



Sinclair / Finlayson Ward Township of Lake of Bays Councillor Rick Brooks

April Report 2024

Here's a couple of things to share with you as we await the 'real' spring to arrive...

Understanding Wildfires and Protecting Your Property with FireSmart:

Additional Presentation on Wildfires Added! Due to popular demand and requests for an evening session, the Huntsville/Lake of Bays Fire Department has scheduled a second date for the **FireSmart™** presentation. This ensures those who couldn't attend the initial session can still benefit from vital wildfire preparedness information.

Additionally, the presentation will be recorded and made publicly available through the department's YouTube channel for those unable to attend in person.

Please RSVP by contacting dwight@lakeofbayslibrary.ca or (705) 635-3319.

Date: April 25, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Dwight Public Library (1014 Dwight Beach Rd, Dwight)

For more information contact:

Steve Markham

Huntsville/Lake of Bays Fire Department

Public Education/Fire Prevention Officer

705-789-5201 x 3609

media@hlobfire.ca

Community Planning Permit System: As many of you may recall in 2021 the Township passed the CPPS by-law (2021-111) however the by-law was appealed and did not come into effect. I am glad to inform you all that the OLT approved the by-law and it has come into effect as of April 18, 2024 at 5 pm.

Here is a link to the Approved by-law: [CPPS By-law](#)

Earth Day Clean-up: Those interested in doing a little to help the environment should sign up using the form below;

<https://online-forms.muskoka.on.ca/EPW/Garbage-and-Recycling/Registration-Clean-Muskoka-Together>

If they need to learn more about the program or simply discuss it with a staff member it would be best if they emailed waste@muskoka.on.ca.

The program runs year-round, we just kick it off on Earth Day. Residents can collect at any time during the year and drop off the designated bags at any transfer station for free throughout the year.

I'm pleased to hear that people are reaching out about the program and we're looking forward to successful results again this year (although I guess a success would be that no litter was picked up because people didn't drop it).

Earth Day Compost Giveaway in Lake of Bays: The Annual Compost Giveaway is happening again in Lake of Bays! On Earth Day, April 22, 2024, starting at 10 am, you can pick up free, quality compost at four locations in the municipality:

- Lake of Bays Community Centre Arena, Baysville (10 University St)
- Dorset Seniors Centre (5025 Muskoka Road 117)
- **Interlaken Old Firehall (2309 Limberlost Rd)**
- Dwight Branch Public Library Parking Lot (1014 Dwight Beach Rd)

In partnership with the District Municipality of Muskoka and the Township, the compost will be available until supplies last. This compost is a direct result of Muskoka residents participating in the green bin program.

Residents are reminded that it is first come, first serve. Please bring your own containers and shovels. Compost with 60% topsoil and 40% compost.

The ASHMuskoka Project;



The Friends of the Muskoka Watershed have several excellent programs, one of which is the "ASHMuskoka Project". Their ash collection program continues to be a HUGE success, and the results are showing the positive impact, thanks to yet having yet another banner year!

Our next Ash Drive is THIS SATURDAY, April 20th

Check it out on their website www.ashmuskoka.ca

9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rosewarne Transfer Station, Bracebridge

This will be the last drive until Saturday, September 21st.

Fire Services & Public Information:



Lithium-Ion Battery Devices and the Potential Fire Hazards

The Huntsville/Lake of Bays Fire Department is raising awareness about the hazards associated with lithium-ion (Li-ion) battery devices, such as smartphones, laptops, cordless power tools, e-bikes, and various other electronic gadgets prevalent in today's digital age. With the increasing reliance on these devices for communication, work, and entertainment, residents are encouraged to understand the potential risks and take appropriate precautions to prevent fire incidents.

Mishandling devices, such as dropping a power tool or exposing a smartphone to heat by leaving it on the dashboard of a car, may compromise the integrity of the battery. This increases the risk of a process called thermal runaway, where the battery's internal temperature rises uncontrollably, leading to the release of hydrogen which can result in catastrophic consequences, including fires or even explosions.

Warning signs of battery issues include expansion, changes in shape, excessive heat, leakage of fluids, vapor, or hissing or popping sounds. If any of these symptoms are observed, individuals are urged to evacuate the area immediately and call 911.

The Huntsville/Lake of Bays Fire Department recommends residents to:

- Never store or charge devices with lithium batteries in areas used for exiting, such as hallways, stairs, or doorways, to ensure safe evacuation in case of an emergency.
- Purchase batteries from reputable manufacturers that adhere to safety standards.
- Use undamaged charging cords that came with your device and avoid leaving batteries in a charger once fully charged to avoid potential overcharging.
- Store batteries at room temperature and refrain from charging devices on soft materials like pillows, beds, or couches.
- When disposing of lithium batteries, never throw them in the general trash. Instead, take them to a local hazardous waste depot or e-recycler.
- Do not tamper with and/or modify lithium batteries in any way.

For more information, resources, and videos on lithium battery safety, please visit huntsville.ca/FireSafety. [Watch the video!](https://youtu.be/TeXig0S0dfU?feature=shared) <https://youtu.be/TeXig0S0dfU?feature=shared>



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Chamber of Commerce: Many hours have been spent on preparations for Muskoka Maple Festival (**Saturday April 27th**) an annual event held on the main street of Huntsville featuring everything maple. Consider checking out their website for more details www.muskokamaple.ca

Info of interest to residents;

- The Chamber is in the midst of returning to a more traditional Chamber of Commerce role (re. the voice of business)
- The Chamber is currently in discussions with HMATA (Huntsville MAT Tax) to sell them the assets of ECLIPSE and Christmas Lights
- The Chamber Rental Program will be wound down in 2024 and the assets sold (eg. Tents, banners, signs, etc.) as it wasn't making any money
- The Chamber is in the midst of developing a new website
- The Chamber will be undertaking a Strategic Planning exercise in the next month or so and one of the areas for consideration will be **"Where does Lake of Bays fit into the Huntsville/LOB Chamber of Commerce?"**

Final Thoughts:

Mayor and Council along with staff continue to work on making the best decisions for the good of our residents, both permanent and seasonal. Not always are those decisions popular, but there are always opportunities for residents to ask why and we will do our best to get the answers for you. Budgets are approved, new programs at times are shown, whether or not the municipality follows through with them all comes back to us doing our due diligence and holding the feet of staff to the fire on increases and new initiatives to ensure the juice was worth the squeeze.

As I have shared before ***just keep watching!*** Seriously....keep watching, all Council meetings and even most Committee Meetings are available to watch and archive. The business of the Township is being carried out in front of you, transparently, so please stay engaged. There is no excuse for anyone to feel uninformed.

What has happened lately;

- **Fire safety is a priority and I am pleased to sit on the Fire Governance Committee**
- **We now have been able to move to our CPPS (Community Permit Planning process)**
- **We will be sharing the vision of our updated Township's Official Plan**
- **Road Needs Study is being updated**
- **Community Improvement Plan initiatives are underway**

I continue to be proud to be serving as your Councillor for Sinclair/Finlayson and supporting all residents of the Township of Lake of Bays, as we continue to maintain the strong values and responsible decision making that make the Township of Lake of Bays unique, even within the District of Muskoka.

Rick Brooks,

Councillor Sinclair / Finlayson Ward

Township of Lake of Bays

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