

**TOWNSHIP OF MACHAR
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 25, 2021**

Call to Order, Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof; Mayor Lynda Carleton with respect to 6 as she works for the applicant's solicitor.

Council present: Mayor Lynda Carleton, Deputy Mayor Ron McLaren, Councillors Blair Flowers, Bart Wood and Neil Scarlett. Staff present: Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul.

Guests scheduled: Elizabeth Bradley, Stephanie Apollonio. Guests observing: John Mowat, Marv Nolan, Pearl Ivens.

The meeting was conducted by teleconference as ON Premier Doug Ford declared a 2nd Provincial Emergency on Jan 12, 2021 to address the 2nd Covid-19 Wave. This action comes as a measure to help curb the rising Covid-19 cases and deaths across the Province by targeting the reduction in levels of mobility. Highlights from the announcement:

As of Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 12:01 am a stay-at-home order comes into effect requiring everyone in Ontario to remain at home with exceptions for essential purposes (ie. trips to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care, for exercise, or essential work).

Individuals are now required to wear a mask or face covering in the indoor areas of businesses or organizations that are open. Additionally, a mask is now recommended outdoors when physical distancing of 2 metres is not possible. Outdoor organized public gatherings and social gatherings will be restricted to a maximum of 5 persons with limited exceptions.

The enhanced public health and workplace safety measures are in effect for all of Ontario and are anticipated to be in place until at least Thu, Feb 11, 2021. General Public Health Measures for all Businesses, Organizations and Facilities are updated to Work from Home Except Where Necessary. Each person responsible for a business or organization that is open shall ensure that any person who performs work for the business or organization conducts their work remotely, with limited exception, where the nature of their work requires them to be on-site at the workplace.

GUESTS

ELCA representatives presentation Short Term Lakefront Rentals

Draft of the cottage guidelines presented further to discussions on Dec 14, 2020; Show Your Love: A Guide to Treating Your Lake and Neighbours Right. The draft lists 1-7 ways to keep our lakes healthy, safe and enjoyable for all. Draft reviewed and discussed. We plan to insert it with Interim tax bills on the reverse side of our Quick Reference Guide for Property Owners/Renters. Quick Reference Guide to be sent to ELCA reps for their information. ELCA reps to add graphics to their Show Your Love Guide.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Jan 11, 2020 minutes, Resolution

9-21 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we adopt Jan 11, 2021 minutes. CARRIED

2. 2021 Spring Newsletter and inserts

1st draft of the 2021 Spring Newsletter reviewed. Section on mailboxes has been added. Hazmat dates provided, May 29 from 10-2 and Aug 28 from 10-2 subject to Covid-19 changes. Write up received from Bray Lake citizen regarding a new and troublesome vegetation talks about Eurasian Milfoil. Council approved the information be generalized for inclusion in the Newsletter. 2nd draft to come back with changes indicated. Inserts to be included in the Interim tax bill with the 2021

Spring Newsletter; Quick Reference Guide for Property Owners/Renters and Show Your Love: A Guide to Treating your Lake and Neighbours Right on the reverse, Recyclable Items List (1/3 page).

3. Almaguin Adult Learning request for Municipal Covid Relief Funding

Approved \$200.

4. Explore South River Project Goes Digital

News release announcing partnership funding to bring Explore South River online and into the palm of the hand of visitors and residents. The Explore South River project brings together the communities of South River and Machar to document the stories of the region, while highlighting local small businesses and things to do through an interactive map. Project funding made available through DMS (Digital Main Street) Lab will enable development of an online version of the map as well as recordings of the stories which can be accessed throughout the region via QR code.

5. E Parry Sound Community Support Services Isolation Kits for Residents

Funding received from the Province of Ontario for Covid-19 relief for residents in East Parry Sound. EPSCSS wanted to create something that could be distributed evenly throughout the district to those who are most vulnerable/at risk of isolation. More specifically, frail seniors and those with disabilities, especially those who are living rurally who would be at risk of running out of certain supplies that are essential to daily living. Isolation kits will be available the 1st week of Feb. EPSCSS wants to assign a certain number of bags to each municipality and will need to know whether the client is over or under 65 years of age and a generic report with the street/road they live on. EPSCSS will need to know who from the municipality will be responsible for the distribution and reporting. Anyone that knows someone is asked to contact our Municipal Office. There will be more Isolation Kits available for distribution in the near future, but they need to get the initial 200 out first.

