



Wasaga Beach Council Highlights

From the Aug. 27, 2019 meeting

Hold lifted for casino site

Town council agreed to lift the “Hold” designation on the property in the west end that will be the home to the new casino.

A bylaw to lift the “Hold” is only presented to Council for consideration once an applicant for development has satisfied all the technical requirements for the project and has posted the required securities and insurance coverage with the town.

The move means the town can issue a building permit for the construction of the casino.

Planning staff anticipate being able to issue a permit in the next few weeks.

Gateway Casinos and Entertainment Ltd. announced the location for its Wasaga Beach casino in April.

Roughly 150 new jobs are anticipated.

Motorcycle rally planned for summer of 2020 at main beach

Councillor Joe Belanger, chair of Coordinated Committee’s Community Services section, advised council that a group called Bikers Battling Cancer is planning a fundraiser for next year in Wasaga Beach.

Mr. Don Smith, a spokesperson for the organization, appeared before the committee at its Aug. 15 meeting.

He said the federally incorporated non-profit charitable organization raises funds for people affected by cancer.

The organization is proposing a three-day motorcycle rally at the main beach the weekend of July 17.

Organizers will work with town staff to go through the special events approval process.

Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/2zpn6Z0>.

Latin American-themed festival in the works for next year

Council received a report on the A La Playa festival proposed for next summer and approved the event in principal.

For the weekend of Aug. 1-2, 2020, at Playland Park Square and Beach Area 1, organizers plan an outdoor festival featuring the sounds and flavours of Latin America.

Read the staff report here:
<http://bit.ly/328Y0db>.

Wasaga Beach youth centre keeping its name

Town council has directed staff to keep the Wasaga Beach Youth Centre name for its location at 1621 Mosley Street.

They also told staff to develop roadside signage that identifies older adult activities at the facility.

Staff researched a name change to reflect the broader range of activities at the site, but council believes the name of the facility should remain status quo as a reflection of the centre's original intent: a true gathering spot for local young people.

Read a related staff report here:
<http://bit.ly/2NDtILS>.

Community pancake breakfast on the menu for Sept. 7

Council members approved the use of Playland Park Square for a free Community Pancake Breakfast organized by Sunset Grill on Sept. 7.

They also OK'd the use of a tent, tables, and chairs as an in-kind municipal donation, and agreed to allow free parking at the Playland Park lot for the duration of the event.

Learn more in a staff report here:
<http://bit.ly/2zxo3yl>.

Speed hump trial coming for section of Dunkerron Avenue

To determine if speed humps are a suitable long-term deterrent to lead-footed driving on Dunkerron Avenue, council approved a trial project.

The town's Public Works Department will place two speed humps on Dunkerron Avenue, between 18th and 22nd streets, to see if they force motorists to slow down.

In a staff report, Public Works director Kevin Lalonde noted a study of speeding along the road found some motorists exceeding 100-kmh when the maximum speed is 50-kmh.

Read the staff report here:
<http://bit.ly/2L1lcTS>.

Advisory Committee on Tourism holds first meeting

Council received for information the Economic Development monthly report.

The report notes the town's Advisory Committee on Tourism held its inaugural meeting on Aug. 1.

The committee elected Chris Styan as chair, Richard White as vice-chair, and Gary Hendry as secretary.

Read the report here: <http://bit.ly/2L1IcTS>.

Wasaga Beach Visitor Information Centre well received

The Economic Development monthly report states the new Visitor Information Centre at Nancy Island Historic Site is working out well.

The centre opened in June and is a partnership with Ontario Parks, South Georgian Bay Tourism, and the Town of Wasaga Beach.

Economic development officer Ellen Timms states a large number of visitors this summer are from Quebec.

Read the report here: <http://bit.ly/2L1IcTS>.

Town using grant money to help local tourism operators

The town has received a \$5,000 Simcoe County Tourism Development Fund Grant.

The town will use the funds for workshops in September and October with the purpose of improving the online presence of local tourism operators.

The four workshops will be progressive with each one building on the previous session.

Details about the grant and its use were included in the monthly Economic Development report council received for information.

Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/2L1IcTS>.

Municipality investing RT07 grant in digital advertising campaign

A \$15,000 grant from RT07 will support a digital advertising campaign promoting Wasaga Beach.

The town is matching the funds through its Tourism Partnership budget.

The campaign will run through the fall and winter months and target families with children of all ages, as well as active couples and seniors.

Messaging will promote year-round activities in Wasaga Beach and create an awareness about the new Cascades Casino in the town's west end.

Deputy Mayor Sylvia Bray advised council of the grant when presenting the highlights from the Aug. 15 Development Services section of Coordinated Committee. Bray is chair of the section.

Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/2L1lcTS>.



Municipal law enforcement officer recognized for bravery

Mayor Nina Bifulchi said council officially recognized one of the town's municipal law enforcement officers for bravery.

At the Aug. 15 Coordinated Committee meeting, Mayor Bifulchi presented Officer Devon Mundy with a certificate of appreciation for outstanding bravery and dedication.

On July 31, Officer Mundy learned that a woman was in distress in Nottawasaga Bay.

The woman was trying to swim to shore but the waves kept pushing her out.

Officer Mundy entered the water and brought the woman safely to dry land.

Efficiency the aim of Procedural Bylaw amendments

Council adopted amendments to the town's Procedural Bylaw.

The aim of the amendments is to ensure meetings are more efficient and effective.

A key change is the consolidation of the Question Period and Comment Period into one session at the start of the meeting. This is consistent with best practice as demonstrated by other municipalities in Simcoe County and beyond.

Read a related staff report here: <http://bit.ly/2L1lcTS>.

Town will consider reinstating doctor recruitment program

Council agreed to consider reinstating the town's Doctor Recruitment Program as part of the 2020 budget.

In a staff report, chief administrative officer George Vadeboncoeur said the town used to have an active and successful recruitment program.

In 2012, he noted, the program was scaled back as the town was successful in attracting a number of family physicians.

The last doctor recruited under the program was in 2015.

In 2016 and 2017, the budget was reduced to zero and in 2018 the program was removed from the budget.

However, the need for physicians continues.

In the months ahead, staff will consider details for the new program and present

this information to members of committee for consideration.

Read the related staff report here:

<http://bit.ly/2L1IcTS>.

-Wasaga Beach Council Highlights is produced monthly by the town's Communications Department.

-For the official record of council's meeting, please see the minutes at www.wasagabeach.com.

-You can watch the meeting here: <http://bit.ly/2UdyK2G>.

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