

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

First off – thank you for the opportunity to serve as Mayor for the next 4 years. I look forward to working closely with municipal staff and getting to know the members of our community better.

issues (ie. several staff being away for various reasons) left the municipality short handed at an important time of the year for financial statement preparation. To help address this shortfall in personnel we will be immediately hiring a temporary Administrative Assistant in the office.

This temporary position is, however, only a short-term solution to a much larger issue, which is long-term permanent and temporary staffing in the office. Our Clerk is retiring at the end of February, we have personnel who are off work indefinitely, and we require a succession plan for others who may be retiring in the not too distant future. To address these issues, I will be asking Council to schedule a special meeting on January 21, 2019 to discuss personnel issues. As these discussions will be dealing with specific personnel and long-term planning, the meeting will be an “in camera” meeting and closed to the public. Having closed meetings is not something this Council will be doing often, so I appreciate your understanding and patience as we set the stage for a more public planning process

I hope to routinely contribute notes to our Township newsletter and website and speak to what’s going on in the office and what we plan to accomplish in the months to come. I welcome questions and suggestions and will endeavour to provide answers or requested information on our website or in our newsletter. I encourage you to attend our regular Council meetings. — Mayor Blaine Mersereau

In coming into this office there are a number of priorities that I would like to address, but the most important is the status of our financial statements. We are now sitting in early January 2019 and our Township has yet to file our 2017 audited financial statements with the Province. Getting caught up with these statements is important for a number of reasons. They help Council understand the current financial position of the Township of Johnson and how our financial position has changed over the years. Capital projects that the Township undertakes every year rely on funding from various Provincial and Federal sources and these funds are often dependent on the successful filing of our financial statements. Having these statements completed and submitted on time will ensure that we continue to qualify for much needed government grants. For that reason, at our last Council meeting we passed a motion to allocate more funding for the services of a professional accountant to help us accelerate the completion and submission of our 2017 and 2018 audited statements.

The year 2018 was an election year for our Province and this tied up a number of our personnel coming into the fall. This combined with a number of human resources

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PLEASE! NO TRANSFERRING SNOW ACROSS A TOWNSHIP ROAD FROM YOUR DRIVEWAY!!

IT CAN CREATE ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS **BESIDES** CLUMPS OF SNOW IN THE ROADWAY THAT CAN CAUSE A DRIVING HAZARD AND DAMAGE VEHICLES AND SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT:

- Snow piled on the side of the road can cause **serious damage to the snow removal equipment**, particularly the plow wing of both the grader and the plowtruck when the Public Works crew is levelling the banks to accommodate snow from new storms.
- Snow piled up on ditches can lead to drainage problems in the spring with possible flooding issues when it melts.

Letters will be sent out to property owners who insist on pushing snow across the road. It is against Provincial Highway regulations. PLEASE DON'T DO IT!



1 Johnson Drive, Box 160
Desbarats, ON
P0R 1E0

Telephone: 705-782-6601
Fax: 705-782-6780
E-mail:
people@johnsontownship.ca
Website: www.johnsontownship.ca

Hours of Operation
Monday to Friday
8:30am to 4:30pm
Saturday and Sunday
Closed

Township of Johnson



Township of Johnson Recreation Presents a
WINTER ACTIVITY FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10
1 PM TO 5:00 PM

PLUS: SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY THE SHAMROCK FIGURE SKATING CLUB 1:00PM

BY DONATION

REGISTRATION IN ARENA LOBBY

OUTDOOR EVENTS 1:30 PM - 3:00PM: Bum Slides, 2x4 ski races, Log sawing, Nail Driving, Snow Golf, Snow Ultimate and More!

3:00PM: Draws for all participants!

INDOOR EVENTS 3:30pm - 5:00pm: Skating, Human Curling, Family shinny, Family broomball

Games in the Hall, 1:30 -3PM presented by 50+ Club.

Canteen open all day with special menu!

