

2024 NEWSLETTER
Township of Cockburn Island

YOUR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Brenda Jones, Mayor 705-842-2702

Lee Chappell 587-226-9316

Simon Lacombe 819-210-9581

Jeff House

519-428-9313

Scott Stewart

705- 989-5876

COUNCIL MEETINGS are usually held on the second Wednesday of each month by Zoom online starting at 5:00 PM. Let the Clerk know if you want to join the meeting as an observer. Your email address will be required. The August Civic Holiday meeting is an in-person meeting on the island Saturday morning with Zoom available.

CONTACTING THE CLERK-TREASURER

Brent St. Denis by text/cell at **705-849-8605** or at

brentstdenis@gmail.com or
Cockburn Island Twp, Box 209, Spanish, ON, P0P 2A0

GENERAL CONTRACTOR - To contact Cockburn Island Logging for work, gravel etc. on your property contact Scott Richards at 705-971-5168. To contact township Public Works text the Clerk at 705-849-8605 who will convey your message to the crew. Huron Timber will again provide general contracting services to the township.

BUDGET 2024 AND TAXES

Council has approved a 2024 tax rate increase of 3% to partially account for 2023 inflation which started at about 6% in January 2023 and ending the year slightly above 3%. Fees for docking and general services have also been raised by 3%. Feel free to ask the Clerk-Treasurer about the 2024 municipal budget.

COCKBURN ISLAND DOCKMASTER –

Beverley House will again be our Dockmaster at the municipal marina. Please welcome her when you see her this summer.

WIFI Hotspots – the township has made available 3 internet WIFI hotspots at the Dock building, Telephone building and Community Hall. With your own personal VOIP plug-in you can also make phone calls. Your cooperation in sharing this service with others will be appreciated.

RECYCLING OFF ISLAND – to extend the useful life of our Township landfill you are required to take your recyclables off-island. This includes, but is not limited to, jars, bottles, cans, used engine oils, plastics and Styrofoam. The eventual replacement of the landfill will be costly and we want to protect our environment. Council has adopted a by-law to enforce the off-island removal of such items as large appliances, mattresses, furniture, derelict vehicles etc. and imposing a \$100 fee to be levied upon individual ratepayers for such items left at the landfill. A copy of the by-law is available upon request. **The Township can no longer accept tires at the landfill. Please remove your used tires from the island. To access the scrap metal bin contact Public Works.**

OPEN FIRES are prohibited in Public areas except Cooking Fires which are permitted in the provided fire sites.

Non-Owner Dock Parking – No Charge for one vehicle for ratepayers. Owners of vehicles, who are not property owners, must pay an annual fee of \$100 per vehicle if parking in the Dock area. Please remove your derelict vehicle(s) from the dock parking lot.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE - the Cockburn Island Heritage Committee does a terrific job hosting events, raising funds and helping to preserve our heritage buildings. Among their many activities is organizing the very successful annual August long weekend celebration. The efforts of the Committee and volunteers are greatly appreciated. Let's all show our appreciation and support for their leadership and great work – the Heritage Committee Executive Committee is Chair Dwight Phillips, Secretary Dave Hale, Treasurer Cheryl Papineau, Co-chair Bev House and Advisor Paul Perigord.

FIRE SAFETY – The Township owns a tank truck and “pack-pumps” for use in case of an emergency, **BUT** we do not have a municipal fire department. Use of any fire equipment and/or your voluntary involvement at a fire scene is **at your own risk and liability**. At your property, please have your own fire extinguishers. The municipality and its agents cannot assume any responsibility for fires on private property. Smoke detectors and Carbon Monoxide detectors in your home are mandatory by provincial law. Several free safety pamphlets from the Fire Marshal are available. Please note that the MNR fire emergency number is 310-FIRE for fires on public and forest lands. The Township no longer has a municipal agreement with MNR for forest fires which means that you may be held personally liable for causing a forest fire through your negligence or otherwise. **BE CAREFUL WITH OPEN FIRES–THEY ARE AT YOUR RISK AND LIABILITY.**

BREAKWALL PROJECT – the marina Breakwall project has been successfully completed. Besides protecting our marina and wharf from ice and storm damage for many decades to come and the added bonus is a renewal of the dock parking area. A **BIG thankyou** to all who made this possible (and under-budget) especially Council's management team, Cockburn Island Logging, our own Public Works, Tulloch Engineering and volunteers.





UPDATE – The Township had received funding approval under the Covid Infrastructure program to replace the “Medical Building” so we could meet modern standards for energy efficiency and handicapped access as well as providing a Management Centre for emergencies and for storing First Aid supplies. The new building is nearing completion. One of our own ratepayers, Brad Stewart was the successful bidder- “thank-you Brad”

MEMORIALS - Council has arranged that Memorials (donations) may be made at times of bereavement. “Charitable receipts” suitable for income tax purposes will be issued upon request. Contact the Clerk for details.

DOGS - all dogs must be leashed or otherwise restricted to your property.

TOWNSHIP WEBSITE – check out the Township’s website at <https://cockburnisland.ca/> This excellent work was done by experienced web designer and ratepayer Justin Dzama - “thank you, Justin,”

CALCIUM CHLORIDE - Road calcium will be applied to the roads in the busiest traffic areas of the hamlet by the Public Works crew.

USE OF MUNICIPAL EQUIPMENT AND GARAGE – The Council has adopted the following policy – *“That Township equipment including weed-wackers, cement mixer, mowers etc. is not available for use by non-Township personnel. And further (a) that the Township garage be kept locked at all times unless open for Township use (b) access is by permission only from Darren Rogers, Alex Nicolson or a Council member...”*

Municipal Zoning By-law (ZB) – our township is a member of the Manitoulin Planning Board. Now that the Official Plan has been adopted by the Board and member municipalities the next step is to adopt a Zoning Bylaw to implement the details of the Official Plan. A copy of the draft is on the website. Your comments are welcome as we work towards completion this year.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST



NORGOMA DOCKED IN SAULT STE. MARIE



