

**From Marmora & Lake, Jan O'Neill, Mayor**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on some of the Marmora and Lake Council activities and respond to your enquiries regarding your beautiful Crowe Lake.

I will attempt to respond to the issues raised in Elinor's email and also provide some updates on the municipal operations.

- I. B&B's We are working on developing a short-term rental by-law. This is complex. It involves official plan amendments and zoning compliance and must take into consideration the business component and also the impact to local property owners.
- II. Day trippers who access the lake through Meg's Landing..... -We cannot control who accesses the lake and if they bring debris, etc. Magg's Landing is just one access point. The municipality has no jurisdiction to enforcement on the water. The OPP are the law enforcement for violations, etc. You are encouraged to contact the OPP if you witness illegal and/or unsafe operation of motorized sports vehicles.
- III. Status of high-speed internet – there were a number of encouraging announcements recently that government funding was approved to guarantee internet improvements to rural areas.
- IV. Condition of some of the roads around the lake - Road work has begun on High Shore Road and Marble Point Road in addition to the regular maintenance. A number of other road construction projects have been initiated throughout the municipality and some are completed.
- V. Pending Lake Developments – there are no applications currently on file for lake developments.

A State of Emergency was declared due to COVID and since has been terminated. This allowed the municipality to track expenses specific to COVID safety protocol and obtain reimbursement from the province.

The office and public buildings and facilities were closed to the public except with an appointment. Staff were encouraged to work from home when possible. Safety precautions were implemented in accordance with provincial regulations. Council meetings have been live streamed through Facebook and now YouTube. In person meetings will resume when it is safe to do so. Agendas and Minutes are posted on the municipal website and announcements are updated frequently. Please refer to the municipal website ([www.marmoraandlake.ca](http://www.marmoraandlake.ca)) for official information, council and board meeting schedules and business postings.

A number of challenges were created by the response to COVID. People escaping the "City" when able to work from home; students learning virtually, lack of services due to lockdowns, etc. Seasonal residences became occupied year-round. Limited access on private roads and modifications to heat and electrical services resulted in fire hazards and potential health and safety issues. Please ensure that you have proper emergency access, fire prevention equipment and heat and ventilation sources are up to code.

Building Department services are now provided by the Building Inspection Services Board. The Chief Building Official is in the Marmora Office two hours per day, two days per week. Appointments can be made by calling the Marmora office or contacting the Municipality of Stirling Rawdon.

Marmora and Lake has welcomed at least eleven new businesses this year. Please welcome our new businesses and continue to support our existing businesses and the local economy.

Marmora and Lake updated the Strategic Plan, considered a Facilities Study and adopted a Community and Wellbeing Safety Plan. A short-term rental by-law is being developed and other by-laws are being reviewed to ensure they are enforceable.

The Gypsy Moth was a major problem in the area. With input from all fourteen municipalities, Hastings County is pursuing support from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for some reasonable and financially viable solution for the next season.

Many events and projects were cancelled in 2021 due to COVID. This was Marmora's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary and there were many plans put on pause until next year. We hope to start 2022 with events and celebrations planned for the entire year. Please plan to join in the festivities.

**From HBM, Jim Martin, Mayor**

In response to our questions regarding the new ownership of the Blairton Terrace Property, Jim reports there is no activity with respect to development, but plans to be in contact with our Association if this changes.