

Seguin Township



Summer 2005 Newsletter

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Special points of interest:

- Recycling Tips!
- New Building Permit Requirements
- Swimming Lessons Hours
- 2004 Financial statements are ready!
- Read about the success of the septic re-inspection program
- Updates on the new Seguin Hockey Team - The Bruins

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Message From Reeve David Conn

I am pleased to provide a brief progress report on Seguin Township's major 2005 priorities.

Financial Management/ '05 Taxes

Last year, the Seguin Finance Committee and Council advised that the financial challenges inherited by Council would necessitate borrowing \$1.5 million and require tax revenue increases of 12% in '04 and 16% in '05. Fortunately, through improved financial management in '04, we generated an operating surplus and did not have to borrow any funds. As a result, I am delighted to advise you that the required '05 increase in tax revenue **will be 7.9% , certainly** much better than the predicted +16%.

The Official Plan (OP)

Since amalgamation in 1998 developing a single unified OP has been a major priority of Council.

The 20 member OP Committee and Meridian Planning, our OP consultants, worked very hard to maximize public input. This included 4 public workshops and a questionnaire mailed to all ratepayers. All of this input was used to develop a Draft OP which was received by Council on June 20/05 and is now available for review by the public. I urge all residents to become involved in the continuing OP public dialogue sessions which are outlined in the Planning Update section of this newsletter. Without question, the OP is our single most important tool to protect and enhance our quality of life in Seguin Township.

Strategic Plan

Seguin Township's first-ever Strategic Plan was approved by Council on May 16/05. Council very much appreciates the public input received, much of which has been reflected in the final plan. The Strategic Plan can be accessed on the Township's website.

Benchmarking

One of our key strategic goals is to deliver services that are superior in terms of quality and cost efficiency when measured against other municipalities judged comparable to Seguin. To

this end, we have initiated a project to benchmark our service delivery. This project is being led by resident Bruce Gibbon and senior municipal staff. A roads benchmarking analysis with Muskoka Lakes has been completed and this led to several recommendations to improve the cost efficiency of our roads service. Benchmarking studies for the Fire and Building departments are underway.

Rosseau Revitalization

The long-delayed project to revitalize the Rosseau waterfront and Memorial Hall is underway. This project, which is funded 67% by the Federal and Provincial governments, is scheduled for completion by the end of '05.

Economic Development

Major economic development issues include: an agreement reached with the Town of Parry Sound to provide water and sewage treatment services to the proposed Georgian Green project (a 240 home subdivision) located in the northwest portion of the Township; following extensive dialogue with neighbouring residents, we have an agreement in principle with Club Link for a fractional ownership development on their property contingent to the Rocky Crest golf course - this will be a 5 year project, generating economic activity of about \$100 million; and, a new warehouse facility will be built by Crofters Food Ltd., a local manufacturer, on Oastler Park Drive.

Volunteer Excellence

On May 26/05 Seguin Township inaugurated a celebration of volunteer excellence. This was our chance to say thanks to all of our volunteers for investing their time, energy, skills, passion, and caring to make Seguin a very special place in which to live and raise a family. There were 33 volunteer groups recognized and 26 individual awards presented. Nearly 200 people attended the successful evening.

Seguin Bruins

Welcome to our new Junior A hockey team!

— Building Department —

As of July 1, 2005 the Building Code Act and O. Reg. 403/97 will require that all applicants for Building Permits use the Standard Provincial Application Form which will be universal across the Province. All Work Orders will also be standardized across the Province.

As of January 1, 2006 all Building Officials, Plans Examiners and Designers will be required to be qualified by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to carry out the duties that are assigned for either the type of buildings or elements of buildings that they're dealing with.

Designers will also have to register proof of adequate insurance with the ministry. The goal of the stakeholders involved in the Building Industry is to standardize procedures, required criteria and training for the entire industry from the moment of Building Permit Application to the Final Inspection of the project.

The Township of Seguin Building Department has been preparing for this for the past three years and will meet or exceed any requirements set out by this legislation.

