

RYERSON TOWNSHIP - WHERE LIFE, HISTORY & NATURE ARE BRIDGED
NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2011

Municipal Offices & Garage are located at 28 Midlothian Road (corner of Midlothian Rd and Highway 520). Office hours are: Mon. to Fri. 8:30 - 4:00 (closed for lunch). Mailing address is R. R. # 1, Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0. Phone: (705) 382-3232; Fax: (705) 382-3286; Garage: (705) 382-3822.

E-mail address: admin@ryersontownship.ca. Please visit our **web site** at www.ryersontownship.ca
If you have a business in the Township that you would like posted please contact Bill Booth at Serviceworks 705 384-0833 or serviceworks@almaguin.com

REEVE: Glenn Miller 705 382-2898; **COUNCILLORS:** Rosalind Hall 705 382-5102, Barbara Marlow (Deputy Reeve) 705 382-2205, George Sterling 705 382-1761, Doug Weddel 705 382-9060.

Normally, **COUNCIL MEETINGS** are held at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month, at the Municipal Office. Call the office or check web site regarding summer schedule. Everyone welcome. If you wish to be on the agenda you must do so by 4 pm. on the Thursday preceding the meeting.

The Township is registered for **TAX PAYMENTS** with the following banks if you wish to pay by Internet or telephone banking: Royal, Canada Trust/TD, Scotia, Montreal, CIBC and Credit Union Central. We are **not** registered with the banks for over the counter or bank machine payments.

Great News !! The History Book, A Tribute to Ryerson Township is available at the Municipal Office. Price: \$31.50 including H.S.T. postage and handling charges will apply if mailing.

The **18th ANNUAL GARAGE & CRAFT SALE** will be held **Saturday June 25, 2011**, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. It's a chance to buy a hot dog & pop served by your Council, meet your neighbours and check out the bargains. Vendors - there is no charge, but please contact the office, so that we can keep track of how many vendors will be there.

The **Official Plan** is now in effect except for those areas affected by the appeal. The parts now in effect include general matters and also those parts of the plan which apply to ninety percent plus, of the township which were not designated Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW), Floodplain, or Magnetawan River Development Area (MRDA). The decision from the Ontario Municipal Board hearing held in November 2010 is now posted on the web site.

Council has passed By-law 7-11 to extend By-law 6-10 being an **Interim Control By-law**. This by-law controls development and changes in use of properties in the proposed Magnetawan River Flood Plain Area.

A Draft Comprehensive Zoning By-law has been developed. Further information and copies of the draft are available on the web site or at the office. Up-dating and completion of the Zoning By-law is planned for this year.

The **Animal Control and By-law Enforcement Officer** is Jim Mahoney 705 382-0503. **Almaguin Animal Shelter** 705 386-0020. Dog Licenses now due: **All dogs require tags** - these are available at the Township Office. \$6.00 for the first dog, \$10.00 for second. A rabies clinic will be scheduled for early June, watch the web site and local paper for details.

For the **Building Department** contact Brian Dumas or Tyler Irwin at 705 384-9444.

Emergency Preparedness: Be prepared for emergencies. You are reminded to listen for severe weather warnings on local radio or television. Check our web site under Information & Notices for information on "Your Emergency Preparedness Guide".

Landfill: A **pink landfill pass** is required to enter the landfill site. Hours are noted on the back of the card. Remember to use your bag tags on all bags of garbage. Additional tags cost \$1.00 each. New tags will be mailed prior to July 1st please do not throw the tags away, and remember to bring them up to the cottage! This is a reminder that there is no municipal garbage collection in the Township. All garbage must go to the landfill site. If you are renting out your home or cottage, or family or friends are using your place, please let them know the requirements and leave a pink card for their use. By-law 6-99 prohibits the dumping of garbage on public roads and other municipal property. The maximum fine is \$5,000.00. Council appreciates your co-operation in keeping our roadsides "green".

Over the past year the landfill has seen many changes. Two new monitoring wells to analyze ground and surface water and two sand mantles to filter runoff, were installed to proactively control leachate. The TRI R Committee, with assistance from Waste Diversion Ontario, purchased a new cardboard baler and skid steer. With your assistance, the recycling program was able to divert 340 tonnes of Blue Box material from the landfill. Hazmat Days will be at the Strong landfill in Sundridge. Dates and hours for these days will be posted at your municipal office and website, the landfill and in the local paper. Remember Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

The Tri-R Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., at Armour Township, public welcome.