6. Request 5-116/7 for Deeming By-Law to consolidate lots, Resolution

Owners have done a pre-consult with our planner. The 1st step is to complete a Deeming By-Law to deem the 2 subject properties not to be within a Plan of Subdivision. This will allow the 2 properties to be consolidated. The 2nd step is to apply for a Minor Variance. The 3rd step is to purchase the Lakeshore Road Allowance. Owners' request has been received to complete a Deeming By-Law.

10-21 Wood, Flowers

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to By-Law No. 4-21; pursuant to Section 50(4) of the Planning Act with regard to Lots 6 and 7, Plan M178 (5-116/7). CARRIED

COMMITTEES

7. Machar Public Works minutes of Jan 14, 2021, Resolution

11-21 McLaren, Scarlett

THAT we approve Public Works minutes of Jan 14, 2021 including net Landfill Budget of \$179,551 representing a 1.8% increase and Road Budget of \$1,949,600 representing a 2.3% increase, subject to overall Township budgetary requirements. CARRIED

- **Parks and Cemeteries Contracts update, Resolution**

Renewed for 2021 and 2022 at the same rate as 2020.

12-21 Wood, Flowers

THAT we authorize the Mayor and Clerk Administrator to execute the Parks and Cemeteries Contracts as negotiated with Claridge Maintenance for 2021 and 2022. CARRIED

8. Shared Services Monthly Reports for Dec; Arena and Fire

Arena Manager's Report, Income Statement, AP Ledger for Dec received. Income Statement to Dec 31 reflects Revenues at 91.02% (\$18,793.52 less than Budget) and Expenses at 87.31% (\$47,241.49 less than Budget). There will be some year end adjustments. Council were apprised that Arena was over paid for 2020. We requested the over payment be returned and it has been received.

Fire AP Ledger and Income Statement for Dec received. Fire Chief's Report for Dec not received. Clerk Administrator has inquired, but no reply yet. Income Statement to Dec 31 reflects Revenue at 101.70% (\$3,896.70 more than Budget) and Expenses at 84.60% (\$62,787.18 less than Budget). There will be some year end adjustments, but hopefully these tentative results are close.

9. 2021 Fire and Arena Budget Meeting (see Notice at end of Agenda)

South River has set aside Jan 26 at 6 pm to review 2021 proposed budgets. Preliminary numbers were received for Fire and Arena. A separate package has been provided for the meeting.

10. District of Parry Sound Social Services Quarterly Report Jan 2021 - available

INFORMATION

- 11. Town of Plympton-Wyoming Resolution** – That the Province of Ontario work with the Federal Minister of Transportation to address concerns regarding municipal drainage matters and need for coordination with the national railways.
- 12. ENDM** – TBC Grand Opportunities Fund is now open. It provides successful applicants with a grant of \$1000 towards one-time professional services that will aid in businesses recovery or adaptations to the business operations and/or revenue streams. Applications are due: Feb 1, 2021.
- 13. FONOM's Third Video of Our GoNorth Campaign** – Now complete, you can find the video at <https://youtu.be/gkEeQSnLHnA>.
- 14. AMO WatchFile Jan 14, 2021, In This Issue** –
 - AMO signs MOU with Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres.
 - The Rural Economic Development program now open.
 - Don't regret missing ROMA 2021.
 - Second chance for Energy Reporting.
 - Municipal Group Buying Program balloons to 150 participants!
 - Careers: Simcoe, Durham, Amherstburg, Nipigon, Algonquin Highlands & Machin.
- 15. AMO Watchfile Jan 21, 2021, In This Issue** –
 - Professional Engineers Ontario adopts Notarius digital signatures.
 - ROMA 2021 Conference.
 - Important information for registered ROMA delegates!
 - Notice of OSUM 2021 Annual Conference cancellation.
 - Automotive Parts Supply: Municipal Group Buying webinar.
 - Overcoming boredom during lockdown - LAS must-see shows.
 - Kraft Hockeyville nominations open: Deadline to submit your story is February 14.
 - Careers: Springwater, Sarnia, Brock, Amherstburg and London.
- 16. FCM Voice** – A year like no other, watch FCM's 2020 year in review. It's time to grow our national voice, there's strength in numbers, and every FCM member is key. FCM tops federal lobbying list, logging 60 disclosure filings that cited priorities around housing, infrastructure, and transportation. CEDI: a powerful way to get things done. Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) infographic-style summary of the amazing collaboration taking place between First Nations and municipalities.
- 17. FCM Voice** – Simon Fraser University's Renewable Cities program has been selected to establish the newest Centre in the Low Carbon Cities Canada (LC3) network. Funded by a \$21.7 million endowment from our federal partners, the Metro Vancouver LC3 Centre will identify, finance and scale up local climate solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Webinar: The five keys to a green municipal project business case. FCM: Strength in numbers. Promoting rail safety this winter. COVID-19 Street Rebalancing Guide.
- 18. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare, Essential Visitation Suspended Amidst Boil Water Advisory** – Essential visitation was cancelled on Sun, Jan 10 following a widespread municipal water interruption in the Town of Bracebridge that necessitated a boil water advisory. SMMH Site (South Muskoka Memorial Hospital-Bracebridge) remains closed to essential visitation except for