— Roads Department —

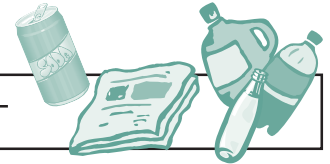
By mid June the calcium program will be well under way with a new strategy. In an effort to manage costs and efficiencies, spot applications will be done on low volume roads or where there is significant residual from previous years. Continuous application will be maintained on the high volume gravel roads.

The gravel resurfacing program this year includes part of North Sandy Plains Road, Salmon Lake Road and other roads in that general area as well as Maple Lake Estates Road. Hardtop resurfacing this year includes the following roads:

South Seguin Estates, Bartlett Drive and boat launch, Black Road hill south of Rankin Lake Road and Otter Lake Road.

The Township was successful in their COMRIF (Canadian Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund) grant application and over the next three years, starting in 2006, three bridges will be replaced. The bridges are located on Tally-Ho/Swords Road (existing twin culverts) and two bridges on Turtle Lake Road.

— Waste & Recycling Update —



The new SUMMER HOURS for the Christie Landfill site from May to October are:

Mon., Wed., Sat., and Sun. from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

We hope these new hours will better serve all of our residents. This is the **only** site that accepts bulky goods and we are continuing to monitor the other sites with cameras and by-law officials for illegal dumping.

We are working towards increased recycling and diversion to meet provincial goals and strategies. To help our efforts please remember the following when recycling:

FLATTEN ALL CARDBOARD BEFORE DISPOSING

FILL TO THE BACK OF THE RECYCLING DEPOTS AND FILL UP ONE BLUE DEPOT BEFORE FILLING OTHERS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCIES AND CONTAINMENT

Our busy season is starting. Be respectful of the waste system and do not leave garbage out of the bins. Watch for our BEAR WISE posters at the wastes sites. Please **DO NOT** leave bin doors open - this will attract bears and create ongoing

safety and debris problems.

WHAT'S NEW?

More bins have been installed behind the Seguin Municipal Offices.

Fencing is being installed at the Brooks Road, Airport Road and Turtle Lake Road sites.

Camera and surveillance upgrades are under way at some sites.

Our sites are cleaner and tidier this year! Please help out with this ongoing effort.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE;

The Council of the Township of Seguin is holding a **PUBLIC MEETING** on Sunday **JULY 24, 2005, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm** at the Orrville Community Centre to discuss the future options for the **CHRISTIE LANDFILL SITE**. Please come out and provide input into this very important decision.

— Planning Update —

This year the staff in the Planning department have been very active working on the first draft of the new Official

Plan. It is now complete and is in general circulation to the public as well as various government agencies.

— Planning Update Cont'd —

This has been the result of the hard work of our citizen based Official Plan Committee, Council, our Consultants and staff. Copies are available at the Municipal Office or can be accessed from our website. Access to the website is not recommended for ratepayers with dial up access as it is a very large document.

A Public Information Session is scheduled for July 16th to receive public input. The Public is also welcome to make written comments with a deadline of July 25th, 2005. After this date, the input will be reviewed and a new draft will be prepared, to again be circulated to the public with a formal Public Meeting of Council to be held mid September.

The Township has also been involved in the preparation of a Pits and Quarries Control By-law under the Municipal Act.

This has been a collaborative effort by an Advisory Committee appointed by Council consisting of members from the aggregate industry and interested citizens.

There has been considerable interest in the planning of the Township measured by the number of applicants so far this year. In total, we have received 122 new applicants from January 1, 2005 to June 1, 2005, which is in excess of the total number received in 2005.

— Open Burning Regulations —

Fire Season Extends from April 1- October 31
Daytime burning requires a permit
Burning without a permit is allowed *if*:

- The Fire Hazard is LOW or MODERATE
- The fire is tended by a responsible person
- The fire is ignited 2 hours before sunset or later
- And is extinguished 2 hours after sunrise or earlier
- The pile is less than 2 metres by 2 meters

- The fire is at least 2 metres away from flammable materials
- The person has adequate tools and water to contain the fire
- Incinerators are required to have a mesh cover to eliminate sparks

For other Burning Regulations please contact Dave Thompson, Fire Chief, at the Township Office.