Fire Department:

Fire Prevention Officer John Stark of the Burk's Falls & District Fire Department is urging families in the Township of Ryerson to remind all members in your household to BE AWARE and make sure all cigarettes are properly extinguished and the stove is off before going to bed.

Alcohol and fire are a dangerous mix.

Many fire deaths are caused by people trying to cook or smoke while under the influence of alcohol.

Cigarettes can smoulder among upholstery cushions for hours before igniting. Check sofas and chairs for cigarettes that may have fallen between the cushions.

Install smoke alarms on every storey and outside sleeping areas. If occupants smoke in bedrooms, install smoke alarms inside the bedrooms as well.

Test smoke alarms every month and replace the batteries at least once per year.

It is also a good idea to have a properly installed carbon monoxide detector.

There's more to responsible drinking than taking a cab.

DON'T PUT YOURSELF --- OR YOUR FAMILY --- AT RISK OF FIRE.

For more information contact: Fire Prevention Officer John Stark. Phone 705 382-2611 or e-mail bfdfd@bellnet.ca

Ensure that your **private road and driveway** and decorative gateways are kept clear (at least 12' x12') to allow emergency vehicles safe access, if you have a **locked gate** please contact the fire department at 705 382-2611 to make arrangements to provide the department with a key

NO OUTDOOR BURNING IS ALLOWED BETWEEN 10 A.M. & 6 P.M. Small fires are allowed after 6 p.m., if conditions are safe & precautions are followed per By-law 19-03. Copies are available at the office.

NO OPEN AIR BURNING IS ALLOWED WHEN A FIRE BAN IS IN EFFECT

Notices:

Did you know ... that the speed limit in the Township is **80 km/hr** unless posted otherwise and there are several areas where the speed limit is posted at **50 km/hr** ... the Township road department follows Minimum Maintenance Standards (MMS) in maintaining the roads. Check the web site to see the MMS document, or obtain a copy at the office.

Council has concerns regarding missing road signs. This is a serious problem as it can waste precious seconds for emergency crews responding and possibly getting lost if road name signs are missing. In addition these signs are very costly to purchase and take time to install. We would appreciate everyone's cooperation in reporting missing signs, or if you happen to see signs or posts thrown away on roadsides or private property.

Municipalities have a responsibility under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act to provide barrier-free services to persons with disabilities. Our Accessibility Plan is available on the web site or you may obtain a copy from the office. Please let us know if you have suggestions on how we can improve policies, practices and procedures to better serve persons with disabilities.

Volunteers Needed: Do you have time in the summer to volunteer a few hours per week at the Museum located at 112 Midlothian Road? If so, please contact the office.

Almaguin Highlands Health Centre Information and Public Questionnaire

We are all aware of the drastic reduction of needed health care services in our area. These services that have been withdrawn are seriously affecting the health and welfare of our residents. At present x-ray, physiotherapy and blood services are still available at the Burk's Falls Health Centre. These services too, are in danger of being withdrawn or the hours of operation dramatically reduced, if they are not more fully utilized. If this happens we will need to travel to Huntsville, North Bay or Parry Sound to receive these services.

Over the past year and a half various organizations and individuals have been attempting to return our hospital beds and the Urgent Care facility to the Burk's Falls Health Centre. Elected representatives from local councils and lake associations have been meeting with various provincial government officials to try and bring this about. It has become obvious that we will have to present the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN) with a formal business plan to achieve our goals. We believe this plan will have to be locally sponsored and produced, and unique to the province, in order to give us the best chance of opening a new Community Health Centre which will address the local needs of both permanent and seasonal residents.

While there is a long way to go and success is not guaranteed, we believe the residents of this area deserve our best efforts. Towards that end we will be producing regular information newsletters like this one, in order to keep everyone informed and to get your needed input. We will be approaching our local doctors, other health care providers and the public in an attempt to get as wide a range of suggestions as possible to identify needed health services. We will be hosting public meetings throughout the Highlands over the next six months as we put together this plan to forward to the NE LHIN. If anyone has views which they wish to send to us before or during the time public meetings are being held, they should be sent or taken in writing to the office of any local municipality or sent by email to our website feedback@almaguin-health.org. It would be helpful if you could indicate on any correspondence which municipality you live in and whether you reside in a rural area or a Village.

Please comment on the following and if you wish, add any other ideas you may have:

How could health care in this area be improved?

What effect, if any has the closing of the local health centre had on you or your family?

During the past two years, how often has a family member needed to visit an Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Room?

What other health-related services (aside from Urgent Care) would you like to see be a part of a Community Health Centre?

In addition to public sessions and newsletter updates, we will soon be providing information through our web site, www.almaguin-health.org.