



Message: This newsletter is the first issue for the newly elected Council. There are many major projects and initiatives underway within our community. Please take a moment to review the highlights of some of them as outlined below.

Update on the Construction of the New Recreation Centre: This exciting project remains on schedule for a phased opening this fall. As you drive by you will note that significant progress continues. Portions of the vertical steel structure can be seen from both County Rd. #4 and #21. With the substructures in place, efforts will continue to be concentrated on erecting structure and eventually the roof and building envelope. Site works complete to date are the entry lane and north parking lot which has been paved for ease of construction access and storage over the winter. Photos of construction are available on the "[Photo Journal](#)" link of the Towns Website – www.innisfil.ca .

2007 Interim Property Tax Bill: By now everyone should have received their 2007 Interim Property Tax Bill, which was mailed out in early February. The interim bill represents 50% of your annualized 2006 final taxes and is due in two installments. The first installment is due on Wednesday, February 28, 2007 and the second will be due on Monday, April 30, 2007. 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 in person.

Planning & Development:

Official Plan Update: On July 26, 2006 Council adopted an Official Plan for Innisfil which replaces the 1993 Official Plan. It will provide direction for the Town for the next 20 years. The Plan has been forwarded to the County of Simcoe and we are awaiting its approval.

Growth Management Study: On July 26, 2006 Council gave first reading to Official Plan Amendment #1, which gave approval in principle to increased growth in Innisfil. The remaining readings are being withheld until other studies are done by the County and the Town gets some indication of direction from the Province on the IGAP work. OPA 1 may need changes as a result.

New Staff: The Planning department has hired two additional planners to assist in the processing of the increasing volume of work as Innisfil grows. If you have any questions of a planning or growth nature, please contact our Planning Department.

Building & Inspection Services: Building Permit application submissions continue to come in at a very steady pace, which is still keeping staff very busy. There was a high turnover in staff in 2006, but we are happy to report that we have hired additional staff to assist with the increased workload. Building permit applications are being reviewed in a timely manner which has greatly improved our turn around times for permit issuance.

Two of the major accomplishments achieved by the department in 2006 were the creation of the permit processor position to assist permit applicants complete their submissions, and the appointment of a Registered Code Agency to assist with plans review activities. Both of these new processes were put in place to improve the level of customer service.

On January 1, 2007 the current version of the Ontario Building Code was replaced with a new version of the Ontario Building Code. This new code is designed to improve the health and safety of buildings across the province, there are bound to be some questions and concerns regarding interpretations. We appreciate your patience as we move forward in adapting to the new code.

Parks & Recreation – Program Department. Don't miss out in registering for your Spring/Summer Program! If you have not received your **2007 Spring/Summer Community Recreation Program Guide** pick-up a copy at any Town Facility (arenas, libraries, administrative buildings). We are offering a full array of 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 to check if dates and times are available. For more information call Parks & Recreation at 456-4711.

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. Plan your driving route ahead by listening to the radio for weather reports and road conditions. 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.

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

Town Municipal Water Systems: For information concerning the Annual Summary Reports, please visit the Town's web-site at www.innisfil.ca. Copies may be made available, at no charge, through Customer Service.

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. See By-law 068-06 for details.

Road Rehabilitation Projects for 2007: *Expanded Asphalt:* 5 Sideroad from the 2nd Line to the 4th Line.

Surface Treatment: 14th Line from County Road 4 to 10 Sideroad; 3rd Line from Harbour Road to the lake, 15th Line from Royal Oak Estates west to Town limits; 15th Line 5 Sideroad to Cook St., *Pavement:* Mountbatten – pulverize and pave Willow St. (Lefroy) *Drains:* The Town is continuing to work on the South Innisfil Drain with a New Engineer's Report due out in October 2007; and localized maintenance work on the Carson Municipal Drain. *Maintenance:* The tender process has commenced for our annual maintenance contract to do such works as street sweeping, dust control, gravel, line marking.

Winter Parking & Snow Removal: Our efforts to clear snow from the municipal roads and sidewalks are hampered when vehicles are left on the street and sidewalks. Your vehicle can be tagged or 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.

Walkways and Sidewalks: Pedestrian walkways are NOT maintained for winter operations. The remainder of the sidewalks are cleared by Town crews.

Getting in Touch: Severe weather conditions and other factors may delay our ability to clear all of Innisfil roads of snow and ice. Heavy or drifting snow may re-cover streets before repeat clearing is possible. We ask that you give us time to manage the snowstorm, but if you feel that our crews have missed your street, contact Customer Service at 436-3710.

Provincial Highways, Off Ramps and Weather Conditions: T.W.D., the contractor for the Ministry of Transportation, responsible for winter maintenance and clearing on Provincial Highways may be reached at 725-8450. The Ministry of Transportation phone number is 1-800-265-5407. Also, there are various roads within Innisfil maintained by the County, they may be reached at 705-735-6901 or 1-800-263-3199.

Innisfil Public Library is pleased to announce a new province-wide database that is available to all Innisfil residents. Knowledge Ontario is a suite of online resources that provides access to millions of articles from newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias and other reference books.

This wonderful new resource can be found at the library's website at www.innisfil.library.on.ca. You will need a library card to access the information. A free card may be obtained from any of the library branches: Churchill Branch at 2282 4th Line in Churchill, Cookstown Branch at 19 Queen Street in Cookstown, Lakeshore Branch at 967 Innisfil Beach Road and Stroud Branch at 7883 Yonge Street.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Innisfil's Pitch-In Day: Spring is almost here and it is time to plan for the Annual Pitch-In clean-up to take place May 5, 2007, with school participation the week of April 30 to May 4, 2007. Additional information will be posted on the Town's website. For more information, please contact Kim Creamer at 705-436-3710, ext 233 or email kcreamer@innisfil.ca.

Al Kuzmich Memorial Hockey Tournament: March 29 thru to April 1, 2007 – Lefroy Arena. Contact Gord at 436-5388. Proceeds to the new multi-purpose recreation facility.

Innisfil Community In Blooms: Annual Garden Gala – April 26, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. – Stroud Arena.

Innisfil Events Corporation: Area Productions and Innisfil Community Events Corporation invites you to a David Wilcox concert at the Stroud Arena on April 28, 2007. For ticket information contact 436-5066.

South Simcoe Theatre: 1 Hamilton Street, Cookstown - A Musical Review – My Name is Still Alice - April 19-May 13, 2007.

Cookstown's Wing Ding: June 2nd and 3rd, 2007 – Something for everyone!

Innisfil Events Corporation: Innisfil Summerfest – June 15, 16 & 17, 2007 – Innisfil Beach Park. 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 the Town 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