— Swim Program —



The summer is fast approaching which also means that Seguin Township's swim program will soon be starting.

Seguin offers swimming lessons at Foley Matheson Beach and Rosseau Beach.

Each session of lessons is three weeks long and runs Monday - Friday. Our July session will start on July 11th and run until July 29th and our August session will start on August 2nd and go until August 19th. Last year we had almost 200 students enrolled in the swim program.

Starting July 4th there will also be lifeguards at these two beaches from 10:00am - 3:30pm Monday to Friday. We are also very excited to be opening up the new beach in Rosseau this summer. Many hours of planning and hard work have gone into the construction of the beach and we hope it will be one of the best summers yet!

If you have any questions about the swim program please contact Kristen LeDrew or Heather Schmalz at the Township Office.

— Septic Re-Inspection Program —

This will be the 5th year that we are conducting the Septic Re-Inspection Program. As in the past Seguin has hired the students and the jurisdiction is supplied by North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority. This partnership has worked extremely well.

Last year was very successful and we actually were ahead of schedule at the end of the year.

To date we have inspected the properties in the vicinity of the following lakes; Star, Mutton, Maple, Duck, Isabella, Turtle, Trout, Whitefish, Little Whitefish, Clear and Little Otter.

This year we will be concentrating on Otter Lake and if time permits we will move to Salmon Lake.

There are a large number of water access properties on Otter Lake that may slow the process slightly.

In 2007 we will finish Salmon and move to Oastler and Horseshoe. When Horseshoe is complete we will be moving to Little Manitouwaba and Sugar Lake.

The program has been very positive and raised the level of awareness of the environment and the importance of our watersheds. If you have questions about the mechanics of the program please contact Ashley Hill or Mary Edgar at 746-7566.

If you have questions about the five year plan please contact Wib Bethune, Director of Community Services at the Township Office.

— 2004 Financial Statements —

The 2004 audited financial statements are now complete and available, free of charge to any ratepayer or resident in the Township.

Please write, call, fax, or e-mail your request to the Municipal Office.

— Seguin Libraries —

All four branches of the Seguin Libraries will be open for extended summer hours. Please call the branches for times. To contact branches:

Christie: 732-2850
chrislib@vianet.ca

Humphrey: 732-4526
humphrey@cogeco.net

Rosseau: 732-4231

seguinlibraries@bellnet.ca

Foley: 378-0742

foleylib@vianet.on.ca

In addition to books, all libraries have on-line computers for public use. Photocopying, scanning, laminating and faxing are also available for a small fee.

— Facilities Update —

Summer maintenance of Parks is continuing at all Parks. Work is continuing on the Rosseau Memorial Hall with stone repair, drainage and new windows and doors planned for this year. This is in addition to the ceiling insulation, new shingle roof and new propane heating system that has already been installed.

We are looking forward to another successful Summer Ice Program. The ice will be available for rental on July 3/05 and will remain in through the months of August and September. Anyone wishing to rent an hour of ice please contact the Arena at **732-4313** to check on availability.

Renovations are commencing at the Arena to welcome the arrival of Seguin's newest asset the "Seguin Bruins". The Seguin Bruins are the newest member of the Ontario Provincial Junior "A" Hockey League and are sure to provide the area with an exciting and entertaining season of Jr. "A" Hockey in the Humphrey Community Centre. Anyone wishing more information on the "Bruins" can call **732-1881** or visit their

website at: www.bruinshockey.ca

Canada Day celebrations are occurring at the Orrville Community Centre on July 3, 2005. As always this will be an entertaining fun filled day for all.

The Muskoka Theatre will be operating out of the Rosseau Memorial Hall this summer. For further information and tickets call Vince Grittanni at **732-1442**.

Check out our Community Centres for weddings and other special occasions. We have a hall to suit most needs right here in Seguin. For hall rentals in our community Centres please call the Municipal Office at **732-4300**.

We're on the Web:
www.twp.seguin.on.ca

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