



Mayor's Message: The Town of Innisfil is embarking on an Official Plan Review and Growth Management Strategy. A consulting team led by Sorensen Gravely Lowes Planning Associates has been retained to prepare this study, which commenced this summer and is to be concluded in May 2006.

An Official Plan is the Town's road map for rural and community development. It provides long-term goals, objectives and policies for community growth, generally for a 20-year timeframe. It sets out a strategy to direct that growth, as well as to protect key elements of the Town's natural and rural environment.

An Official Plan that met the needs of the citizens of our Town many years ago may not meet all the current needs of its residents today. This may be due to many factors including changing demographics, population growth, environmental and heritage concerns, technological advances, or changes in Provincial or County policies. For these reasons, the Town has determined it is time to re-look at our Official Plan and our road map for the future. Public input is a crucial part of determining how we will evolve as a community over the next 20 years. To engage a broad discussion, a number of public workshops/open houses and public meetings will be held to canvass your ideas. The first public event, a Visioning Workshop, was held on September 17th, at the Churchill Community Centre. Over 90 enthusiastic people attended that workshop and told us what they liked about being in Innisfil, noted our community strengths and challenges and provided ideas around our agricultural and rural uses, waterfront and shoreline, employment growth and urban and settlement areas. There will be more workshops held in the late fall and early spring and you are encouraged to participate in these. You can also visit the project website at (<http://www.innisfil.ca/OfficialPlanReview/OfficialPlanReviewUnderway.php>)

In addition to the public workshops and meetings, a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) is being established to assist in the preparation of the Official Plan Review. This Committee will be composed of representatives of public agencies, social service groups, farm organizations, landowners and community groups. The CLC will meet with staff and the consulting team at regular intervals to review the progress of the study and to provide input and local direction to the team.

I encourage all residents and property owners to provide input into this study by attending future meetings and workshops. Please visit the Town's website for further information on how to get involved or contact the Town's Planning Department.

Financial Services: New Property Owners: If you have recently purchased vacant or developed property in the Town, please be aware that you are responsible for property taxes as at the date of ownership. The change of ownership information is provided to the Town on your behalf through the Registry Office and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). However, it may take anywhere from several weeks to several months for these organizations to provide this information to the Town. As a result, it may take quite a while for you to receive any property tax information directly from the Town. Furthermore, if you have constructed or renovated any structures on the property, the resulting increase in your property assessment value will increase the taxes on your improved property. This information is also forwarded to the Town from MPAC and again, may take some time to reach us. In these cases, property taxes are assessed from the date that occupancy was granted. In an effort to avoid any surprises about your property taxes, please feel free to visit the Financial Services Department with your property's deed so that the ownership changes can be made on a timely basis. Furthermore, staff can assist you in estimating your property taxes based upon your purchase information and also explain the convenient pre-authorized payment plans that are available.

Fire Services: Summer has quickly gone by and as we approach fall the Innisfil Fire and Rescue Service asks that as you prepare for the upcoming heating season, please do so with safety in mind. Please make sure that your heating systems are ready for safe and efficient use. If you heat with wood make sure the chimney is clean and in good repair and the wood you burn is clean, dry and well seasoned. This will keep the build-up of creosote to a minimum. Whatever your heat source is - have a qualified technician check it out. We also ask the residents of Innisfil who live on private roads or lanes to keep their roads plowed in the winter. Clear and safe access will enable our large fire trucks to get to your home should our services be needed in an emergency. Also, every property owner should check to make sure their 911 number is clearly visible. Precious time is lost if emergency crews cannot find an address due to a sign missing, damaged or covered up. Please call the Innisfil Fire and Rescue Service at 436-2763. We will be happy to answer your questions and provide fire safety information.

Emergency Preparedness: As we approach winter, it is very important to remember that winter storms and power failures can occur - sometimes with severity. Please make sure you have sufficient items to keep warm; have enough food and water for at least 72 hours; have close at hand phone numbers to help you - just in case. We have all heard about or seen the disastrous outcomes of Hurricane Katrina. We in Innisfil are not insulated from the forces of nature. Any season of the year can be affected by nature's fury - whether it is a tornado, blizzard, wind storm, extreme heat or cold. We must try to be prepared. Remember that safety begins at home. Prepare today for a safer tomorrow. Please call the Town's Emergency Management Coordinator at 436-2763 for more Preparedness Information

Planning & Development

Innisfil Beach Road Improvements: The improvements to Innisfil Beach road have started and the construction is moving along smoothly. Just remember to drive defensively and courteously through the detours. We have had complaints about speed and failing to stop, and the police will be monitoring the situation. We all want to avoid accidents. Remember that the downtown Alcona stores are open throughout the construction period. Please continue to support the merchants.

