

**Mayor's Message:**

2006 in the Town of Innisfil will be exciting. In late May or early June there will be a sod turning event for the new recreation centre. Sometime mid-year Council will receive the new Official Plan. In addition, the results of the Intergovernmental Action Plan (IGAP) will be released and the Town will be entering into facilitated discussions with the City of Barrie concerning servicing for employment lands and the ongoing issues concerning municipal boundary changes. These are major issues which affect your municipality; please keep informed.

If you missed the kick off of the fundraising campaign during Winterfest, please check the Town's website to find out how you can be part of the community support for this important project. I would like to extend my appreciation to the group of volunteers who have come together and committed to raise \$1.25 million dollars towards the project! The campaign slogan is "Its Your Rec. Centre Get Involved!" and I would encourage everyone to do just that – together we can achieve the goal!

Update on the Construction of the New Recreation Centre: Plans are actively underway to start construction of the new Recreation Centre this spring near the intersection of Innisfil Beach Road and Yonge Street. The Architect is busy preparing construction drawings in preparation for a tender call in April or May. As you know, this exciting addition to the Town will include our first indoor aquatic facility incorporating a 6-lane, 25-metre pool, a leisure pool, a double-pad ice surface and related spectator seating complete with an indoor walking track, a gymnasium facility, community meeting space, a fitness area with the associated support office areas and canteen. The Town has partnered with the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka, who will jointly operate the building once it opens in the fall of 2007.

2006 Interim Property Tax Bill: By now everyone should have received their 2006 Interim Property Tax Bill, which was mailed out in early February. The interim bill represents 50% of your annualized 2005 final taxes and is due in two installments. The first installment is due on Tuesday, February 28, 2006 and the second will be due on Friday, April 28, 2006. If you are planning to make these payments electronically through your financial institution, please do so 2-3 business days prior to the due dates to ensure your payment reaches the Town in time. If you make use of the Cookstown Drop-box to make payment please remit 4-5 business days prior to the due dates. Post-dated cheques for all due dates can be sent to the Town at any time to be processed on the date you have selected. All payments received subsequent to the due dates are liable for late payment penalty at the rate of 1¼ % of the amount due.

If you have recently moved or are new to the Town, you should be aware that failure to receive a Property Tax Bill does not relieve the owner's responsibility for payments due, nor liability for penalty and interest charged. If you have not received your Property Tax Bill, please contact the Financial Services Department immediately. All requests for a change of mailing address should be submitted in writing. To assist with this exercise, the Town's website has a "Change of Address" form available which you can complete and submit to Financial Services via fax, mail, e-mail or drop-off.

2006 Municipal Election Update: The Town is pleased to announce that Council has approved the use of the Vote-By-Mail method for the upcoming **November 13, 2006** municipal election. Vote-By-Mail is designed to make the process more accessible for the Town's voting population. Please watch the Town's website at www.innisfil.ca for regular updates.

Civil Marriage Ceremonies: In our efforts to provide more services to Town residents the Clerk's Department is pleased to announce that starting in 2006 the Town Clerk has been authorized by Council to perform civil marriage services to interested individuals. For additional information, please check the Town's website at www.innisfil.ca or feel free to contact Clerk's Services at 705-436-3710.

Winter Snow Removal: Our efforts to clear snow from the municipal roads are hampered when vehicles are left on the street. Your vehicle can be tagged and towed if it obstructs the snow clearing operations. Please keep your vehicles in your driveway during and following a snowfall. Remember not to park on any street overnight between the hours of 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. from November 1 to May 1.

Parks & Recreation: Is pleased to report that the new gas furnaces and water heaters have been installed in the Lefroy arena to improve customer comfort. In addition, plans are underway to install a new washroom structure in Innisfil Beach Park. Other projects getting underway this spring include a new neighbourhood park to be constructed in the Victoria Village (Previn Court) development south of the 7th Line and the updating of the playground equipment in Orm Membry Park, Coral Woods Park, Linda Street Park and the Mapleview Drive Parkette.

Recreation Programs: If you have not received your **2006 SPRING/SUMMER Community Recreation Program Guide** in your mailbox, pick up your copy at any Town Facility (arenas, libraries, administrative buildings). Resident registration starts March 1, 2006. Get involved early as programs do fill up quickly. Our Summer Program line-up includes Adventure Camp, Sports Camp, Discovery Camp, and we are offering a full array of Red Cross Swim lessons to be held at Innisfil Beach Park - North Beach. Register before May 31, 2006 to take advantage of discounted fees for camp and swim program. We would like to encourage all residents to use our on-line registration inn-touch.innisfil.ca. All you need is a Family Pin Number, Client Barcode and Visa or Master Card. If you wish to register online and require these codes, please call the Parks & Recreation office at 705-456-4711 Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and we would be more than happy to assign one to you.

Facility Bookings: To 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 is available. For more information or to book a facility, call the Parks & Recreation office at 456-4711. **"MARCH BREAK SKATING"** – Check our website for times and locations at www.innisfil.ca

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

Water Quality Reports: The Town would like to advise that the 2005 Annual Water Quality Reports for all Town-owned water systems are available to the public on the Town's website at www.innisfil.ca or from the municipality.

