



Mayor's Message: This newsletter is the last issue prior to the new Council taking office in December. There are many major projects and initiatives currently underway within our community at the moment. Please take a moment to review the highlights of some of them as outlined below.

Update on the Construction of the New Recreation Centre: The Town is pleased to advise that Council has awarded the contract for the construction of the new Recreation Centre to Atlas Construction. After a sod turning ceremony in late July, earthworks have started and construction is officially underway! Commencement of this project would not have been possible without the commitment of a large part of the entire community. Appreciation is extended to the many volunteers who have served on Committees, helped with fundraising, participated with the user groups and/or dedicated time to further the project along over the eight or so years it has been in development. If you check the Town's Website at www.innisfil.ca you will see the finalized construction plans and detailed information including some visual perspectives on this exciting project. Please use the "contact us" feature of the website to have any specific questions or concerns related to the ongoing construction answered by the Project Team. We look forward to the ice surfaces opening in early fall 2007 and the balance of the building as soon as possible thereafter. Fundraising Co-chairs Heather MacDonald and Gord Wauchope are well on the way to achieving the fundraising campaign goal and there are a number of new initiatives under development. Please help support the ongoing community based fundraising program.

Work Proceeding on the New Administration Building: Council has approved the design/build submission from Aecon Buildings for the new Administration Building. The new building, to be built east of the South Simcoe Police North Division Office, will replace the current Municipal Office and provide needed space, a fully accessible Council Chamber, meeting rooms and space for future growth. The proposals closed in June and work is underway to resolve final details related to the functionality of the building. It is hoped that construction will start early this fall with the project to be completed in the fall of 2007.

2006 Municipal Election Update: On November 13th, the municipal elections will be held in the Town of Innisfil. Over the upcoming months you will begin to receive information from the Town and in the local newspapers. We encourage you to review this information as well as the Town's website.

As of September 1, 2006 a list of all eligible voters was available for review and you may inquire as to whether or not you are on the list by contacting the Office of the Clerk at 705-436-3710 or online at www.innisfil.ca. Following the close of nominations on September 29, 2006 at 5:00 p.m., vote-by-mail voting kits will be mailed to all eligible voters commencing the week of October 23rd. For additional details regarding the vote-by-mail process and how to complete your ballot please refer to the Municipal Elections 2006 Information for Voters Brochure circulated in your tax bills or online.

The 2006 Municipal Elections Procedural manual, containing useful information is available for review at the Clerk's office or online at www.innisfil.ca.

If you are concerned that your mail-in ballot will not reach the Municipal Administration Centre prior to Election Day feel free to drop off your ballot at Clerk's Services. Should you not receive a ballot, go to the Municipal Administration Centre at 2147 Innisfil Beach Road and fill out an 'Application to Amend to the Voters List'. A ballot kit will be provided so you may exercise your right to vote. For those desiring to vote in a more traditional manner bring your ballot kit to the Churchill Community Centre on November 13, 2006 between 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., where one polling station will be available. Please note, as a result of the new vote-by-mail system, no advance polling or proxy voting is permitted. **Remember, Voting Day is November 13th, 2006, so watch the Town's website at www.innisfil.ca for regular updates.**

Inter-governmental Action Plan (IGAP) Update: In the fall of 2004 the Town of Innisfil in partnership with the County of Simcoe, all the area municipalities in the County, the Cities of Barrie and Orillia as well as four Provincial Ministries embarked on a major joint planning study. The four key outcomes of the Study were: a defined capacity for the Lake Simcoe and Nottawasaga River watersheds to accommodate growth, servicing certainty for intensification of existing uses and approved growth, a defined capacity for Barrie and area's additional growth, and, effective and sustained municipal governance. An extensive amount of work over two years culminated with the release of two final Reports in late August. Entitled the Growth Potential Assessment Report and the Implementation Assessment Report, they form a solid foundation and reference point for future deliberations currently occurring amongst the Town, the County and others on these important issues. Both documents are available from the County of Simcoe Website (www.county.simcoe.on.ca). In summary, they suggest future population and employment growth be directed to the Barrie/Innisfil area, that better area-wide co-ordination of water and waste water services and planning and development services should be achieved through consolidation of services in a county wide two tier delivery system. This is important information that will be used by Innisfil as it moves forward in discussions with the City of Barrie on issues related to growth and servicing infrastructure in the northern part of our municipality and as it works with the County of Simcoe to implement the results of the Town's Growth Management Study completed earlier this year.

2006 Final Property Tax Bills: If you own property in the Residential, Farm, Managed Forest or Pipeline property classes, your 2006 Final Property Taxes were due in two approximately equal installments on **Friday, June 30, 2006 and Friday, September 29, 2006**. The Final Property Tax Bills for the Commercial, Industrial and Multi-Residential property tax classes are due in approximately two equal installments on **Thursday, August 31 and Tuesday October 31, 2006**. Should your installment payment be received by the Town subsequent to these due dates, you are liable for late payment penalty at the rate of 1¼% of the installment amount that was not paid on time.

If you have not received your Property Tax Bill, please contact Financial Services. If there are any changes to your mailing address, the Municipal Act requires these changes be submitted to the Town in writing. For your convenience, a change of address form, complete with instructions is available on the Town's website. Please note that failure to receive a Property Tax Bill does not relieve the owner of responsibility for payments due nor liability for penalty and interest charged.

