

## **2019 Mayor's Levee: Year in Reflection**

**Communications Dept.** Bang the Table is a program that enabled us to promote [engagecobourg.ca](http://engagecobourg.ca) that further enhanced citizen engagement with 2,900 visitors. The feedback on the Waterfront Plan: East Pier & Campground and the Taxi Cab Service have been invaluable in assisting Council in their decision-making role. Through the efforts of Ashley Purdy: Communications Manager in seeking citizen input our Town website continues to evolve.

**Community Services Division:** The Town made a submission to *The Canada Infrastructure Fund* focusing on the East Pier and outer Break-walls at \$10.6 million along with the Victoria Square, Phase V at \$1.6 million. We look forward to promising outcomes in the spring of 2020.

**Recreation, Culture and Events Department:** LAV 3 ceremonial dedication serves as a monument for the members of our Canadian Armed forces who served in the Afghanistan Mission as well as honouring our Peacekeepers and Reservists including our very own Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment.

Our citizens' requested that Xmas Magic return to Victoria Park and Council listened and enhanced the lighting display and the light standards within our downtown. A sincere thank you to our dedicated Xmas Magic Volunteers and dedicated staff.

As part of Cobourg's Strategic Plan, the town completed the Cultural Master Plan engaging over 400 community groups.

**Community-at-Large:** The Town of Cobourg and Alnwick-Haldimand Township held our very first Ontario Guild Town Crier Provincial Championships, with our very own Town Crier Mandy Robinson.

The forthcoming enhancement of the Marie Dressler House will include two other significant female stars - Mary Pickford and Norma Shearer to join our own Marie Dressler. The only three Canadian stars to ever win an Academy Award.

Our very own Victoria Hall Volunteers recently held the Scottish Bonnie Xmas to raise funds for our national Treasure. This year they have committed \$20,000 to assist us with the cost of repairing the upper balcony/sandstone pillars.

We had the opportunity to hold our very first New Canadian Swearing-in Ceremony within this very Concert Hall. We welcomed 38 citizens from 27 different countries. It certainly was a magical moment.

**Public Works Division:** We received welcome news from our M.P.P. David Piccini for \$1.4 million in provincial funding for the reconstruction of the King Street/Pebble Beach Bridge/Culvert project that will enable better access, in particular in emergency situations.

We, the Town are enhancing our Asset Management/GIS Plans for 2023 to build efficiencies in all Town-owned facilities that will ultimately aid in supporting capital projects within Council's budget deliberations.

**Environmental Services:** Based on a recent Audit for Town Water Systems our town scored 100% and Lakefront Utilities finished the refurbishment of the water tower at \$2.4 million.

The Town is committed to enhancing our street replacement lighting at \$355 000 annually for five years and Council has an agreement with Otonabee Electric to start the replacement program of approx.. 200 light standard poles this year.

In support of Cobourg Sustainability, Blue Dot Northumberland and Bicycle Action Committee this Council passed motions dealing with the elimination of plastic water bottles from all Municipal facilities/community events by the end of 2020. Through the up-coming budget deliberations, we have allocated funds to undertake an integrated Community Sustainability Plan - including the Green Development Plan over the term of Council with appropriate allocation of resources.

**Legislative Services:** Council is using the Building Efficiencies Fund and the Modernization Fund to address our Integrated Records Management System for all Town departments. In addition, a Service Delivery Review as well as an Organizational Review for the Town of Cobourg will be undertaken in 2020 to allow us to examine our overall efficiency/effectiveness as it relates to our Service Delivery within our community.

**Planning and Development:** In working with Northumberland County and our Community partners, such as Trinity Corp., Balder Corp., Habitat for Humanity and CMHC the town has committed to creating an affordable and rental housing CIP (Community Improvement Plan) for our community. To date, this Council has committed over \$300,000 to support community projects. We hope to have the final draft back to Council in May 2020. We realize that we need to continue this trend into the foreseeable future with current wait-lists between 7-9 years.

