

**Ward 8 CAN
General Membership Meeting Notes
April 15, 2015
Twin Forks Playground**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

2. Introductions

Rachelle Niemela, Chair of the CAN, introduced Nancy Deni and Mike Morelli, the other Executive members in attendance and the City of Greater Sudbury Liaison, Renée Germain.

Attending:

Rachelle Niemela, Chair
Al Sizer, Ward 8 Councillor
Mike Morelli, Twin Forks Playground Association Liaison
Nancy Deni, Member
Renee Germain, City of Greater Sudbury liaison

Regrets:

Stefano Presenza, Vice-Chair
Gates Legault, Treasurer
Jessica Valiquette, Communications
Ron Spina, Member
Steve Mantler, Member
Zac Lefrançois, Member
Jim Niesing, Westmount Playground Association Liaison

3. Greater Sudbury Utilities Presentation

Wendy Waddell, Communications Officer with Greater Sudbury Utilities (GSU) introduced a small group from GSU. She indicated that GSU is working with ISO in order to improve energy efficiency for residents. She also presented brochures, pamphlets, light bulbs and toilet tank tabs for the public. Energy managers were made available for one on one meetings with any of the residents present.

GSU Agenda:

- 1) Energy Insights Report – this report received by some city residents was discussed at length. The reports used data from smart meters. The goal was to

get people to save energy by comparing their energy usage to an average home and to the ultimate efficient home. Although most of the feedback GSU received on the Energy Insights Report was positive, this project is now over and GSU will decide whether or not to continue with the mailings.

- 2) Reading your GSU Bill – the equal billing option was discussed (the total spent in the previous year is divided by 12 and this becomes your new equal payment each month of the current year). Any difference at the end of the year is either charged or credited to the consumer. Each line on the bill was discussed and explained. Peak and off-peak rates were also discussed. It was explained to those in attendance that the reason for having different rates throughout the day is to stabilize demand.
- 3) The Ontario Electricity Support Program will replace the Ontario Clean Energy Benefit in 2016. Qualified households will receive \$20 to \$50 per month depending on the size of the home and the income level.
- 4) GSU is currently researching energy self-generation (solar panels, windmills, etc.) because more and more people are trying to generate their own power. GSU is researching the impact of such projects on the grid.

4. Presentation by Louis Arsenault of Blankets for Charity

Louis Arsenault asked for donations of used jeans and bedding for his Blankets for Charity project. With a group from Manitoulin Island, Louis takes the fabric and sews sleeping bags for the homeless, the needy, and those who find themselves without heat in their homes for one reason or another. Used jeans and bedding may be dropped off at Home Depot and at the south end Canadian Tire.

5. Greater Sudbury Police Services Update

Constable Cameron Kidder updated the CAN on police activities in the area. The ticketing of drivers on cell phones was discussed and the problem of graffiti was also discussed. Police are actively pursuing both issues.

Police foundation students have recently been knocking on doors in the area to inform residents of the potential for bears and to notify them to contact the MNR if they see bears in the area.

Constable Kidder also mentioned that these same students are currently knocking on doors in Minnow Lake to inform residents there that they should keep their cars and homes locked in order to protect valuables.

Constable Kidder ended his presentation by reminding residents not to give money to panhandlers at intersection. This is to protect both the panhandlers and the residents. It was suggested that food or water is preferable to cash donations.

6. CAN Projects Updates

Rachelle Niemela encouraged residents to participate in upcoming projects: the community cleanup day on May 2nd, community gardens (need a volunteer with a truck in order to pick up soil and lumber), Twin Forks playground renewal, and a New Sudbury community festival.

On May 23rd, the Junction Creek Stewardship Committee's Trout Release will be taking place at Twin Forks. There will be activities for families with children and all residents are invited to attend this very worthwhile event.

7. Councillor Update

Councillor Sizer provided the phone number for shopping cart pickup – 705-693-9624.

There will be a new bus route on Sundays in the Madison/Peppertree Village area and in the Cambrian College area. More information can be found on the City's website www.greatersudbury.ca/living/transit.

More garbage cans have been placed along Lasalle Boulevard.

The following guests are planned for future CAN 2015 meetings:

- May: City of Greater Sudbury's Emergency Management Program
- June: Mayor Brian Bigger

8. Next Meeting

7pm, May 20, 2015 at Twin Forks.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.