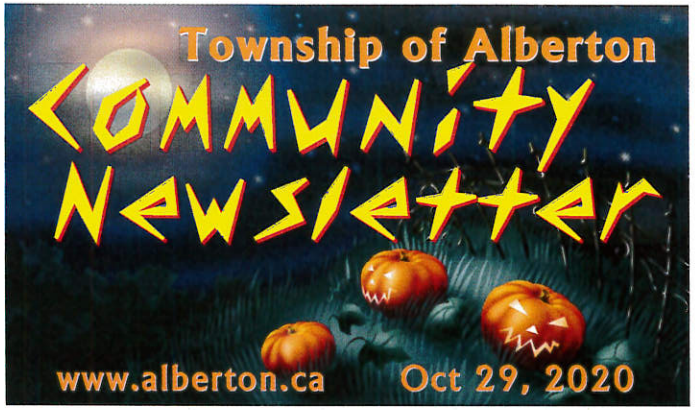


WINTER RINK AND PARK OPERATIONS UPDATE

Council discussed Millennium Park and Rink winter operations in light of the ongoing pandemic, and directed as follows:

The Millennium Rink will be flooded and open as normal for use this winter.

The sliding hill by the rink will be open as usual. Creation of the smaller sliding hill for the wee ones will be dependent on the volume of snow that falls.

A simple snowshoe trail for public use will be laid out on the park grounds and will be packed to identify its path. It may be packed again after heavy snow if the trail isn't repacked through use.

Due to COVID-19 and unsupervised indoor space restrictions, and to ensure the safety of all park and rink users, the rink shack will NOT be open this winter.

An outdoor bench will be installed near the rink so there is a place for people to change into and out of their skates. The pavilion and nearby fire pit will be available for use. As always, please ensure you place trash in the trash bin.

OPP BILLINGS TO STABILIZE IN 2021

As you may recall, back in 2012 the Township's annual policing costs were $48,853.00. A change in the service cost calculation was phased in after that year and, in 2021, will stabilize at $113,234.

Please remember that every call to the OPP is billed to the Township so please do your part not to accidentally pocket dial them (yes, even hang-ups are billed).

The known increase in policing costs saw the 2012 Council act on the staff recommendation to establish a Sustainability Reserve to mitigate potential future tax impacts. The Reserve has served the Township well over the years by covering unbudgeted costs. In 2019, it helped cover the purchase of VFD SCBAs. This year, $133,000 was brought into the Budget from the Reserve to keep municipal taxat budgeted at the same level as 2019 to help residents in this pandemic year.

Next Council Meeting

Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Members of the public are asked to attend meetings electronically (by Zoom or phone) for the protection and safety of all. The meeting link and phone number is posted on the Township's website on the day of the meeting at the bottom of the Council Agenda page.

Township Website being Revamped

At long last, **www.alberton.ca** is getting a total makeover thanks to the web design staff at the Fort Frances Times. The update will make the site fully compliant with the accessibility requirements set out in the AODA, and reorganization of the content will make things far easier to find. The roll-over date is not yet known but will be in November.

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF DOG BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT MATTER

While we haven't received any additional complaints, we still want to make sure that dog owners are abiding by the *Dog Owners Liability Act*. **Under the DOLA, dog owners are responsible for keeping their dogs confined to their property and, when they are off the property, for ensuring they are on a leash and accompanied by a responsible person.**

Council did get legal advice on the matter in September and confirmed that the Township had followed all necessary steps and that OPP is responsible to enforce the *Dog Owners Liability Act* since it is a Provincial Offences Act. If the Township assumes responsibility for enforcement, it will bear the full cost of same, to be funded through taxation (no grants for this).

Council discussed the Township's Dog By-law at its October meeting at the request of Councillors Spence and Glowasky. It agreed that the number of dog incidents in the Township has been low over the years and doesn't justify the cost of hiring and training of additional staff. Council agreed to explore a possible enforcement option with the Town of Fort Frances to determine, first, whether the Town has any interest in providing certain dog by-law control services and, if it is, what the cost of service would be on an "as required" basis. When a response is received from the Town, Council will revisit the matter and potential option.

OFFICE STAFF UPDATE

Thanks so much to **Beth Logue** for helping out at the Township Office a couple days a week over the past month or so (and to Council for letting her!). It's been a long stretch with no AA since the end of May, except for one week. New Administrative Assistant **Krista Gushulak** is to start on November 3rd.

