



## **COMMUNITY UPDATE**

June 27, 2023

### **Community Members:**

I want to provide a brief update on some Council projects currently underway. As you are aware much work has been done in the recreation park area. In addition to the ball diamond being refurbished and the multiplex sports pad, a new playground was added, and some additional work will take place as the finishing touches are added to this area. Sunshades, pavilions, and work at the dog park will be added, as well as a walking trail.

This work was done in addition to the new Child and Family Services and Education buildings where additional parking and water/sewer upgrades were done as well.

Survey work has been completed for a sidewalk/bike path along Tashmoo, and we are waiting on tender documents from City Engineering.

Aamjiwnaang will be adding a new cemetery identified by the community as a need. An extension of Virgil Ave. will provide access to the chosen area north of the Chippewa subdivision.

The three-plex Seniors unit is completed, and vacancies will be filled soon. An 8-plex apartment building is being planned in the apartment complex area, and Council has also purchased a 5-plex townhouse unit in Sarnia that will be available for rent after renovations take place.

Access to the fishing pier will be upgraded to include wheelchair and scooter access. This work has taken a long time to complete due to the design required, finding a contractor, and price increases due to covid. The Environment Dept has led this initiative and I appreciate their perseverance in seeing this through.

Work has commenced on a new two bed Hospice. This facility will be located on the River Road, will be a nice addition to our Health Department as they will have the ability to provide end-of-life care in the community, a wish we hear so often. This will be a beautiful building designed and being built by community members, much like all the construction projects recently added to our community. These projects have all come in under budget, under the strong leadership of Project Manager Steve DeGurse.

Political pressure will continue to address the benzene exposure, Metis encroachment, and also to have reserve status added to the Jacobs lot, so we can start development.



## AAMJIWNAANG FIRST NATION

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June is always a busy month in Aamjiwnaang, and I am proud to say the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Powwow and our Annual Solidarity Day were successful events, and a huge amount of gratitude to all those responsible. You all did an amazing job, and our community is blessed by your actions.

Harrison Plain our new Band manager is adjusting well into his new role. I ask that you be patient and fair, our organization has grown considerably since Harrison was on Council, however he is here to serve Aamjiwnaang, so please feel free to reach out when you need to for assistance.

Finally, a shout out to Constable Callandar (Officer Tyler) of the Sarnia Police Service for accepting the position of Dedicated Officer to Aamjiwnaang. Many of you have met Tyler and made him feel welcome, and we have a space for him at the Community Centre, where you can pop in to say hi and share any ideas or concerns with him. Remember 911 is still the number to call for emergencies, but Officer Callandar is here for your community policing needs.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to myself or any member of the Council or the Administration, miigwetch.

Chief Christopher Plain