

Ward 8 CAN
General Membership Meeting Notes
September 17, 2014
St. Charles College Auditorium



1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Introductions

Rachelle Niemela, Chair of the CAN, introduced the other Executive members in attendance. She indicated that there are a few positions now open with the CAN, including Recording Secretary and Vice-President. Members at large are also welcome if anyone wants to help out in a less formal position.

3. City of Greater Sudbury 2014 Municipal and School Board Election Presentation

Rachelle Niemela introduced Liana Bacon from the Clerk's Office who presented the new focus for the October elections. Highlights include:

- Ability to vote at any location
- Live, electronic voters list
- On-demand ballot printing with voter registration via bar code scanners
- Advance secure on-line voting which will allow voting from home, work, school, etc. via computer, smart phone or tablet; from Oct 14 to Oct 24
- Advance paper voting on October 18 from 8 locations
- Mobile voting location: the election bus
- City of Greater Sudbury election website: you will be able to check if you are on the voters list; punch in your postal code to see the closest voting station.
- Students can vote in the election; there will be registration days at the university and college campuses
- The focus is on new ways of getting information to voters, in particular via social media
- A guide/voting info package will be mailed out to citizens at the end of September

4. October Municipal Candidates Meeting

Rachelle Niemela announced that the CAN will be hosting a municipal candidates meeting on October 22, 2014 at Lasalle Secondary School, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. All municipal candidates were invited and all have indicated that they will attend.

Candidates will have an opportunity to provide opening statements, followed by a question/answer period that will end at 8:30 p.m. During the question/answer period, the CAN will pose 3 questions to each candidate. CAN members will also gather questions from

the audience before the meeting starts, and during the meeting. The CAN will aggregate the questions and pose as many as possible during the time that is left in the question/answer period.

From 8:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., residents will have the opportunity to talk personally to the candidates.

5. CAN Projects Updates

Rachelle Niemela informed residents of the status of the community gardens (3 culverts and 2 beds are being completed), and Twin Forks (work is progressing on building renovations, lighting, new playground equipment, and other enhancements). The CAN is also looking for other projects for 2015 and residents are encouraged to submit projects they would like to see done in the ward.

6. Greater Sudbury Police Service Update/Citizen Concerns

Welcome to Chris Labresche, Constable with the Greater Sudbury Police Service (standing in for Adam Groleau).

Statistics on trends in Ward 8 were not available, but Constable Labresche provided a few updates on some issues, including car break-ins and panhandling. Residents are encouraged to lock their cars when leaving them, and to not provide money to panhandlers who are now showing up at the local malls.

A discussion ensued regarding bears in Ward 8. A resident indicated that there have been 13 sightings to date in the area close to her home. Constable Labresche reported that there are 84 calls in New Sudbury from the May to October period. Ward 8 is considered a dense bear area.

There is frustration on the part of citizens who feel that no one is taking responsibility for the problem, which has escalated over the last few years. Calls to the Ministry of Natural Resources have resulted in passive recommendations to citizens, including recommendations to not use a green box and to keep your children and pets inside.

The MRN has indicated that it does not have the resources to deal with the local situation, and the Greater Sudbury Police Service typically has the resources to only respond when there is a threat of attack. Constable Labresche acknowledged that part of the problem is that while the bear hunt has been reinstated in other areas of the province, it has not been reinstated in the Sudbury region.

He recommended some strategies that could be investigated, including looking at changing the by-law for the hours that residents can put their garbage out (since garbage attracts bears), education on how to deal with bears if you see one, and eliminating bird feeders. A

resident indicated that bears in our ward seem to be attracted to food businesses that do not lock their garbage bins, including in particular Tim Horton locations.

A number of citizens expressed frustration that these responses from both the MNR and the City of Greater Sudbury are not actually addressing the problem. There is the fear that it will take a serious incident before this problem is addressed, and that the increase in bear activity has become a health and safety issue for residents.

Residents acknowledge that we are living in the north, but this situation has changed for the worse in the last few years. Bears are now approaching people without fear, with up to 4 bears at a time wandering through neighbourhoods.

The City of Greater Sudbury has no strategy to deal with bears who are now encroaching more and more on our urban areas. The CAN is interested in moving this issue forward with the City and with the Ministry and will be developing strategies in the coming months.

7. Next Meeting/Municipal Candidates Meeting

The next General Membership meeting is 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., on Wednesday, October 22, at Lasalle Secondary School. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.