



HCM News

Summer 2020 Edition



Mayor's Message

The hazy days of summer have certainly arrived in the Ottawa Valley! I hope that you are all staying cool and healthy during this unforgettable year of 2020.

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the residents of Head, Clara and Maria for their understanding and compliance with so many of the changes the municipality has undergone since the Emergency Declaration in March. A special thanks to my fellow Council members for their support as we moved to an electronic meeting format. I continue to be overwhelmed and benefitted by the daily neighbour to neighbour support and outreach happening around the municipality. Thanks to the hard work of the Library Board, Chairperson Marlene Gibson and Librarian/CEO, Judy Zilney, residents can now borrow materials using "contactless" procedures. Municipal office and Public Works staff, under the capable leadership of Clerk-Treasurer, Charlotte Toope, have managed to deliver all of the necessary services in these difficult times with grace and good humour.

Throughout these past months of pandemic there have been many lessons learned. From the begin-

ning of the closures and stay at home orders we have become more acutely aware of the rural internet shortcomings as so many families juggled working and learning from home.

The Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus (EOWC) recently received a report from the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) on the Cell Gap Project in the County of Renfrew. Construction on improving the cell gap is expected to begin in 2021 to a 2025 completion. Please see the "Working Together to Improve Connectivity" in this newsletter for more information about future broadband initiatives.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the Mayors of Petawawa, Laurentian Hills, Deep River and I have been meeting virtually on a regular basis with the Deep River and District Hospital Senior Leadership team. The hospital is slowly reopening more of its services. However, some people have been putting off going to the hospital and CEO Richard Bedard wants residents to know that they should seek help at the DRDH ER for emergent situations. COVID-19 testing is being done only by the Renfrew County Virtual Triage Assessment Centre (RCVTAC) and not at the hospital. RCVTAC has

helped thousands of residents in our county and hopefully is the beginning of a new rural approach to healthcare, that will continue into the future.

Along with other Ontario mayors I attended a teleconference with Premier Doug Ford and Minister Steve Clark (Municipal Affairs and Housing) on July 8th. We learned of the new legislation introduced that day - Measures to Enable COVID-19 Recovery. The Bill consists of the three areas in the recovery process: Restarting Jobs and Development, Strengthening Communities and Creating Opportunity for People. A few of suggested changes in the Bill are: electronic meetings beyond the emergency declaration and proxy votes within Council; changes to land zoning and development charges and streamlining "red tape" that works towards provincial modernization.

There are many Public Health heroes across Canada emerging during these difficult times. I would like to remind you of British Columbia's Dr. Bonnie Henry's simple message - "Be kind, be calm, be safe".

DG

Inside this issue:

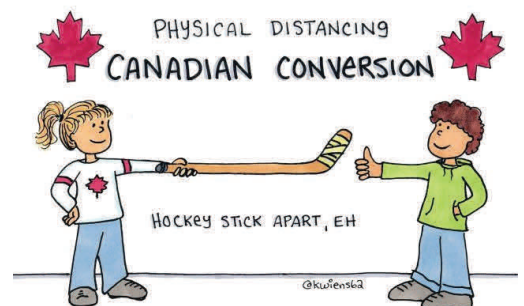
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The Municipal Office is open!

Visitors must follow these rules:

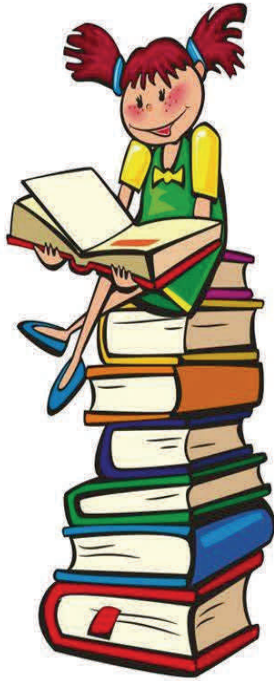
- Wear a mask
- Sanitize hands upon entry
- Only one visitor allowed in building at a time
- If you are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, please do not visit the office.

Questions can be directed to the office by calling 613-586-2526 or emailing clerk@headclaramaria.ca.



HCM Public Library 2019 Annual Report

Head, Clara and Maria Public Library exists to promote intellectual growth and improvements in the quality of life through library materials and services that meet the unique needs of this widely dispersed rural community.



**Did you know the library
has it's own website...
check it out at
www.hcmpubliclibrary.ca**

Our public library with the support of the municipality provide the way to meet our Mission. The board members are Marlene Gibson, Chair, Fran Kelly-Chamberlain, Betty Condie, Catherine Sutherland and Gay Baribeau.

