceed and work towards having a program in place for 2022.

There are existing bylaws already for issues like noise, fireworks, fire, parking that could be applied to STR situations. The challenge is that the renters themselves don't know the regulations in Trent Lakes and first offenses are usually just warnings. The working group is recommending a program that holds the STR owner accountable and has provisions for license suspension after repeat offenses.

Pilot Program for Food Waste Diversion

I am excited to announce that Trent Lakes has signed on to be one of first municipalities to pilot a home device that converts food waste into a nutrient rich soil additive overnight, 10% of the original weight. Food waste constitutes 40 – 60% of the garbage we put into landfills and is THE next big opportunity for waste reduction. With government support, Foodcycle Science Canada is able to work with Trent Lakes and offer the device for just \$150 to the first 150 households who apply. The only obligation is that you must track your usage of the device for 12 weeks.



Opportunities to apply for the Foodcycler (which you can keep after the 12 week pilot) will open in September/October. If you think you will be interested, email me and I will alert you when the program opens up!

Operations Dashboard v1.

All departments provide quarterly operation reports to Council. COVID has put material stress on all areas, not only adaptations to changing requirements, but also with an increased population base requiring services – grounded snowbirds, people moving here to work-at-home and/or to have more "space". Here are some highlights for Jan – Jun 2021.