Alcona Urban Design Guidelines

The Town has started to work on preparing Urban Design Guidelines for the Alcona downtown area. These guidelines will help shape the face of Alcona, and the public will be invited to attend open houses and make comments. This is the opportunity for you to have your input on the streetscape of Innisfil Beach Road.

Innisfil/Bradford West Gwillimbury Water Supply

If you've traveled along the 20th Sideroad in the past few weeks, you would know that construction continues on the watermain which will supply water to Bradford West Gwillimbury. The work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. You can view the progress, and any notices or other information, at the project website (<http://www.ibwgwater.ca/index.php>), or contact the Town office.

Road Services: **Garbage & Recycling:** The following dates are special pick-up dates. Please see County calendar for details:

October 11-15/05 – Metal Pickup (Max. 5 Items)

November 14-19/05 – Brush Collection

October 24-28/05 – Leaf & Yard Waste Collection

November 21-26/05 – Leaf & Yard Waste Collection

January 23-27/06 – Christmas Tree Collection (must be at the curbside by 7:00 am on Monday of your collection week)

Roads: All work within the Town right-of-way, including alterations to entranceways which include paving requires Town approval. Also, any work on a road allowance requires a Road Occupancy Permit (R.O.P.) which is available at Customer Service. When piling snow at the end of your driveway, please place the majority of it on the left side if standing on the road looking at your house. This will reduce the amount of snow that could be plowed into your driveway during snow removal operations. In the winter, children should not play on snow banks or snow piles in the centre of cul-de-sacs as it is hard for the plow operators to see them if they are tunneling or hidden. Also please take care when passing or travelling behind snow plows as visibility is a concern and they may have to stop or make a sudden turn to avoid a hidden or parked object.

Parks & Recreation – Program Department Watch for our 2006 WINTER Community Recreation Program Guide in your mailbox the week of November 14th. Resident registration starts November 29th. We would like to encourage all residents to use our on-line registration inn-touch@nnisfil.ca. All you need is a Family Pin number, Client Barcode and Visa or Master card. If you have not received a Family Pin number and a Client Barcode and wish to register online please call the Parks & Recreation office at 705-456-4711 Mon. – Fri. 8:30 am - 4:30 pm and we would be more than happy to assign one to you. We thank you for using our online registration and we look forward to hearing from you with your comments or concerns.

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 is available. For more information call 705-456-4711.

OTHER NEWS

Reminder to all residents: There is NO PARKING on any streets from 3:00 – 6:00 a.m. from November 1st to May 1st.

2005 Dragon Boat Team: For the first time, the staff and Council of the Town of Innisfil, Innisfil Public Library Board staff and South Simcoe Police Service staff organized a team for entry into the 2005 Barrie Dragon Boat Festival held at the Barrie Waterfront on Saturday August 27th. The team finished second in their first heat, including a defeat of the City of Barrie team and finished 19th overall out of 62 teams. In the second and final round, the Team battled high winds and rough waters to finish 7th in the “Silver Division”. This is a fantastic result for a first year team! Plans will soon be underway for the 2006 entry into the Festival. As part of the festival participation, the “Brake Free” team raised \$4,239.59 for the new Cancer Care Facility at Barrie’s Royal Victoria Hospital through BBQ’s, a Car Wash and sponsorships. Many thanks to everyone in the community who assisted the team with supporting this very worthy cause.

Holiday Hours: The Town of Innisfil Municipal Office will be closed through the week of December 26th to 30th, 2005, with regular office hours resuming on Monday 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 during this time frame can be made by dropping your payments off in the drop box located at the front entrance of the Municipal offices. Collection of these payments will be made on a regular basis.

Block Parent Program: This program is up and running again in the Town of Innisfil. Interested residents are asked to contact Chris or Jessie Nowell at 705-436-5663 for further information. Existing block parents are also asked to contact them to confirm their continued interest and to upgrade and replace signs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cookstown Light Up Night: November 4th, 2005.

St. Peter’s Anglican Church: Annual Christmas Bazaar, November 5th, 2005, Stroud Banquet Hall, 9-3 pm. Gifts for all ages, baked goods and a lunch room. Limited table space for lease at \$25. Send inquires & registration to 705-458-0748. Proceeds to general Church fund.

Cookstown Santa Claus Parade: December 3rd, 2005.

Innisfil Santa Claus Parade: December 11th, 2005 – 2:00 pm, Innisfil Beach Road.

Gilford & District Lions Club Boxing Day Breakfast at the Gilford Community Hall. For information call John Hamilton at 705-456-3008. For hall rental information call Brenda Cyzmer at 705-456-4181.

Innisfil Winterfest Innisfil Beach Park, February 17th to 19th, 2006. Further details to following closer to event.

Your comments are important to us and hope you appreciate this information. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.