**Cobourg Cares - Social and Family Services:** the CIP (Community Improvement Plan) aligns with *Northumberland County's 10 year Homeless Plan* and their own *Affordable Housing Plan/ Northumberland Housing Corporation* Board which was initiated this past year - I am pleased to be one of the Directors. The yet to be developed *Northumberland County Community and Well-Being Plan* is community based with such partners as Greenwood Coalition, NHH, Cornerstone Rebound Child/Youth Services, HKPRD Health Unit, The Salvation Army and the Cobourg Police Services with a target date of 2021. This will certainly aid us in addressing homelessness, mental well-being and initiate outreach programs within our community.

The Town is delighted to be working with the Fare Share Food Bank who on Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> will be re-locating to a larger facility within Bldg. #19 on D'Arcy Street, just south of the CCC. You are invited to the Mayor's Skate at the CCC from 2-3:30 p.m. followed by the Grand Opening of the Fare Share Food Bank at 3:45 p.m. We are requesting that you consider bringing one food item or consider a small donation to make it a Giving Friday!

This Council has agreed to partake in the Living Wage Review and its application to the Town of Cobourg to help us lead as a model employee.

**Cobourg Cares - Partnerships:** The Town of Cobourg has been a good Corporate Sponsor to align with projects that benefit the community-at-large. This Council committed \$ 60 000 over the term of Council to Ed's House: new Hospice scheduled to open in spring of 2020.

**Economic Development:** I am pleased to report that the Town has had steady growth this past year with approx. \$32 million in construction value. Northam Industrial Park has over 1 m sq. feet of on-going operations-expansion to Maplehurst, Canada Company and recently with Post Consumers/Weetabix with a \$2 m expansion and 47 full time jobs in working collaboratively with Mayor Jim Diodatti, City of Niagara Falls.

**Venture 13:** Continues to thrive with our Northumberland Markers Lab who continue to promote STEM learning with over 300 child/youth engagement sessions. Within our Venture Zone we continue to work with over 29 Health and Technological & Business start-ups. We continue to offer the N100 Start-up

worth \$250 000. We have held 292 community events and welcomed over 6000 guests including numerable Federal-Provincial with an overall Federal Investment of \$4.5 m over two years. The Town of Cobourg strongly supports our partnership with Wendy Curtis and her CFDC team to promote innovation and creativity at Venture 13 in serving the economic needs within Cobourg, Northumberland County and Eastern Ontario. Our future looks bright!

**Community Initiative Roger's Hometown Hockey:** I am so excited that our community is one of 25 communities in Canada to welcome Roger's Hometown Hockey to Cobourg along with their major sponsors Sportsnet, Scotiabank and Hyundai this January 4-5<sup>th</sup>. I also wanted to thank our very own community sponsors who have supported this initiative. We will welcome Ron McLean and Tara Sloan along with our very own hometown stars: Gordie Brooks, Justin Williams, Steve Smith, Jim Hughson, Chris Johnston, Stewart Richardson and Todd Denault.

Thank you for all those that purchased "Cobourg" toques, as money raised will be donated to Kids Northumberland to allow our youth the opportunity to be engaged in a sporting activity. Similarly, at all our CCC events, please remember to bring a non-perishable food item that will help to fill the new shelves at Northumberland Fair Share Food Bank.

Lastly, I would like to thank John Ovens for working with us on these beautiful prints. These prints will be available for your bid until Sunday night, January 5<sup>th</sup> when the puck drops between the Calgary Flames and the Minnesota Wild at 7 p.m. Please bid often as any additional funds beyond basic costs will be donated to the Grace Bowen Cancer/Jack Bradimore Research Fund via Sick Kids.

A sincere thank you to Rogers' operational team and our own Cobourg organizing committee along with our community sponsors DBIA, Lynn Hardy, Cobourg Police Service, New Amherst Homes, Cobourg Cougars and Northumberland Heights Wellness Retreat and Spa.

Thank you for being with us today as we celebrate our first year! As mayor, I believe we have many accomplishments to be proud of. On behalf of Cobourg Council, Senior Staff and Town Employees we wish you a wonderful 2020.