New Innisfil Website: The Town's new redesigned website features an eServices area in addition to the existing Program Registration and Recreation Facility Inquiry services. Residents now have the opportunity to go online and look at tax and utility account transactions as well as reprint utility bills. A user id and password are required for these services. Please visit www.innisfil.ca/eservices for more information.

Planning & Development:

Innisfil Beach Road Improvements: The new storm sewer on Innisfil Beach Road has been substantially completed and final grading will be done this spring. With everyone's help the job went smoothly with minimal issues. The Town and the businesses in Alcona thank everyone for their support, patience and consideration during the construction and closure. Future improvements are planned so stay tuned!

Innisfil/Bradford West Gwillimbury Water Supply: The construction of the watermain which will supply water to Bradford West Gwillimbury is winding down and water will soon be flowing. Thank you to everyone for their patience during the construction traffic delays. The expansion to the Alcona Water Treatment Plant associated with this project will soon get underway. You can view the progress and any associated notices or other information on the project website www.ibwgwater.ca/index.php or contact the Town office.

Alcona Urban Design Guidelines: The Town has started to work on preparing Urban Design Guidelines for the Alcona downtown area. These guidelines will shape the appearance of Alcona. An open house is planned which will provide an opportunity for you to have your input on the streetscape of Innisfil Beach Road. Watch for the notices!

Emergency Preparedness: If it hasn't been done yet it is a good idea to have your vehicle winterized. Be prepared with good wiper blades, winter tires, and a strong battery. Have your car systems checked so that your vehicle won't let you down when you need it the most. As a driver you need to be prepared. Plan your driving route ahead by listening to the radio for weather reports and road conditions. Make sure you drive according to the road conditions and remember that "black ice" can be dangerous. Do you have a winter survival kit in your vehicle? If not, why not make up one to include the following: shovel, sand or kitty litter, tow chain, compass, cloth or roll of paper towels, warning light or road flares, extra clothing and foot wear, booster cables, ice scraper and brush, matches and "survival candles", fire extinguisher, extra wind shield washer fluid and some fuel line anti-freeze. Also, don't forget a roadmap, flashlight, first aid kit and a survival blanket. A cell phone just might come in handy too.

For more information, please contact the Emergency Management Coordinator at: 436-2763. Remember PREPARE TODAY FOR A SAFER TOMORROW.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Innisfil Ride for Sight: Mayor Jackson in conjunction with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind is hosting an Innisfil Ride for Sight on August 20, 2006, rain date August 27, 2006. Contact the Mayor, Councillor Wardlaw or the C.N.I.B. for pledge sheets.

Fundraising Golf Tournament: Mayor Jackson and Homelife-Kempfenfelt Kelly Realty Ltd. will be hosting a fundraising golf tournament for the new recreation centre on June 23, 2006 at Innisbrook Golf Club. Contact Lauren Kelly at 436-5111 for tournament details and tickets.

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority: George R. Richardson Conservation Dinner – Friday, April 21, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. – Taking place at Le Parc Conference and Banquet Centre in Concord. The Lake Simcoe Conservation Foundation will hold its popular event to raise funds to help protect and restore Lake Simcoe. For tickets or information, contact 905-967-0112 ext.310.

Gilford & District Lions Club: Mother's Day Breakfast at the Gilford Community Hall – 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Remember our Victoria Day Weekend Fireworks Sale at Trotter's Corner. For Lions information call John Hamilton at 456-3008. For Hall rental information call Brenda Cyzmer at 456-4181.

Mayor's Walk for Health: Join us for the 2nd Annual Mayor's Walk for Health! May 5, 2006 at 12:15 p.m. rain or shine! Dress for the weather! Don't forget sunscreen, hat and umbrella! Get active! Take the first step! For more information call Innisfil Parks & Recreation at 456-4711. Meet at Sobey's in Alcona for a 2 km walk! (2080 Jans Blvd, off Innisfil Beach Road). Prizes & refreshments following walk! Hosted by South East Simcoe Good for Life Committee & the Town of Innisfil.

Innisfil's Pitch-In Day: It is time to start thinking about Innisfil's Annual "Pitch-In Program" which will be held on May 6, 2006. Additional details will be posted on the Town's webpage at www.innisfil.ca.

Innisfil Events Corporation: Rock 'N' Roll Show featuring the "Martels" – Saturday, May 13, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. – Stroud Arena. Contact Gord at 436-5388. Proceeds to the new multi-purpose recreation facility.

Innisfil Events Corporation: Innisfil Summerfest – June 16, 17 & 18, 2006 – Innisfil Beach Park. Proceeds to the new multi-purpose recreation facility.

Friends of South Simcoe Police: Al Kuzmich Memorial Hockey Tournament – March 30 & 31 & April 1 & 2, 2006 – Lefroy Arena. Contact Gord at 436-5388. Proceeds to the new multi-purpose recreation facility.

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

Brian H. Jackson, Mayor, Town of Innisfil