Happy Halloween

PLEASE BE SURE YOUR FIRE NUMBER IS PROPERLY POSTED AT YOUR DRIVEWAY ENTRANCE AND THAT THE NUMBER IS VISIBLE FROM BOTH DIRECTIONS

We can't stress enough how important this is.

If your fire numbers are faded - or you don't have a number or post - call the Township Office (274-6053) and we'll arrange to get you what you need to put up.

The paddle your fire number is on must be straight (not hanging from the pole) so it can be easily read by emergency responders. Remember: responders may not be looking for your specific fire number but being able to see your fire number can confirm they're on the right track to get to an emergency at another site.

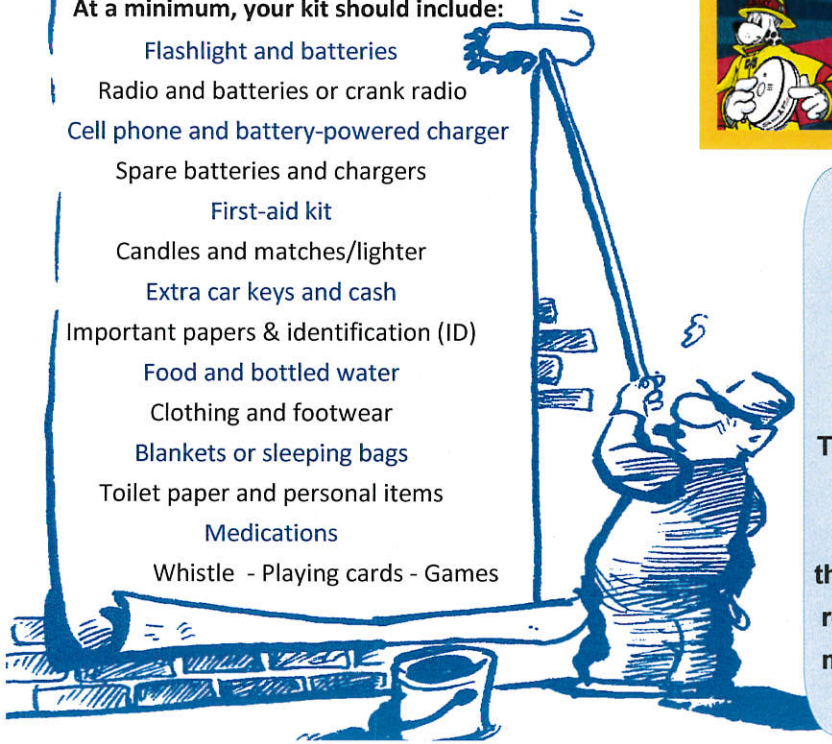
Prepare your Family Emergency Survival Kit today!
Find out how.

Ontario

Have an emergency kit ready in case you need it at a moment's notice.

At a minimum, your kit should include:

- Flashlight and batteries
- Radio and batteries or crank radio
- Cell phone and battery-powered charger
- Spare batteries and chargers
- First-aid kit
- Candles and matches/lighter
- Extra car keys and cash
- Important papers & identification (ID)
- Food and bottled water
- Clothing and footwear
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Toilet paper and personal items
- Medications
- Whistle - Playing cards - Games



ALBERTON TOWNSHIP OFFICE

Phone: 274-6053 Fax: 274-8449
e-mail: alberton@jam21.net
website: www.alberton.ca

The office is closed to the Public due to COVID -19 but we're still here to help you by phone or email. Drop-offs at the door and prearranged appointments require masks and/or social distancing measures. Paper items can be left in the locked mailbox by the office front door.

HAVING TROUBLE GETTING OR RENEWING YOUR BURN PERMIT ONLINE?

We're still getting calls for assistance with burning permits. We totally understand (from helping a few people lately) that the online burn permit system isn't quite as user friendly as it seemed at first.

If you got a burning permit online in the prior calendar year, you should be able to renew it by clicking on "Create Permit" near the top of the webpage. The system should autofill all your address, etc., information from the prior year. **Be sure your email address in the site is correct or you won't receive your permit** that the system automatically emails to you. **If your phone number is wrong in the system, you won't be able to to activate the permit when you want to burn.**

If you have problems, give us a call at the office, but be patient...it's a learning curve for us, too, since we can't see your side of the website and have to work through from the admin side.