compassionate reasons for a palliative patient until such time as the boil water advisory is lifted and the hospital's water supply is stable. Some procedures were rescheduled due to the water interruption and patients were contacted directly if there were changes to their appointments.

19. **2021 Census of Population** – Will take place in May 2021, support to increase awareness of the census among residents of your community.
20. **Ontario Heritage Trust, Jan 2021, Heritage Matters** – Reconnecting Ontarians: A white paper. Remembering Tom Symons (1929-2021), served as Chair of the Ontario Heritage Trust from 2010 to 2017. Getting ready for Black History Month. Exploring new perspectives of our natural heritage properties.
21. **Notice of Electronic (Virtual) Public Meeting Proposed Zoning By-Law Amendment** – A Council-initiated Zoning By-Law Amendment is being processed which effects any lot abutting a municipally-owned but seasonally-maintained road in the Township of Joly, District of Parry Sound. The Purpose of the Zoning By-Law Amendment is to add provisions to the Joly Township Zoning By-law to permit one seasonal cottage on any lot abutting a municipally-owned road, seasonally-maintained by Joly Township.
22. **MNR, Invitation to Participate: Solid Wood Bioheat Webinar Series** – This six-part webinar series will introduce participants to some of the key considerations for using solid woody fuels for heating in Ontario, will run weekly from Feb 4 to Mar 11, 2021. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry will be making posts about the webinars over the coming weeks.

INFORMATION – COVID-19

23. **Municipality of Charlton and Dack, Resolution: Insurance Premiums** – Especially large increases going into 2021, association of Municipalities of Ontario outlined seven recommendations, establish a provincial and municipal working group to put forward recommendations to the Attorney General.
24. **United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Resolution** – That the Province of Ontario allow for small businesses to immediately reopen with the required health guidelines and protocols in place.
25. **North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, COVID-19 Outbreak at Lakeland Long-Term Care Home** – Parry Sound. Aligning with the Ministry of Health guidelines for an outbreak in the long-term care home, outbreak is declared with a single laboratory-confirmed case in a resident or staff member of a long-term care home. The individual who tested positive is a staff member. The individual is currently in isolation and individuals who are high-risk contacts have been contacted by the Health Unit and are self-isolating.
26. **North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit** – (Health Unit) is seeing a significant increase in the number of the individuals testing positive for COVID-19. Dr. Jim Chirico, Medical Officer of Health will address the public about the rise in cases.
27. **North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Updates on COVID-19 Vaccine** – Waiting for confirmation on local distribution, province is currently in phase one of the three-phase vaccine distribution implementation plan, that was launched in Dec. When the Health Unit receives the COVID-19 vaccine the priority will be given to residents, staff and essential care givers of long-term care homes, retirement homes and other congregate care settings for seniors. Once we have additional information about the local availability of the COVID-19 vaccine the Health Unit will let the public know.
28. **North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, COVID-19 Outbreak at Eastholme Home for the Aged** – The individual who tested positive is a staff member at the long-term care home. The individual is currently in isolation and individuals who are high-risk contacts have been contacted by the Health Unit and are self-isolating.
29. **North Bay Parry Sound Health Unit Confirms No COVID-19 Risk to the White Woods School Community** – Two members of the White Woods school community tested positive for COVID-19 last week while schools were closed and students were online learning. There is no risk to the White Woods school community and the individuals are self-isolating at home.
30. **North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Closes Outdoor Public Skating Rinks and Tobogganing Hills** – On public property across the district to be closed, effective Jan 14, 2021. This closure is done under the Medical Officer of Health's ability to increase restrictions within their district. We have been told to stay home and we need to do this. "Skating rinks and tobogganing hills are locations where we have seen a lot of individuals gather without physical distancing and many times without face coverings. While enjoying these amenities COVID-19 restrictions may get forgotten and put our community at risk."

