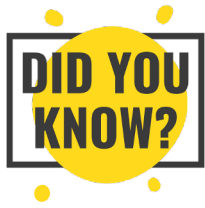




COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Committee of the Whole - October 19th, 2020



Please note that all Committee decisions are subject to Council approval. The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 26th at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding agenda items or decisions made at Committee or Council meetings, please email council@ramara.ca.

ORILLIA AND LAKE COUNTY TOURISM PRESENTATION

Kris Puhvel, Executive Director of Orillia and Lake Country Tourism (OLCT), presented to Council the history of OLCT, accomplishments in 2020 despite COVID-19 and future plans. Kris reported that OLCT promotes 63 businesses in Ramara, and that they had 200,000 users access their website, 12,500 likes on Facebook and 3350 Instagram followers. OLCT is requesting continued support of \$20,000, the same amount asked for the past six years. This funding request will be brought to Council in order for it to be considered during the 2021 Budget deliberations.

Next Council Meeting is on October 26 at 7:00 pm

TRAILS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

The Township of Ramara Trails Committee presented to Council on the history of the trails in Ramara, location of trails, future development and budget request. Ramara has 132 km of trails located on and off the road and are divided into five sections: Gamebridge to Lagoon City, Bayshore to Atherley, Trans Canada Trail (TCT) Atherley to Washago, TCT Washago to Cooper's Falls, Lagoon City to Washago. The Trails Committee is requesting to complete the final link from Lagoon City to Bayshore by creating a 700 m boardwalk that will link Lagoon City to Sideroad 15 and creating a trail from Sideroad 15 to Concession Road 7. This link would be a multi-year project and would cost around \$500,000. The Trails Committee requested \$30,000 from the Township of Ramara in order to have that amount matched by the County of Simcoe through the County of Simcoe Connecting Communities Program. This funding request will be brought to Council in order for it to be considered during the 2021 Budget deliberations. For more information on our Trails in Ramara, visit the Township's website www.ramara.ca.

LAGOON CITY SHOREWALL INSPECTION STATUS REPORT

Kathy Sipos, Director of Infrastructure, reported on the status of the shorewall inspections for Lagoon City. As stated in the report, over the next 5 years, all shorewalls will be inspected by the Chief Building Official with no cost to the residents. If the Chief Building Official recommends an Engineer's inspection, it will be done by an engineer at the cost of the resident. Those residents that paid for an inspection will have those fees reimbursed to them by the end of 2020.

PURCHASE OF RAMARA FLEXTNET TOWER

Committee approved the recommendation to purchase the Flextnet Tower utility reading system that will allow users to logon to a portal to review and manage their water consumption. This will provide information to residents in real time data and will show how much water is being used during specified periods of time. As a result, this will notify users and the Township of a leak, eliminate the need to send an employee or contractor to complete meter reads and eliminate estimated bills. The purchase of this Tower will cost \$175,000 and rate payers would be charged roughly one time fee of \$80.00 per user.

[Click here for full Council Agenda and Minutes](#)

ELECTORAL REVIEW

Committee approved to award StrategyCorp the Electoral Review Tender for \$33,000. This is \$8,000 more than what was budgeted for, so the remaining amount will come out of reserves. The Township of Ramara's electoral system has not been reviewed since amalgamation in 1994. The need for a comprehensive review is necessary to develop an effective and equitable system of representation with reference to overall projected growth within the municipality. As some electoral wards have grown dramatically and others have not, this review will provide some insight on necessary changes.

COUNCIL INITIATIVES

Committee approved to remove the Long Term Initiatives from the Council Agenda and to have a Priority Setting Exercise in order to come up with shared priorities for the Township of Ramara. These shared priorities would then be added to the Strategic Plan that will be reviewed by the public and other stakeholders in 2021.

RAMA ROAD ECONOMIC EMPLOYMENT DISTRICT MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS AND HOUSING

Staff updated Council on their communications with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in conjunction with the Ontario Growth Secretariat in regards to the Economic Employment District designation on Rama Road. The discussions with the Province are around achieving a less restrictive approach to the uses currently permitted in the corridor in order to eventually allow for mixed use development.

[Click here for County Council Highlights](#)

ECOVUE REPORT - SHOOTING RANGE OFFICIAL PLAN AND ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENTS UPDATE

Committee approved the Ecovue Report regarding Township wide Official Plan Amendment and Zoning Bylaw Amendment to modify the definition of "Active Recreation" so as not to include "shooting range". These amendments will apply to all lands within the boundary of the Township of Ramara. The public meeting will be held virtually through Zoom on Monday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. For more information visit the [Township website](#).

ECOVUE REPORT - BIOSOLID STORAGE AND APPLICATION CONTROLS ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENTS UPDATE

Committee approved the Ecovue Report regarding Township wide Zoning Bylaw Amendment to regulate sewage bio-solids and application within the Township of Ramara. This amendment will apply to all lands within the boundary of the Township of Ramara. The public meeting will be held virtually through Zoom on Monday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. For more information visit the [Township website](#).

ECOVUE REPORT - CANNABIS CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENTS UPDATE

Committee approved the EcoVue Report regarding Township wide Zoning Bylaw Amendment to regulate the cultivation and processing of cannabis that will affect the entire Township, in accordance with the recommendations provided in the Land Use Study prepared by EcoVue Consulting Services Inc. This amendment will apply to all lands within the boundary of the Township of Ramara. The public meeting will be held virtually through Zoom on Monday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m. For more information visit the [Township website](#).

APPOINTMENTS TO THE APPEALS TRIBUNAL

Committee approved for the appointment of the following individuals into the Appeals Tribunal:

- Noman Scarratt
- Margaret Sharpe
- Dana Tuju
- Anne Belanger
- Randy Warren

The term for the Appeals Tribunal will end November 15, 2022. For more information, please visit the Township's website.



Xplornet Enhances Internet Services in Ramara

Building you a faster Internet network together.



Last week, the Township of Ramara and Xplornet Communications Inc. officially started construction on a new wireless Internet tower that will provide enhanced service to residents and businesses in Ramara. The project includes construction of three new wireless sites along with upgrades to five existing towers. This will provide service at up to 50 Megabits per second (Mbps) with unlimited data to over 5,700 rural households. The construction of the Brechin tower is scheduled to be completed by December 2020. Residents who would like to know more about availability, packages and prices can call Xplornet at 1-866-790-5894.

WHAT IS ON THE NEXT COW AGENDA

The following reports will be on the November 2 agenda:

- GIS Update
- Waterfront Access Plan
- Short-Term Rental Update
- Draft 2021 Budget

Coming Soon

Remember to follow us (@Ramaratwp) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for up-to date information.

Media Contact:

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Business and Communications Coordinator

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