



Wasaga Beach Council Highlights

From the Feb. 25, 2020 meeting

Project managers for twinpad arena and library provide overview to council

Colliers International, the firm retained as project managers for the new twinpad arena and library, appeared before council Tuesday night.

Project manager Malcolm Roll led the presentation and introduced his team.

Roll provided an overview of the \$36-million investment that is being made in the community.

As part of the presentation, project milestones were unveiled for members of council and the public.

[Learn more here.](#)

Contract approved for architectural and engineering services for arena and library

The contract for architectural and engineering services was awarded in principle to the firm MJMA, following a competitive request for proposal process.

The cost of the contract is \$2.295-million.

MJMA was one of six firms to submit proposals.

The company is a multi-disciplinary firm based in Toronto with 32 years of experience designing arenas and libraries.

They have designed more than 50 ice pads in a variety of configurations and have also designed numerous libraries as major components of community recreation complexes.

Their proposal demonstrated a clear understanding of the town's project and the allocated budget.

[Learn more here.](#)

Library needs assessment received at Feb. 6 meeting

Mayor Nina Bifulchi advised council that at the Feb. 6 Committee of the Whole meeting the committee received the New Library Programs and Services Needs Assessment.

Committee received a presentation from Chris Ellis of MASS LBP regarding the assessment.

During his presentation, he highlighted the extensive community consultation process undertaken as part of the assessment.

The approach involved participants from a broad cross-section of Wasaga Beach.

The assessment identified a number of needs for council's consideration, including: more staff space, a more robust collection, a children's zone, public lounge, public classrooms, maker space, heritage space, meeting rooms, presentation space, and a community kitchen.

Committee received the presentation for information. Recommendations will receive consideration during the design phase of the project.

[Review presentation here.](#)

After-hours clinic winding down, doctor recruitment ramping up

After a successful trial period of more than a year the Wasaga Beach After-Hours Medical Clinic is closing and the municipality is shifting its focus to doctor recruitment.

Tuesday night, council directed staff to discontinue the clinic, effective April 1, and concentrate on attracting doctors to the community.

Health Care professionals have advised the Town that the best long-term approach to meeting the needs of patients is additional family physicians in Wasaga Beach.

"The more physicians we can recruit to our community the greater number of people we can roster with a doctor," Mayor Nina Bifulchi said. "The clinic is a nice service but it is expensive, not a core municipal service, and it doesn't address the primary need of our town and that is more doctors. We are taking steps to change the landscape. In recent months, two physicians have established practices in Wasaga Beach and we anticipate that trend continuing as we move forward with recruitment."

[Learn more here.](#)

Snow Angels program rolling out in Wasaga Beach

Councillor Joe Belanger, chair of the Community Services section of Coordinated

Committee, says the town is moving ahead with use of the Snow Angels program.

He told council that at the Feb. 13 Coordinated Committee meeting, the committee received a presentation from Adam Malamis of Snow Angels Canada.

The presentation focused on how the Snow Angels program works.

Through an online platform, people can request help with clearing their driveway of snow and volunteers can find individuals in need of assistance with snow removal.

Snow Angels is a strictly volunteer program that originated in London, Ontario in 2015.

The committee directed staff to promote the Snow Angels program in Wasaga Beach.

[Learn more about the presentation here.](#)

[Register for the program here.](#)

Town signing Memorandum of Understanding with school board for joint use recreation facilities

The town will sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Simcoe County District School Board for the provision of joint use recreation facilities in the Sunnidale Trails subdivision.

The Sunnidale Trails project, located east of Sunnidale Road, south of Knox Road, involves roughly 2,750 residential units.

Following a series of recent meetings with the board and the developer, both have confirmed interest in working with the town coordinating a variety of recreation features on a park block adjacent to a proposed elementary school site, along with features in the school that will permit community use.

[Read a related staff report here.](#)

Wasaga Beach Blues Festival approved for September 2020

Council approved the 10th annual Stonebridge Wasaga Beach Blues Festival at the Stonebridge Town Centre's music pavilion from Sept. 18-20.

Council also approved closing Stonebridge Boulevard from the Dollar Tree entrance to the Walmart entrance from Friday, Sept. 18 at 6 a.m. to Monday, Sept. 21 at 9 a.m.

In addition, council approved providing \$15,000 in sponsorship to offset festival costs.

Council also approved the town providing a stage and six tents as an in-kind sponsorship.

[Read a related staff report here.](#)

5K Candy Run approved in principle for August weekend

The Candy Run 5K race was approved in principle for Aug. 8.

The family friendly run is a 5K course with roughly four zones where participants

receive candy as they pass through. The event is open to walkers or runners.

Organizers anticipate attracting 3,000 to 5,000 participants.

Organizers are currently working to establish the event route. The intent is to utilize Beach Drive, Beach Area 2, and the Third Street Lot.

