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### **Message from the Mayor - December 2020**

Once again the end of another year is upon us and the start of a new year only weeks away. On behalf of Council, we are all honoured to be part of an amazing community and know that each and every decision we make impacts you.

This past year has impacted everyone and we are all, in some way, feeling the effects of the pandemic. Thankfully, we continue to see a low number of cases locally. The determination and perseverance of the Sundridge community is outstanding.

Our local businesses are pillars in our community, they have supported fundraisers and events and now it is our turn to support them as they continue to navigate through these unprecedented times.

Over the last several months, the Emergency Control Group acted swiftly to meet and enact COVID-19 protocols in the Village to ensure the safety of residents and staff. In addition, effective November 12 a mobile COVID testing centre was commissioned to provide testing once a week in Sundridge. Both EMS and Parry Sound Health Center, have stressed how hard the town is working to keep everyone healthy.

Although this year has provided many challenges, lets take a moment to highlight a few of the projects Council has completed or initiated over the past year:

- 1) Lakeland Power, whom Sundridge is a shareholder in, is in the process of bringing High Speed Internet (Fiber) into the Village Sundridge and surrounding areas. It is amazing that we are able to get enhanced technology in a relatively short period of time.

#### **Fast, reliable Internet is Critical in Rural Communities.**

- 2) As you may have noticed, the municipal office is undergoing renovations. The work completed will provide an accessible main entrance, front counter and upper level restrooms. In addition, there will be office and storage space added. This work has been budgeted for over the last several years and with a lot of planning the work is almost complete.

**These changes will contribute to a barrier free building to better assist you.**

- 3) The Village of Sundridge, pursuant to the Planning Act, is required to have an Official Plan. Staff and Council have met with the Planner and applicable Ministries to initiate the process. The Official plan is a necessary document that guides land use and infrastructure planning decisions now and into the future.

**We will continue to provide updates on the progress made.**

- 4) Sundridge was awarded \$38,800 in Main Street Revitalization funding through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. The criteria for the funds received was to assist municipalities in enhancing their downtown core. A gazebo and updates to the community well were completed.

**This new shelter will be a benefit to many, as our well is undoubtedly a busy location each and every day.**

- 5) Council recently implemented Town Hall Sessions, an opportunity for residents and public to ask questions and provide comments or suggestions in an informal setting.

**We want to hear from you!**

- 6) Council is committed to working closely with our Wastewater Treatment Facility operators to ensure our lagoon system remains as efficient as possible and compliant with Ministry standards. Council recently approved a trial for an Ultrasonic Algae Control unit to eliminate algae blooms. The trial provided remarkable results by drastically decreasing the total suspended solids exceedances with the Ministry.

**We continue to evaluate this technology to determine suitability for our facility.**

- 7) To ensure business continuity and to be able to respond in emergency situations, the Village of Sundridge installed a generator at the Village Office. The Village was able to utilize the funding received through the Municipal Modernization grant to install the generator.

**The generator was critical for the Village Office to continue to operate during emergency situations.**

As we head into the holiday season, please remember to continue to be kind and supportive of each other. Although it may not feel like it at the moment, we will get through this together.

On behalf of Council we wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, and remember Sundridge is your Place to Shine!

Mayor Lyle Hall