This year started with two changes to our group. Gay Baribeau, joined as the newest member of our Library board and I also joined the team as the CEO.

We had a total circulation of approximately 1,000 items for the year. This total includes books, DVD's and magazines for the education and enjoyment of our patrons. Added to this is our online resources including our history project that is available for patron viewing.

The fundraising activities are crucial to the viability of the Library as the operating grant we receive from the government to exist is a total of \$1423.00 for the year. The municipality provides our space to operate in addition to the wage costs of the CEO at 7 hours

per week. Fundraising results in approximately \$6000. Our total hard costs for the year before any DVD's or books are purchased come in at approximately \$4700. All purchases of Books, DVD's are over and above this. Purchases are made with much consideration to ensure we get the best value for our funds. The library has a reserve fund which we work very hard to keep intact as this can be used to replace, as an example, a much needed piece of equipment that our budget would not be able to support.

The Library has 6 main fundraising activities throughout the year beginning by providing a delicious meal for the January Open Sesame Poker Run which is repeated for the Bowtie Classic Poker Run in March. April brings the Spring Card Party where participants enjoy a great luncheon followed by an exciting afternoon of Bridge and Euchre. This activity is so popular that a repeat in October is always a success. June Jazaar is

the place to find unique gifts and yard sale treasures. Many campers attend to get their summer reading supply! Finally in November the Christmas Vendor Market holds many special options for that Christmas gift for someone special.

As you can tell our Volunteers are the most special group of caring hardworking people. The Volunteer Dinner is held in June to show our appreciation for their time and effort they provide by serving in our library as well as the work put into the fundraising activities throughout the year. These activities support community spirit by working together having a fun time that results in such a positive outcome.

Library Week was celebrated during the week of November 5 and we hosted a tea and social for patrons enjoyment.

In closing, the focus was to provide a synopsis of our library operation which our community can be very proud of.

HCM Public Library Curbside Pickup Available

- Call Marlene at 613-586-2761 or email jimmarlene.gibson@gmail.com
- Non-contact pick up one day per week (Wednesday or Thursday)
- Home delivery available in special circumstances



Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) & Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus (EOWC) – June 1, 2020

The Proposed Project

- EORN and the EOWC are proposing a new fixed broadband project that will be capable of delivering speeds of 1 Gbps (gigabit per second) for up to 95% of the homes and businesses across the EOWC region.
- There are more than 500,000 homes (includes seasonal dwellings) and businesses in the EORN region.
- 1 Gbps of speed will satisfy our connectivity needs both now and in the long term.
- The most likely technology that will be used is some form of wired solution (like a fibre or cable) to the home or business.

Cost

- The estimated cost of building the project is \$1.2 billion * - \$1.6 billion**
 - Proposed cost sharing:
 - \$200 - \$300 million from Federal Government
 - \$200 - \$300 million from Ontario Government
 - \$400 - \$500 million from Canada Infrastructure Bank (loans)
 - \$400 - \$500 million from Internet Service Providers
- *Key variable in range of cost estimates is access to hydro poles and pole replacement costs.
- **EORN's project management costs to be determined

Considerations

- COVID-19 has exposed the serious lack of internet access and capacity for rural residents and businesses across eastern Ontario
- Students are not able to properly connect to schools, colleges and universities putting them at disadvantage.
- Doctors are having trouble undertaking telemedicine.
- Businesses can't reach customers, and customers can't reach businesses.
- Local governments having difficulty connecting with residents and providing virtual services.
- The time to fix this divide is now and it needs to be done in a way that will serve today's needs and long into the future.
- Investing in this project means every sector of our economy and society will get a substantial benefit...healthcare, education, business, government.
- Without it rural areas will continue to suffer.

EORN is ready!

- EORN has done the detailed engineering and research necessary to undertake the project.
- EORN is ready to work with the federal and provincial governments to move the project forward quickly.
- The EORN approach has proven that it can deliver big projects quickly and efficiently.
- EORN has been entrusted to deliver nearly \$400 million broadband and mobile projects already.
- EORN knows how to work with the private sector and protect public sector investments.
- There are 110 municipalities across the EORN / eastern Ontario region outside of the City of Ottawa.

We want to hear about your rural internet experience. Please complete and submit the survey found on the last page of this newsletter.



Support available for eligible residential customers struggling to pay their energy bills due to COVID-19

COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program:

The Government of Ontario is making \$9 million available to support residential customers struggling to pay their energy bills because of COVID-19. The COVID-19 Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) provides a one-time, on-bill credit to eligible residential electricity and natural gas customers to help them catch up on their energy bills and resume regular payments.