DESBARATS REMEMBERS IN THE JTCC HALL
Local Family Geneology and Winter Historical Display including a Vintage Fun Photo Booth!

www.johnsontownship.ca
"Johnson Township Recreation"

Reminder:
Winter "No Parking" Rules
Parking of vehicles on township roads is NOT ALLOWED between midnight and 8am, under By-law 2010-641, through to midnight on April 30, 2019. Persons who disobey this by-law will receive a \$25 fine and may have their vehicle towed.
Even when there is no snow the by-law is in effect.

Landfill Site Hours
Winter Hours are:
Wednesdays - Noon-5pm
Saturdays - 9am-5pm

Johnson Township Community Hall is available for bookings. Call **705-782-6723** for availability. **The Gordon Lake Hall** is also available to rent for family gatherings, birthday parties, showers, etc. Call or text 705-989-5612 or 705-971 3167 to book. For more information please go to johnsontownship.ca/facility-booking

<i>Recreation, Township News and Local Events</i>	1,2
<i>Fire Department</i>	3
<i>Council News</i>	3
<i>Message from the Mayor</i>	4
<i>Public Works</i>	4

TOWNSHIP NEWS

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES MEMBER VACANCIES
Johnson Township requires members to serve on the following Boards and Committees for 2019. If you are interested, please submit your name by email at people@johnsontownship.ca or to the Municipal Office in person or by phone at 705 782 6601, x 1203 by Wednesday, February 13, 2019.

- Fire Department
- Grants
- Johnson Township Community Centre/Market/Café/Recreation
- Water, Sewer, & Street Lights
- Emergency Operations Control Group

PROPOSALS REQUESTED FOR THE MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE
Johnson Township has received approximately \$38,000 from the Ontario Government through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. The fund has been designed to support small businesses within main street areas by providing funds to municipalities to implement local Community Improvement Plans and/or encourage strategic public investments in municipal and other public infrastructure within main street areas. If you have a proposal for Lake Huron St. improvements, please submit it by letter or by email to the Township office by January 31, 2019.



JOHNSON TOWNSHIP

SUCCESSFUL DECEMBER EVENTS

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY - it was a wonderful turnout for the Children's Christmas party, brought to you by Recreation and the Desbarats Women's Institute. Everyone enjoyed the carol singing lead by **Julie Schryer** on the piano. **Dana Labelle and Desiree Boulter** helped at the craft table. **Julie** took photos of the children with Santa - they will be distributed to the Central Algoma Elementary School. Cookies and snacks were provided by members of the Recreation Committee and the larger community. Big thanks to **Marlee Hopkins, Anne McHale, Ann Bell, Frieda Labelle, and Laura Maki** who pitched in to make it all happen, and to **Councilor Jason Kern**, who played a major role (wink, wink and a Ho Ho Ho)!!

UPCOMING & ONGOING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

SENIOR COMPUTER PROGRAM UPDATE - A 3rd and final 6-week course will occur Wednesdays 10am, from January 30 to the beginning of March. This course will focus on Android devices (tablets and cell phones). There are a few Township android Tablets for use during this course, purchased through Ontario Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility funding. The Tablets are also available to be signed out by Johnson seniors at the Township Office. Call Pat at **705 782 6601 x1205** for more information about tablet availability and the 2019 program.

ZUMBA - is now running on Wednesday evenings, 7PM at the JTCC Hall above the Arena until February 13th.
Walks-up welcome, \$13 per night.

WINTER ACTIVITY FESTIVAL - Sunday, February 10 at the JTCC. Bum slides, SnoGolf, 2x4 ski races, outdoor and in-arena activities, draws for participation! Watch for posters or visit us on Facebook. This event will also feature a **Desbarats Remembers** exhibit - Genealogy Tips and Tricks, Archived Local History, Scanning Station, and a Vintage Fun Photo Booth!!

PUBLIC SKATING - every Friday night, 6:30pm to 7:30pm.

Cost: \$3/\$6 families.

GREAT WATERFRONT TRAIL ADVENTURE 2019 – Cycle the North, Sault Ste. Marie to Sudbury - July 28th to August 2nd

The Great Waterfront Trail runs through our township along Government Rd., you may have seen the sign postings along the road. Our township has supported this initiative since its inception 5 years ago. Each year the Great Lakes Waterfront Trail organization hosts a week-long riding adventure, which includes transporting baggage and arranging for places to stay. This year the ride is from Sault Ste. Marie along the North Shore of Lake Huron to the city of Sudbury. Read more about the trail and this cycling adventure at waterfronttrail.org—there's a cool video there of some identifiable Johnson Township farms and businesses!!

