

TOWNSHIP OF MACDONALD, MEREDITH & ABERDEEN ADDITIONAL

JULY 2021

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A VACCINATION FOR COVID-19 AND YOU WISH TO BUT FOR SOME REASON HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT PLEASE CONTACT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE AT 705-248-2441 AND WE WILL ASSIST YOU.

BUDGET 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

The tax rate for 2021 will remain basically the same as the 2020 rate. With MPAC not doing a reassessment for 2021 due to COVID-19 and if you have not done any improvements to your property and your assessment has remained the same, your property taxes will be the same as last year. Some of the highlights in this year's budget:

ROADS: We will be surface treating Bay St, portion of Gamble Rd, portion of Echo Lake Rd, and a portion of Watson Rd. from the Landfill to McCarrel Lake Rd. Intersection (minus Alcock Hill). Ellwood Robinson will be doing the surface treatment this year and we are hoping to be done by end of July. We received our new Plow Truck which was ordered last year and we are in the process of planning the construction of a Sand Storage Building on the Municipal Garage property. We continued to do ditching during the month of May, Road Side Brushing in May, Road Side Grass Cutting in June and gravel was completed in June.

LEISURE SERVICES: We have received funding under the ICIP Fund for improvements to our Hurley Park Tennis Courts with a new concrete slab being poured with a Sport Court going on top with tennis, pickle ball, basketball, and road hockey to be played on the surface. We purchased a new lawn mower this year to assist with the multiple acres of grass that we cut. Community Gardens have been planted at the Sportsplex and we continue to improve our gardens at all our parks. Soccer and Baseball Programs are to begin next week as well as our Summer Camps under the COVID-19 rules. We are hoping to be able to have more of our events this summer/fall once STEP 3 of the Reopening Ontario Act is in place and restrictions have been loosened.

ADMINISTRATION: We received COVID Funding and we have purchased laptops for all of Council in order to conduct our meetings virtually during the Pandemic. A lot of Health and Safety Protocols were put in place in all municipal buildings and for staff. A new phone system was installed as well as a conference phone for conference call meetings. We updated our website to allow for a lot of our services to be offered electronically. We continue to work on Records Management and Asset Management this year in order to meet provincial regulations.

LANDFILL: RM Frolic will be putting new shingles on the Share Shed/Attendants Office. The driveway into the Landfill has been asphalted and Avery's did a great job. The Share Shed remains closed until further notice.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Our Volunteer Firefighters are finally back to training at the Fire Hall rather than online. We received COVID-19 funding for training. Weather continues to cooperate and no Fire Bans to date.

2020/2021 has certainly had its challenges for everyone which includes our municipal world and the budget process this year. With so many unknowns during the Pandemic, how we conduct business and offer services had to be modified to meet the Provincial Health requirements which sometimes changed daily. Thank you to everyone for your patience and cooperation during these difficult and challenging times.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

With our most recent Pandemic Emergency everyone has been spending a lot of time at home. We would like to remind everyone the importance of having an emergency kit accessible and be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours.

Items to Include in your kit:

Water, Food that doesn't spoil, crank or battery powered flashlight & radio, first aid kit, extra keys to your car & house, some cash in smaller bills, copy of your emergency plan and contact information.

For more information please visit the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness website: www.getprepared.gc.ca

ECHO BAY UNITED CHURCH ECHO BAY & AREA FOOD BANK

We would like to thank everyone who has donated in any way they can to the Food Bank over the last year and during these difficult times. The Food Bank is here for our community for everyone to have access at any time if needed by calling 705-248-2891. For those who are unable to travel to the Sault to go to the grocery store during this Pandemic the Food Bank is available for you. The Food Bank is open the first and third Wednesday's of the month from 1:00-2:00 p.m. and the second Wednesday of the month from 6:00-7:00 p.m. We are very fortunate to live in a community where everyone takes care of each other. Thank you to all the volunteers that have assisted at the Food Bank and were willing to adopt the required accommodations needed in order to have it available for our community.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME-COME VISIT
US AT THE ECHO BAY UNITED CHURCH, 220 CHURCH ST.**