[Read the related staff report here.](#)

JJ Automotive car show happening June 13

Members of council approved JJ Automotive holding a car show on June 13.

The show will take place in the company's lot at the corner of 19th and Mosley streets, from noon to 5 p.m.

Council also approved closing 19th Street, from Mosley Street to Dunkerron Avenue, to accommodate the show.

[Read a related staff report here.](#)

Midway returning this summer

Town council OK'd the Wasaga Beach Midway for July 6 to 12.

The annual midway, which features rides and games, will take place in the Playland Park lot.

Council also authorized access to the lot for two days prior to the event and two days after to allow for set-up and take down.

As well, they granted permission for use of the Nancy Island parking lot as a place for midway staff trailers.

[Read the related report here.](#)

Ontario SUP Series race happening in July

The Ontario SUP Series race will take place in Wasaga Beach on July 11.

Council approved holding the stand-up paddle board event at Beach Area Two.

This series also takes place in Ottawa, Kawartha, and Welland.

[Read the related staff report here.](#)

Spikeball tourney over July weekend

Council approved holding the third annual Roundnet Spikeball tournament July 25 and 26.

The event will happen at a dedicated space beyond the former volleyball courts, west of Third Street and Sixth Street.

Spikeball is played in two-player teams using a ball and round hula-hoop sized net.

The event will happen the same weekend as the annual Food Truck Festival.

[Read the staff report here.](#)

Wasaga Under Siege set for weekend in August

The annual Wasaga Under Siege event takes place at Nancy Island Historic Site Aug. 15 and 16.

Council approved the event happening and authorized \$5,000 in sponsorship to offset costs, as well as in-kind use of tents and tables.

Members of council also approved the Nancy Island Parking Lot for participant and special needs parking from Aug. 14 to 17.

[Read the staff report here.](#)

Beach Drive closed for 2020 summer season

Council approved the closure of Beach Drive for this summer.

Members of council based the closure on a recommendation from the Public Works section of Coordinated Committee.

During the committee's meeting on Feb. 13, Public Works director Keven Lalonde highlighted the challenges faced maintaining Beach Drive during 2019 due to high water levels over topping Beach Drive.

He noted there were four major clean-ups due to high water at an average cost of \$15,000 per incident. The incidents caused flooding and resulted in sand deposited onto the road.

Based on various unknowns, including the result of an ongoing Municipal Class

Environmental Assessment and potential redevelopment of Beach Area 1 and 2, along with how long the high water levels will last, closure is the most prudent option for now. It will also give the town and the community the opportunity to evaluate the option of permanently closing Beach Drive in the future.

The town will embark on a marketing campaign to promote the expanded beach area as one of the few beach areas remaining on the Lake Huron and the Georgian Bay basin.

From information available to date, experts anticipate water levels on Nottawasaga Bay will exceed historic record highs experienced in 1986.

[Read the related report here.](#)

Development planned for land in Stonebridge neighbourhood

Deputy Mayor Sylvia Bray advised council of a public meeting held during the Feb. 13 Development Services section of Coordinated Committee.

She said the public meeting was for a proposal in the Stonebridge neighbourhood.

Hamont Investments Ltd., requires a Draft Plan of Subdivision and a Zoning Bylaw Amendment for a project that, if approved, will involve the construction of 48 townhouse units.

The development is on land bound by Beachway Trail, Sandy Coast Crescent, and Stonebridge Boulevard.

Staff are reviewing the application. They will bring a report and recommendation forward to committee once they have completed their review.

[More on the project here.](#)

Town taking animal control services in-house

Town council approved transferring animal control services in-house on a trial basis as the most cost effective option, based on a report from staff.

Staff had gone out with a Request for Proposal for the provision of this service to replace the current contractor that is stepping away from municipal animal control.

In the town 2020 budget, the town budgeted an increase based on what it anticipated the new contract to be, but the RFP response came in higher than budgeted. This prompted a review, which led to staff recommending the in-house delivery model.

To address the 2020 budget shortfall, staff are recommending that it be funded through the budget surplus, or parking reserves.

Under this option animal control services will be provided in-house, as a two-year pilot, through Municipal Law Enforcement

staff at a yearly cost of \$55,714, rather than a third-party provider as in the past.

Although the option recommended has the most upfront costs, it is still the best option to maintain the service levels at the most economical rate.

[Review the staff report here.](#)

Town accepts \$30,000 from Lions Club for skateboard park project

Council approved a staff report outlining the Wasaga Beach Lions Club's offer to donate \$30,000 for upgrades to the Oakview Woods Skateboard Park.

Council also approved an unbudgeted expense of up to \$12,000 to fund the balance of work at the park. The town's funds will come from general reserves.

Council members recognized the Lions Club's 100th anniversary in Canada and their contributions to Wasaga Beach over the years. Thank you Lions!

For more details, including information about the new skateboard equipment that will be at the park, see the related staff report [here](#).

-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.

-Watch our latest meeting here: [Meeting](#)

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