TOWNSHIP OF ALBERTON

Community Newsletter

www.alberton.ca April, 2018

IT'S SPRING! AND THAT MEANS BEAR SEASON HAS ARRIVED

During discussion at the April 11th Council meeting, OPP Inspector Nathan Schmidt introduced himself to Council and discussed policing statistics and other matters. He asked that we remind all residents not to leave garbage outside as bears will definitely be attracted to it. The same goes for pet food left outdoors.

Inspector Schmidt also advised that **residents should call the OPP about bears in *emergency situations only*, such as if a bear is threatening people or livestock.**

For all non-emergency bear-related matters, you can call the BearWise reporting line 1-866-514-2327 from April 1st to November 30th in each year. For further information, visit the Bear Wise website (just search for "Bear Wise" and the link should pop up).

As you know, policing costs have increased dramatically over the past few years due to the imposition of a Province-wide pricing formula. Costs are now invoiced on both a base rate plus per call-out, which includes resonding to false alarms from security systems and "pocket dialing". The Inspector suggested Council consider charging back call-out costs for false alarms.

ROUGH GRAVEL ROADS

It's been a tough spring for gravel roads, which have been freezing overnight and making grading impractical. The roads that run east-west in particular have been the most difficult since most are partly in shade during the daytime so they have been remaining frozen even during the day. With warmer weather in the forecast, the grader should be out on the roads by the time you rad this so the rough road woes should be ending if not over.

Once the frost is out enough, the gravel which has accumulated in berms along the roadsides will be pulled in and reclaimed, and the crowns on the roads re-established. This will facilitate water run-off and keep rain from pooling on the roads to keep them in good condition longer between gradings..

Library Services Contract Renewal

Council agreed that discussions regarding renewal of the contract for Alberton residents to access the Fort Frances Public Library & Techology Centre should be undertaken. Library Board Chair Andrew Hallikas and Librarian Caroline Goulding will be attending the May 9th Council meeting to discuss renewal terms with Council so an agreement can be drafted, aprppoved by the Board and Council and, hopefully, be formally approved in July.

While the current contract doesn't expire until December 31, 2018, in order for the Township to apply for funding for 2019 in September, an agreement has to be in place. It's a proactive step to deal with the renewal now.

For those of you who are new to the Township, Alberton residents can get memberships at the FFPLT and access its many services (including online) at no charge thanks to the service contract.

New Chief Building Official soon starting in the Township

The AMBIS Committee, which is comprised of the municipalities of Alberton, LaVallee, Chapple and Rainy River, have jointly hired **HENRY VAN AEL** to be their new Chief Building Official.

Henry will start his new position on May 1st. There will be a one week "hand-off" period during which current CBO Rick Hallam (who has been providing interm services to Alberton, LaVallee & Rainy River since last June) will bring Henry up to speed on building matters and do site visits with him in all four of the municipalities.

In order to ensure the Township has continuing CBO service coverage, Council has appointed **Rick Hallam** as **Deputy CBO** effective May 1st on as "as required" basis. This means that, if Henry is on holidays or otherwise away and a building-related matter cannot await his return, Rick will step in to conduct inspections. Formal contract details have yet to be worked out but, in taking this step, Council is attempting to ensure that service needs of residents will be covered with minimal delay.

As you may already know, Henry is no stranger to Alberton since, not only did he serve as the Township's CBO for a few years starting in 2007 under the service contract with Advisory Services, he lives in Alberton and is a member of the Rainy River Valley Field Naturalists, which created amd oversees the Cranberry Peatlands Interpretive Trail on Whitmore Road.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday,
May 9, 2018
7 pm in Council Chambers
As always, you are welcome to attend!

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Annual Egg Hunt at the Park!

Despite the weather, all went well and the kids were happy to participate!

2018 BUDGET ALMOST FINAL

There are a few items to be finalized but, by the end of May 9th Council meeting, the 2018 Budget will be in final form. The summary will be printed in the May newsletter.

There will be an overall increase in taxes for most property classes this year but the actual percentage is yet to be determined since we don't have final cost information for some items.

ALBERTON VFD MATTERS

You may have noticed over this past weekend that the Alberton VFD Training Facility at 128 Hill Road was busy with activity. Firefighters from Alberton, LaVallee, Emo and Chapple participated in the first two of three days of Annual Structural Skills training. The third day will be held in May. Fire Chief Josh Colling confirmed that all but two Alberton firefighters are participating.

So far the Province hasn't passed the proposed fire services regulations discussed in the March newsletter. If they don't pass before the writ is dropped in May to commence the Provincial election campaign period, the regulations will lapse for now.

Council will again discuss the level of services to be provided by the VFD at its May 9th meeting when it reviews the services cited in the *VFD Establishing & Regulating By-Law*. Services Council does not approve must be eliminated from the By-Law. This will ensure that there will be no requirement for members to undertake training for responses that fall within a general service category but are not authorized. This is particularly important if the regulations pass with no change to the one year deadline to complete training to the NFPA standards.

Emergency Preparedness Starts with You!

Emergency Preparedness Week

May 6 - 12, 2018

Emergency Survival Kit

In the event of an emergency, everyone should be prepared to take care of themselves and their families for up to three days. Make sure that your emergency survival kit has:

- ☐ Flashlight and batteries
- ☐ Radio and batteries or crank radio
- ☐ Spare batteries
- ☐ First-aid kit
- ☐ Candles and matches/lighter
- ☐ Extra car keys and cash
- ☐ Important papers (identification)
- ☐ Food and bottled water
- ☐ Clothing and footwear
- ☐ Blankets or sleeping bags
- ☐ Toilet paper and other personal items
- ☐ Medication
- ☐ Whistle (to attract attention, if needed)
- ☐ Playing cards, games

Be Prepared! Not Scared!

For more information please visit Emergency Management Ontario at www.ontario.ca/emo

Ontario

VFD ALARM DRAWS

FEBRUARY WINNER: JUDY KOSKI

MARCH WINNER: ASHER BODNAR

APRIL WINNER: BERNICE KEMPF

Going forward, draws will be done quarterly and, instead of basic smoke alarms, the prizes will be combination smoke alarm - carbon monoxide detectors. The next draw will be done in June.

2018 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Nomination forms will be available at the Alberton Municipal Office starting on Tuesday, May 1, 2018. That's also the first day a candidate may file nomination papers to run for a seat on Council. Since the Township's population is under 2000, candidates for Alberton Council aren't required to submit 25 endorsement signatures in order to file their papers. The last day to file is Friday, July 27th at 2:00 p.m. sharp.

Nomination papers must be filed in person because the declaration of qualification must be signed before a Commissioner of Oaths (the Clerk). No campaigning of any kind may begin until nomination papers are filed.

One Reeve and four Councillors will be elected. The fee to file to run for office is $200 for Reeve and $100 for Councillor. The fee is refundable if the candidate's financial statement is filed by the deadline.

School board elections again will be held with municipal elections so make sure your school support for education taxes (and school board voting) is correct.. If it isn't, you'll have to file an *Application for Direction of School Support*.

ALBERTON MUNICIPAL OFFICE

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website: www.alberton.ca

MUNICIPAL OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9 am to 5 pm, closed Fridays

(closed for lunch when only one office staff peron scheduled)