- 31. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, COVID-19 Vaccine Update** – The Ministry of Health has announced that vaccination of residents, staff and essential caregivers of long-term care homes has begun in many parts of the Province, with the goal of having the first dose administered in all homes no later than Feb 15, 2021. Due to a limited supply of vaccines, areas of the province that have been impacted the most by COVID-19 have received the initial doses. The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit (Health Unit) has not received confirmation, to date, as to the type of vaccine, the number of doses or when the vaccine will be available in the district. It is expected that more information will be coming soon. The first groups within our district to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, when available, are:
- Residents, staff, essential caregivers (including family caregivers) and other employees in congregate living settings for seniors (Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, etc.)
 - Health care workers, including hospital employees, staff who work or study in hospitals and health care personnel
 - Adults in First Nations, Metis and Inuit populations
 - Adult recipients of chronic home health care
- 32. MOH** – Formal notification to member municipalities, closure of public skating rinks and tobogganing hills in the Health Unit’s service area.
- 33. North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Closes OFSC Snowmobile Trails** – Effective Jan 21, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. for the duration of the Stay-at-Home Order and will be reassessed at such time. Have received many complaints about people travelling from other districts to use the local snowmobile trails, thus putting our district at risk of COVID-19. Also seeing groups of snowmobilers congregating on trails, in parking lots and other locations not maintaining a two-metre distance and exceeding the gathering limits.” On Jan 12, 2021, the province of Ontario announced the change in outdoor gathering limits from 10 to five. Individuals must maintain a two-metre physical distance from people they do not live with. Individuals who live alone are allowed to be in close contact with one unique home, but must physically distance with anyone who does not live in that home. Face coverings are also recommended to be worn outdoors.
- 34. MOH** – Formal notification regarding the Health Unit directive to close Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club trails for the duration of the Stay at Home Order by the Province.
- 35. ENDM** – The New Ontario Business Supports Grant is now open. The grant is to help small businesses that are required to close or significantly restrict services under the new Provincewide Shutdown. The government’s new Ontario Small Business Support Grant will provide a minimum of \$10,000 and up to \$20,000 to help eligible small business owners during this challenging period. Small businesses required to close or significantly restrict services will be able to apply for this one-time grant. Each eligible small business will be able to use the support in whatever way makes the most sense for their individual business. For example, some businesses will need support paying employee wages or rent, while others will need assistance maintaining their inventory. Eligible small businesses include those that:
- Are required to close or significantly restrict services due to the Provincewide Shutdown, which began at 12:01 a.m. on Dec 26;
 - Have fewer than 100 employees at the enterprise level; and
 - Have experienced a minimum of 20 per cent revenue decline in Apr 2020 compared to Apr 2019.
- <https://app.grants.gov.on.ca/msrf/#/>
- 36. ENDM** – The Equine Hardship Program, will provide individual businesses offering horse related experiences up to \$2,500 per horse up to a maximum of \$20,000 in financial support to help cover direct costs for feed, water, veterinary care and farrier services needed to maintain horses. This includes conditional financial support to equine experience-based businesses, like riding lessons, summer riding camps, carriage rides, equine-based therapy and trail rides, that are facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 related business losses. The Equine Hardship Program will provide funding to eligible businesses that have experienced a significant decrease in business revenue and have continued to incur certain animal maintenance cost that they regularly rely onto operate.
- 37. Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce** – Considering recent changes to Ontario’s pandemic response, the Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Community Economic Development (ACED) department is reaching out to businesses in the region to provide support. Offering to promote any efforts being made by local businesses to continue marketing available products or services, according to health and safety measures. ACED have created a brief survey on Survey Monkey to capture changes in your regular hours/routine which can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Almaguin-open-for-business>. ACED will strive to add

business updates on the following webpage as they receive the survey responses. The webpage updates can be found here: <https://investalmaguin.ca/open-for-business/>.