The tax rate (combination of the Town, Police, Education and County) has resulted in an increase of 9% to the tax bill year over year. It is important to note that the assessment for some properties has changed significantly which may result in a different percentage change to your individual tax bill. When you break out your tax bill you will note that approximately 50% is not controlled by Town Council. Of the 47% that Town Council and administration manage approximately 37% relates directly to enhance public safety issues fire, police and snow ploughing operations. Details of the budget are a public document and are available for public review on the Town's website www.innisfil.ca.

Planning & Development – Official Plan Update: On July 26, 2006 Council adopted the new Official Plan for Innisfil replacing the 1993 Official Plan. This new Official Plan provides direction for the Town for the next 20 Years. The Official Plan has now been forwarded to the County of Simcoe who is the Approval Authority for Official Plans. Council thanks the many members of the public who participated through committees, workshops, public meetings and correspondence in this important project.

Building & Inspection Services: On July 4, 2006 Council appointed Glenn Middlebrook as the new Chief Building Official bringing with him many years of experience in the municipal and private sectors. Building permit application submissions are coming in at a very steady pace, keeping staff very busy. As there has been a turnover of staff at the same time as we're attempting to increase the number of staff some applications may have suffered. We appreciate everyone's patience and are steadily working towards improving the turnaround times.

On January 1, 2006, the provincial legislation affecting the requirements of the Ontario Building Code was revised to improve the health & safety of buildings across the Province of Ontario. We still receive a large number of applications that do not comply with the new requirements resulting in delays that frustrate everyone. All applications for building permits must be submitted on the standard provincial application form and are available from Customer Service. In order for Building Permit applications to be accepted by the department, the approved Provincial criteria must be in place. For more information, please reference Building Services at www.innisfil.ca

With your help in ensuring that applications received are complete and legible we hope that the number of rejections and repeat submissions may be reduced.

Parks & Recreation – Program Department. **Don't miss out in registering for your Fall Program!** If you have not received your **2006 Fall Community Recreation Program Guide** pick-up a copy at any Town Facility (arenas, libraries, administrative buildings). We are offering a full array pre school, youth, teen, general interest and fitness programs. For more information please call the Parks & Recreation office at 705-456-4711 Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm or logon to inn-touch.innisfil.ca.

Parks & Recreation – Facility Bookings. View ice time, banquet halls and pavilion availability online. Log on to inn-touch.innisfil.ca click the facility tab and check if your date and time are available. For more information call the Parks & Recreation office at 456-4711.

Winter Parking & Snow Removal: Effective from Nov 1st to May 1st there is no parking on streets between 3:00 to 6:00 a.m.

Animal Control: The phone number for animal control is **(705) 431-2882**. Please note that there are fines for dogs caught running at large and animal owners who choose not to clean up after their pet.

Holiday Hours: The Town of Innisfil Municipal Office will be closed through the week of December 25th to 29th, 2006, with regular office hours resuming on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2006. **NOTE: Emergency Services, Recreation Facilities, Libraries, Public Works, Water and Wastewater Operations will be open and NOT affected by this closure.** Payments for taxes, water & sewer installments can be made by dropping payments off in the drop box located at the Municipal offices.

2006 Dragon Boat Team: For the second year, the staff and Council of the Town of Innisfil and Innisfil Public Library participated in the 2006 Barrie Dragon Boat Festival held at the Barrie Waterfront on Saturday, August 26, 2006. As part of the festival participation, the team raised approximately \$3,500.00 for the new R.V.H Cancer Care Facility through BBQ's, carwashes and sponsorships. Thank you to everyone who assisted the team and supported this very worthy cause.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Conservation Awards Gala: Gala to be held **October 12, 2006** at Georgian Downs, recognizing individuals, businesses and groups that work to improve the health and quality of the Lake Simcoe Watershed. For more information, please contact Lori Gilkes at (905) 895-1281 ext 242 or visit www.lsrca.on.ca.

Cookstown Light up Night and Santa Claus Parade: This year the Cookstown & District Chamber of Commerce will be holding its annual Light up Night on **November 10, 2006** in combination with the Lions Santa Claus Parade. Light up Night is a town-wide merchants' open house and runs from 6:00 to 10:00 pm with carolers, treats in the stores, a preview of Christmas wares and the Santa Claus Parade. Santa will be on hand for visiting from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and the parade will be at 8:30 p.m. Watch the Cookstown Chamber website www.cookstown.ca or call 705-458-9212 for more information.

Farms of Innisfil, Challenges, Chores and Changes: Just in time for Christmas!!! The launch of this keepsake, hard-covered history book is scheduled for **December 8, 2006** from 2-8 p.m. at Churchill Community Centre. To preorder your copy, send \$35.00 before November 20th (\$40 after that date). Cheques are payable to: Innisfil Historical Society and mailed to P.O. Box 7176, Innisfil, ON, L93 1A9. Add \$12.00 postage if you want a copy mailed. For those who contributed photos for the book, they may be picked up on Dec 8th or earlier if you call Donna Wice, 436-2578.

Innisfil Santa Claus Parade: To be held on **December 10, 2006** at 2:00 p.m. The parade will commence at the corner of Jans Boulevard and Innisfil Beach Road. All are invited to attend.

Innisfil Community Events Corporation: Annual Winterfest to be held the weekend of February 23 to 25, 2007 featuring a polar bear dip, snowmobile races, Mayor's Tyke Challenge Cup and much more.

Feedback: This newsletter is a means whereby the Mayor, Council and Administration are able to communicate with the taxpayers of our Town. Please contact the Town should you have any questions concerning the information that is published. Feedback is important to ensure that this newsletter is effective.