This year's event will feature 65 -107km (40 – 67 miles) of riding per day through the majestic scenery that inspired the Group of Seven for a total of 410 km (255 miles) through 26 communities and four First Nations.

JOHNSON TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **DESBARATS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETING** - Every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Call Marlee 705 782 4236 for more info.
- **GORDON LAKE SOCIAL CLUB CARDS AND CROKINOLE** - first Friday of every month, 7:30pm, lunch included! Next date: **FEBRUARY 1st.**
- **50+ CLUB IS UP AND RUNNING** - every Wednesday afternoon, 1pm to 3pm at the JTCC Hall
- **Safe Food Handling Course - Monday, February 11, 9:30am-3:30pm** at the Johnson Township Community Centre, Desbarats. Preregistration required, space limited, fee is \$40 and includes lunch. Registration info: jtfarmersmarket@gmail.com or **705 541 1886.**

JOHNSON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department is urging everyone to keep fire safety in mind as the temperatures turn colder.

"We often see more home fires during the winter months due to heating equipment and appliances," says Fire Chief Ron Smith. "People need to pay close attention to potential fire hazards such as fireplaces, furnaces, chimneys and vents, and space heaters."

There are some simple things people can do to stay fire safe during the colder months:

- Have all fuel-burning appliances inspected annually by a registered fuel contractor. Go to COSafety.ca to find a contractor near you.
- Keep chimneys and intake/exhaust vents for furnaces and heating appliances free of debris, ice and snow to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide (CO) build-up from inefficient combustion.
- Burn dry, well-seasoned wood in fireplaces and woodstoves to reduce the risk of excessive creosote build-up in chimneys.
- Allow ashes from your fireplace or woodstove to cool before emptying them into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid. Keep the container outside.
- Keep space heaters at least one metre (3 feet) away

from anything that can burn, including curtains, upholstery and clothing.

- Replace worn or damaged electrical wires and connections on vehicles and extension cords and use the proper gauge extension cord for vehicle block heaters.
- Consider using approved timers for vehicle block heaters rather than leaving heaters on all night.
- Ensure that vehicles are not left running inside any garage or building.

The Fire Department reminds everyone that the Ontario Fire Code requires smoke alarms to be installed on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide alarms are required outside all sleeping areas if the home has a fuel-burning appliance, a fireplace or an attached garage. For more information about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, or fire safety, contact the FD at 705 782 6802.

REMINDER

A burning permit is required in Johnson Township. Permits are available from the Township Office and are good for the entire year.

NEWS FROM COUNCIL CHAMBERS

December 10 and 12, 2018 Council Meeting. **For detailed information, please request copies of the minutes from the office or access them on line at www.johnsontownship.ca/business/minutes/**

Incoming Council was delivered a Service Delivery Report from KPMG with a segment for new Councilors. Council approves:

- Municipal Insurance Proposal from Algoma Insurance Brokers in the amount of \$65,799 plus taxes. Further, Council request a quote on Cyber Liability coverage for 3 different coverage levels.
- The following process re; 2019 Budget:
 - a. Maximum total levy of \$1.55 Million
 - b. \$0 to be transferred from reserves, and
 - c. Contingency of \$50,000 dollars to be en-

tered as a separate line item included in the \$1.55 Million levy

- The choice to opt-in to the sale of Cannabis in the township and to receive Provincial funding with regard to allowing such sale.

As per new mandatory provincial legislation for all Municipalities, Council passes by-laws to adopt:

- A Code of Conduct for the Council of the Township of Johnson,
- A Council-Staff Relations Policy, and
- An Integrity Commissioners Inquiry Policy.

Next Scheduled Meetings: Regular Council Meeting: Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 5:30pm, Council Chambers (Portable)

Special Council Meeting: January 21, 2019 – closed meeting dedicated to personnel issues