

For Immediate Release September 22, 2020

## Council Connect: Highlights from the September 22, 2020 Meetings of Council

Tecumseh Town Council met electronically this evening and here are the highlights from the meetings:

**Call for Award Nominations:** Council approved the timelines for the Town's annual awards program with a special meeting scheduled for November 24 to consider the nominees. Council also approved a new Youth of the Year Award which was developed by the Youth Advisory Committee and is similar to the Senior of the Year Award. The criteria for the new award are: must be a resident of Town; must demonstrate outstanding community engagement in activities such as, but not limited to, volunteerism, community based leadership or research, outreach partnership and curricular engagement; must be under the age of 23; and, must be enrolled in either elementary, secondary or post-secondary education. Deadline to apply for the awards is October 31, 2020 and information will be posted to the website and shared out on social media. Applications are available at [www.tecumseh.ca/awards](http://www.tecumseh.ca/awards).

**Amendments to the Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways:** Council received a report on the new regulations for Minimum Maintenance Standards (MMS) for Municipal Highways. MMS is a part of the *Municipal Act* and outlines the standard of care a municipality should meet in the maintenance of its public highways. The standard of care includes acceptable conditions of roads, sidewalks and bike lanes, as well as time constraints in which the standards need to be met. Recent changes to the MMS regulations include:

- The introduction of winter maintenance standards for bike lanes
- The introduction of winter maintenance including patrol obligations for sidewalks
- The ability for municipalities to declare a "Significant Weather Event" with implications for winter maintenance on roadways, bicycle lanes and sidewalks for the duration of the event

A Significant Weather Event (SWE) was considered due to the rise in fluctuating weather patterns which has increased the frequency and severity of significant weather events. This amendment to the MMS permits a municipality to declare a SWE to extend the time allowed to maintain roads and sidewalks to the regulated level of service. The event could include significant snow accumulation in 24 hours; ice formation that occurs without warning; high winds leading to snow drifting; and/or, extreme cold temperatures at which de-icing operations would not be effective.

**Essex Power Paperless Billing Initiative:** at the February 11, 2020 Regular Meeting of Council, Essex Powerlines presented their paperless billing initiative and outlined that they would make a donation of the money savings proceeds to a non-profit organization of Council's choice. Administration sought direction from Council on the charity to benefit from the proceeds of the initiative and Council selected to split the proceeds of the funds between Tecumseh Goodfellows and Victim Services of Windsor and Essex County.

**Tecumseh 2021 Budget and Business Plan:** Council received a presentation from the Finance Department on the 2021 Budget process. A survey will be available on the Town's website ([www.tecumseh.ca](http://www.tecumseh.ca)) between September 24 and October 16 to gather public comments. Print copies will be available in person at Town Hall during the public drop in hours of 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The proposed 2021 Budget and Business Plan will be presented to Council on December 8 with deliberation to follow in January 2021. A revised 2021 Budget and Business Plan will be considered for adoption at the January 26, 2021 Council meeting.

.../2



- 2 -

**Summer Recreation Overview:** Council received a report on the Summer Recreation Activities in light of the cancellations and closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the Canada Summer Job grant program, four (4) students worked with the Manager and Supervisor of Recreation Programs and Events for development and implementation of virtual recreation programming and enhancement of the Virtual Recreation Complex introduced in the spring. The students also assisted with preparing future modified recreation programming for the fall and winter. The activities developed were delivered through the Virtual Recreation Complex as well as through the Parks and Recreation Facebook and Twitter feeds. During the month of August, Facebook post engagement increased 332%; Facebook video views increased 288%; Facebook followers were up 379%; and, Twitter impressions were up by 311%. The department also received many calls and emails from parents and participants expressing appreciation for the programs and events developed and delivered during the closures and cancellations this spring and summer.

**New Recreation Software:** Council approved proceeding with spending approximately \$15,500 from the Information and Communications Systems Lifecycle Reserve on an upgrade to the Recreation Software currently used by Recreation Staff for the public to register for programming and book space and ice time online. Annual operating fees for the payment processing system were also requested to be incorporated into the 2021 Budget. In June 2020, the Town received notice that the existing software would no longer be supported after October 2021. The new software allows for an integrated payment processing system which will increase efficiencies and ensure payments are processed simultaneously during the registration and rental booking payment process. The software can also be integrated with the Town's financial software system which will allow for seamless uploading of transaction data into the system directly. It is expected that the software will be live beginning January 1, 2021.

**County Wide Active Transportation System (CWATS) 2021 Projects:** Council approved the two proposed CWATS projects in Tecumseh for 2021 and authorized the spending of \$7,675 from the Infrastructure Reserve for the Town's portion of the costs. The projects include:

- Study of a facility enhancement at Pike Creek and Tecumseh Road. The study will be cost shared with the Town of Lakeshore and the County of Essex and will recommend a plan that would connect the trail in Lakeshore with the trails in Tecumseh, ultimately leading to a connection with the Gnatchio Trail in Windsor.
- The introduction of a Bike Valet and Bike Rodeo at the 2021 Tecumseh Corn Festival and a one week Children's Bike Camp. The two projects will be cost shared with the County of Essex. The bike rodeo and one week camp will focus on bicycle safety and education for children.

To date Council has approved 10 CWATS projects with the majority of them aligned with County Road capacity improvements.

**CIP Grant 11865 Tecumseh Road:** Council approved \$3,000 in Community Improvement Plan (CIP) grant funds for the preparation of drawings for building façade and parking lot improvements for 11865 Tecumseh Road which currently houses SkyVu Solutions and Magic Carpet Travel. The owner had originally applied for, and received, a CIP grant in January 2020 for this work however the owner decided to postpone the work as a result of negotiations with his tenants and the general economic uncertainty with the COVID-19 pandemic. On deciding to proceed, the owner had to reapply as the original grant approval had expired. The current grant application and proposed works are the same as what was provided in January 2020.

.../3



- 3 -

The next Regular Meeting of Council is Tuesday, October 13, 2020. The meeting is scheduled to be held electronically. The live stream will be available on our website at [www.tecumseh.ca](http://www.tecumseh.ca). The agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council will be made available on Thursday, October 8, 2020.

Information on this and all Town of Tecumseh news and events is available at [www.tecumseh.ca](http://www.tecumseh.ca), Twitter (@TownofTecumseh), and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/townoftecumseh](http://www.facebook.com/townoftecumseh)).

-30-

**Media Contact:** Lesley Reeves, Manager Strategic Initiatives, 519-735-2184 Ext. 150