Electricity and natural gas utilities and unit sub-meter providers (USMPs) will begin accepting applications for CEAP on July 13, 2020, delivering the program in accordance with rules laid out by the OEB. CEAP funding is limited, with utilities and USMPs expected to process applications in the order in which they are received. Please note, submitting an application does not guarantee funding. To apply for CEAP funding, customers should contact their utility or USMP directly. **For more information, including eligibility requirements and on-bill credit amounts, visit oeb.ca/ceap.**



All rigid plastic food, beverage and household containers can go in your blue box.



Municipal Disposal Site Hours

Bissett Creek Site

Tuesday 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Saturday 12:45 - 3:45 pm

Located on Bissett Creek Road

Stonecliffe Site

Thursday 12:45 pm - 4:15 pm

Saturday 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

Located on Kenny Road

Collection Days and Times

Deux Rivieres (garbage and recycling)

Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Bissett Creek (garbage and recycling)

Tuesday 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Stonecliffe

Thursday 11:00 - 12:00 noon

Mackey

Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Recycling Dates (Stonecliffe and Mackey)

July 13 & 27

October 5 & 19

August 10 & 24

November 2, 16 & 30

September 9 & 21

December 14 & 30

Residents are reminded that the following weekly limits apply for curbside pick up:

- Residences - 1 bag
- Businesses - 4 bags

Any additional bags must be tagged and taken to the land-fill during business hours. Additional bag tags can be purchased at the municipal office at a cost of \$1 each.

News from the Office

FINAL TAX BILLS

Final tax bills have been issued. Installments are due on July 31st and October 31st. Properties that are in tax arrears of two or more years as of December 31st, 2019, have become eligible for tax sale registration. Please contact the municipal office at 613-586-2526 with any questions or concerns.

LENDING HUB

The municipality will once again be offering the use of a variety of recreational equipment, including kayaks, paddle boards, bicycles, fishing rods and other sport equipment, through the Lending Hub program. Residents wishing to use these items should call the municipal office at 613-586-2526 to reserve items. To assist with required procedures and to allow adequate time to properly disinfect items between bookings, effective July 17th items must be picked up on Friday and dropped off on Monday.

BURN PERMITS

As of April 1st each year, a burn permit is required for anyone planning to burn brush, grass etc. on your property. This excludes small campfires. The municipality has implemented a seasonal permit system which requires the property owner to come to the municipal office and fill out an application. The cost is \$5 and is valid for the whole season; April 1- October 31. Once you have your permit, all you have to do follow rules in burn permit and call or email the office when you are burning so that we can inform the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry; which is a component of our annual agreement.



The infographic features a large red thermometer on the left with a sunburst at the top. The background is a gradient from orange to teal. The main text reads 'Emergency preparedness starts with you' in white, followed by 'extreme heat' in large white letters. Below this are four circular icons: a water bottle, a sunscreen bottle labeled 'SPF', a power plug with a red prohibition sign, and a family silhouette with a dog. Each icon has a corresponding text label below it. At the bottom left is the URL 'ontario.ca/beprepared' and at the bottom right is the Ontario logo.

Emergency preparedness starts with you

extreme heat

-  Keep hydrated
-  Include summer essentials in your kit
-  Prepare for sudden power outages
-  Protect family and pets

ontario.ca/beprepared 

United Townships of
Head, Clara & Maria

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Fax: 613-586-2596

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Stonecliffe ON K0J 2K0

admin@headclaramaria.ca (Stephany)
clerk@headclaramaria.ca (Charlotte)
info@headclaramaria.ca (April)

HCM Mission: At your service; working effectively to bring together people, partnerships and potential for a strong, connected community.

HCM Vision: Providing a healthy, connected and sustainable community teeming with possibilities for our citizens now and into the future.

We're on the web!
townshipsofheadclaramaria.ca



A Natural Playground

Council Contacts

Mayor Debbi Grills

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Brent Allen

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Ernie Villeneuve

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Want to stay up to date on what's happening in HCM?

Send an email to clerk@headclaramaria.ca and ask to be added to our email distribution list. We make all attempts to keep your email address confidential by using the "bcc" option when sending emails to residents.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR HCM RURAL INTERNET EXPERIENCES

Where is your property located? Mackey Stonecliffe Bissett Creek Deux Rivieres

Do you have internet service? Yes, and my internet provider is _____

No, but I would like to have internet No, and I do not want internet

If you have internet services, in your opinion, is it affordable? Yes No

Comments: _____

If you have internet services, in your opinion, do you have enough internet? Yes No

Comments: _____

If you have internet services, in your opinion, is your level of service satisfactory? Yes No

Comments: _____

Please provide us with any other comments regarding your rural internet experience: _____

Please detach survey responses and drop off at the municipal office or email to info@headclaramaria.ca