- 38. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare** – Teleconference with Political Leaders Minutes, Jan 8, 2021.
- 39. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare, Restricts Visitors as public Ordered to Stay Home** – MAHC has restricted general visitation to both hospitals in line with the stay-at-home order. No visitors are permitted with a few exceptions on a case-by-case basis for compassionate reasons. Exceptions for visiting include special situations (obstetrical patients who may have one support person during labour) and compassionate circumstances (palliative, critical patients). If you have a family member or friend currently in either of MAHC's hospital sites, you can bring a smile to their face by using our complimentary best wishes service to get a message delivered to their bedside through a form on our website at <https://www.mahc.ca/BestWishes/>. At the time of this release, outpatient clinics, appointments and elective surgery continues. This could change.
- 40. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare COVID-19 Update for Leaders, Jan 19, 2021** – There are currently no positive patient cases or staff cases at either of MAHC's sites. This figure continues to be updated weekdays on our website at www.mahc.ca/COVID-19. *Patient care & surge capacity planning:*
- Inpatient occupancy continues to be high and could become a challenge as more COVID cases are detected locally. COVID investigation continues to regularly impact patient flow and occupancy due to the isolation requirements from screening, which has continued to place an isolation load on staff.
 - For the past week, occupancy has averaged 120% across both sites.
 - Hospitals throughout the province, particularly in the GTA, are grappling with significant capacity issues due to soaring COVID case counts, and hospitals across Ontario have been directed to support the greater hospital system by accepting and accommodating patient transfers from over-burdened hospitals. This means MAHC is now receiving and providing care to patients from elsewhere in the province despite our own high occupancy.
 - In response to untenable capacity issues, effective Thu, Jan 21, 2021, MAHC Surgical Services will begin to ramp down to 80% volume to create bed capacity and staffing across both sites. All surgical specialties are equally affected and surgeon's offices are prioritizing patients.
- COVID-19 Vaccination:*
- A first phase of Immunization rollout by the Barrie immunization Clinic enabled nearly 45% or more than 400 MAHC staff and credentialed staff to receive their first dose of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine earlier this month. Second doses will be administered by the month's end. In line with provincial direction to focus immunization efforts on the most vulnerable high-risk priority group, MAHC completed the first dose vaccination of 20 ALC patients on Jan 18 as directed by the Barrie Immunization Clinic. We continue to await word on additional immunization phases.
- Assessment Centre:*
- The MAHC-operated Bracebridge Assessment Centre behind the South Muskoka site continues to see steady traffic with an average of 70 visits per day. Up to and including Jan 18, the assessment centre has completed nearly 800 swabs.
- 41. Almaguin Highlands Chamber of Commerce, Update Jan 2021** – Latest COVID-19 Support Summaries, for further details contact us almaguinhighlandschamber@gmail.com. New! Ontario Small Business Support Grant (Prov). Canada-Ontario COVID-19 Beef Emergency Feed Maintenance Initiative (Fed/Prov). SNAPP (RAIN) (Fed). Agri-food Workplace Protection Program (Fed). COVID-19 and the Food Industry (Fed). Destination Canada's Guide for Tourism Operators. Provincial Small business recovery resources. Provincial COVID-19: Help for businesses in Ontario. Provincial COVID-19 Response Framework. TBC Grand Opportunities Fund.
- 42. BAO, Notice to the Profession: Bereavement sector cares for those who have died well within capacity** – Even as the second wave of the pandemic reaches new heights in infection numbers. It's important to note that the death rate from COVID-19 continues to be lower than it was during the first wave last spring. During the current province-wide lockdown all funeral services are restricted to a maximum of 10 attendees at one time, not counting funeral staff.
- 43. Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO)** – Is introducing a Modified Expedition Death Response (MEDR) Plan as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread. The past month has seen a startling increase in the number of infections of COVID-19, with a death toll that is climbing steadily. We remain confident that the bereavement sector has the capacity to cope with these increases without the need for drastic or extraordinary measures, such as refrigeration trucks or make-shift storage facilities. *This confidence is contingent on two factors:*
1. That decedents are transferred from the place of death into the care of a funeral professional and then to disposition expeditiously; and

2. That the sector does not lose funeral homes or their staff due to infection.
Funeral establishments and transfer service operators:
 1. Funeral/transfer staff must attend at hospitals and long-term care (LTC) facilities within six (6) hours of being advised that the decedent is ready for release.
 2. Funeral/transfer staff will go inside the hospital/LTC if required and remove the decedent. (This is a change from the former EDR protocols in the first wave.)
- Keeping yourself and your staff health:*
1. Remember to clean and disinfect all equipment and surfaces rigorously. If something can't be cleaned or disposed of, don't use it, i.e. – a stretcher or body pouch cover.
 2. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times.
 3. Screen your staff, remember, people age 20-29 represent the largest number of infections by age group. Forty-two percent of COVID-19 positive people show no symptoms.
 4. The restrictions for visitations and services remain in effect: Max 10, scheduled visitations with no cycling of guests; 15-minute cleaning break between periods; guest logging for contact tracing and physical distancing must be enforced; and, everyone must wear a mask or face covering. Cemeteries, all cemeteries have been directed to continue burials as long as cemetery managers determine that ground conditions remain safe to do so. Interments are to proceed without delay to prevent storage and identification problems, and stockpiling.
- 44. AMO Policy Update, New Lock Down Measures and New CSWB Plan Deadline** – Elementary school closure extension and emergency child care extension. As COVID-19 cases are currently increasing throughout the province, the Ontario government is extending certain public health measures extending the shutdown in Northern Ontario for another 14 days, aligning with the shutdown period in Southern Ontario until at least Jan 23, 2021. In-person learning will be deferred to Jan 25, 2021 in Southern Ontario. Elementary students and secondary students in the seven Northern Ontario public health unit regions will proceed with returning to in-person learning on Jan 11, 2021. Trying to be responsive to the fact Northern Ontario students are not able to learn at home as effectively due to limited access to reliable Internet service. Trends have continued to worsen in both Northern and Southern Ontario.
- 45. AMO Policy Update, New COVID-19 Provincial Emergency Declared, Updated COVID Modelling, and CA Working Group** – Second Provincial Emergency declared to address the 2nd COVID-19 wave that will be effective immediately, action comes as a measure to help curb the rising COVID-19 cases and deaths across the Province by targeting the reduction in the levels of mobility.
- As of Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., a stay-at-home order comes into effect requiring everyone in Ontario to remain at home with exceptions for essential purposes (i.e., trips to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care, for exercise, or essential work.)
 - Individuals are now required to wear a mask or face covering in the indoor areas of businesses or organizations that are open. Additionally, a mask is now recommended outdoors when physical distancing of two metres is not possible.
- COVID-19 Science Advisory Table Update, provides compelling data on the people and health care system impacts if these trends continue unchecked.*
- Over the last 4 weeks 72.2% increase in COVID hospitalizations, 61.2% increase in COVID ICU patients.
 - Almost 40% of long-term care homes have active COVID-19 outbreaks.
 - COVID-19 ICU occupancy is now over 400 beds.
 - Mobility and contacts between people have not decreased with the current restrictions. A new variant of concern of SARS-CoV-2 (B117) (UK variant) could drive much higher case counts.
 - Without significant reductions in contacts, the health system will be overwhelmed, and mortality will exceed the first wave totals before vaccine has time to take effect.
- 46. AMO Policy Update, New COVID-19 Ontario Regulations Under ROA and EMCPA** – Rules for areas in Stage 1, stay-at-home order, proceedings commenced by certificate of offence, residential evictions. Ontario gas tax for transit allocations announced. Update on Ontario Heritage Act amendments have been delayed. Firefighter training changes, the Ontario Fire College will be decommissioned and replaced with 20 regional training centres to deliver on-site and online fire safety training in communities where firefighters serve, also investing in two mobile units that will bring live fire training to local fire services. Expected to increase capacity for training and reduce the need for municipal fire departments to pay for travel and costs.
- 47. ENDM** – The Ontario government is investing \$5.3 million, provided through the federal Forest Sector Safety Measures Fund, to help small and medium sized forest sector businesses offset the cost of COVID-19 safety measures. For initiatives such as setting up sanitizing stations, providing

enhanced cleaning, additional worker training, measures to increase physical distancing, and to purchase personal protective equipment. Costs at Ontario workplace(s) between Apr 1, 2020 and Feb 12, 2021.

48. Assessment Review Board (ARB) – Now conducts all of its administrative and adjudicative processes using a digital-first approach. Parties have been successfully communicating and participating in these electronic processes, particularly since the first Declaration of Emergency on Mar 16, 2020. The ARB has reviewed its discretion under the second Declaration of Emergency and confirms that its current practices and procedures allow the ARB to provide its services in a manner consistent with the “stay at home” order. The ARB will not be suspending any timelines.

33. discussed. Communication to be sent to the Health Unit supporting local snowmobiling.

ADDITIONAL/ROUND TABLE/NOTICE OF MOTION

ADJOURN

13-21 Scarlett, McLaren

THAT we give 1st, 2nd, 3rd and final reading to Confirming By-Law and that we adjourn until our Special meeting scheduled for Tue, Jan 26, 2021. CARRIED

**NOTICE – SPECIAL MEETING HOSTED BY SOUTH RIVER
VIRTUALLY ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021 – 6:00 PM
FOR THE PURPOSE OF FIRE AND ARENA 2021 BUDGETS**

Mayor Lynda Carleton

Clerk Administrator Brenda Paul, AMCT

BP