



**Ward 8 CAN
General Membership Meeting Notes
October 21, 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, Gates Legault, and Mike Morelli, the other Executive members in attendance and Councillor Al Sizer.

Executive members attending:

Rachelle Niemela, Chair
Gates Legault, Treasurer
Mike Morelli, Twin Forks Playground Association Liaison
Nancy Deni, Member
Al Sizer, Ward 8 Councillor

Regrets:

Jessica Valiquette, Communications
Ron Spina, Member
Jim Niesing, Westmount Playground Association Liaison

3. Discussion with Ministry of Natural Resources

Derrick Luetchford, Partnership Specialist, and Brent Macdonald, Resource Management Technician with the Ministry of Natural Resources led an information-sharing session that focused primarily around the bear issue experienced in the past few years in Ward 8.

Statistics provided:

- MNR: 2325 calls in 2016 re 1666 last year
- Police: calls placed by home owners to Greater Sudbury Police Service to Sep 30: 1666; had 535 in 2014; 135 in 2013; up 400% from 2013, up another 300% this year
- GSPS asked 60 times for the MNR to attend; in 45 cases, the MNR responded
- The MNR trapped 33 bears; 26 in the center core; they also free-ranged relocated 19 bears
- 8 bears were shot; 4 more than last year; 3 were dispatched because they had been in a vehicle collision and were severely injured

Additional discussion points:

- The MNR carries a pager; police can call them at any time
- The responsibility for wild animals in the city has been downloaded to the municipality – the MNR can only respond if the GSPS ask

Comments from residents attending:

- Nothing's happened and the MNR/City need to provide longer-term solutions.
- Residents have lived in Ward 8 for many years, and there was never a problem until the last 5-7 years.
- There's more bears and bear sightings than people have called in about; people have given up on reporting sightings and concerns.
- Biggest problem is the children and the potential threat to them.
- There is a big social impact as people are afraid to go out of their homes, to use our local recreational areas.
- There is also an economic impact as people's personal property are being damaged, including sheds, homes, cars. These are costs paid by residents.
- There is a huge safety issue, especially for children and seniors.
- There have been no injuries with bears.
- We need to change how we deal as a society with our garbage, eg dirty diapers will attract bears, prepackaged foods with residual food will also attract bears.
- There is an education site on Facebook: Saving Sudbury Black Bears; residents are encouraged to learn about bears in urban areas.
- We need more education on how to co-habitate.
- We need to try to draw bears out of the areas where there is problem.
- We should look at diversionary feeding.
- We need effective garbage containers.
- Apartment buildings and businesses should have proper bear-proof bins.
- Take the fences down that have been put up around our dumps; bears used to feed there, but have been blocked off so are now more in our neighbourhoods.
- From resident in Don Lita - when the fence went up at the dump, we started to have bear problems.
- Bears can smell food from 2 miles away.
- Need to get a properly trained person to shoot a bear if required – should not be the police.
- Solution is to get bears out of the city - need to put pressure on province.
- Bring back the spring bear hunt. The MRN reported that the 2015 spring bear hunt was a pilot; bear kill numbers were negligible
- Exceptional year for bears - maybe need to look into why failure of berry crops; for example, aerial sprays impact on pollinators?
- Cutting down on emissions from the mining industry has begun to minimize the impact on acidic soils. This may severally affect future blueberry crops, which prefer acidic soils.

Discussion regarding the new garbage bylaw which mandates only being able to place garbage outside in the morning between 7 and 9:

- It's not enough.
- Maybe words should be "no sooner than" for those who get their garbage picked up later in the day.

- Councillor Sizer clarified that the bylaw would be in effect only from April 1 to November 30.
- The new Bear Committee (City and provincial reps) is looking at different waste options; costs are a huge factor.
- The Committee has met 5 times; have taken first “baby steps” - the new bylaw.
- Suggestion for central community bins for shift workers to compensate for the problem that they won’t be able to put their garbage out during the mandated timeframes.
- Need enforcement too.
- We should implement a restaurant bearwise program.

Discussion around other city garbage issues:

- Blue boxes: used to be able to get mesh to keep things in blue boxes; one resident is making his own; would be good to stop flyer paper
- Shopping carts: issue with carts in Junction Creek; the shopping cart “hot line” service will pick up shopping carts on the banks of Junction Creek but not inside the creek.
- Reported issues with students on Paquette Street who is not responsible residents.

Discussion around other city issues:

- Beaver dams in Junction Creek: there is a dam behind the RBC on Lasalle; also two dams right by the new section of road on Madison; the city has a beaver policy; we need to trap beavers; there is confusion as who is responsible for the removal of beavers and beaver dams – need clarification (City, Junction Creek Stewardship Committee, home owner)? Councillor Sizer noted that he has reported the issues to City staff and will follow up re scheduled action.
- Graffiti on Lasalle: what is being done, in particular on the building beside GoodLife Fitness and also at Place Hurtubise. Response from Councillor Sizer: it is the business' responsibility to clean up graffiti; he will follow up re Place Hurtubise which is a City responsibility.

4. Greater Sudbury Police Service Update

The GSPS was not in attendance.

5. Update on CAN Projects

Community Gardens:

Nancy Deni, Chair of the Community Gardens Subcommittee reported on the success of the Twin Forks community gardens. She introduced a number of volunteers who were in attendance and who assisting with building, planting, and watering. The gardens were primarily benevolent, and provided food for local families and the Soup Kitchen.

Nancy Deni will be leaving as Chair due to other personal commitments, and we are looking for someone to take a leadership role in organizing the garden activities. Anyone who is interested is asked to contact Nancy.

New Sudbury Days:

Rachelle Niemela, Chair of the Ward CAN, reported on the success of the first New Sudbury Days, which was held in collaboration with Ward 12 and Ward 11 on August 29 and 30. The organizing committee will be seeking additional volunteers to help with planning and running the event. Anyone interested can contact Rachelle Niemela. More information on the project can be found at <http://newsudburydays.ca>

Keeping Seniors Warm:

The Donovan/Elm West CAN is organizing a Keeping Seniors Warm project, where needy seniors are provided with a lunch at the Lockerby Legion, a trip to Giant Tiger to spend up to \$150 on winter necessities, followed by a tea at the Lockerby Legion. The Ward 8 CAN/Twin Forks Neighbourhood Association will be sponsoring a senior. Anyone who is interested in donating or volunteering can contact the CAN.

New Sudbury Community Center:

The Ward 12 CAN is spearheading a project to implement a community center at the location of the previous St. Andrew's school on Holland Ave. More information will be provided as the project moves forward. An Aviva \$100,000 fundraising project was created by the Ward 12 CAN and residents are encouraged to vote daily for the project.

Councillor Sizer also reported that he has requested that the City investigate also buying the previous St. Bernadette's school on Auger St. The intent is to tear the school down and add additional green space to the neighbourhood.

Community Engagement:

The CAN is looking to do a visioning session as well as developing additional community engagement strategies. Rachelle Niemela asked for feedback on preferred timing for a visioning session. Other CANs are doing the same this year.

Feedback included that it should be as soon as possible as many seniors will be leaving soon for the winter. The CAN will investigate holding a session in November.

Rachelle Niemela also asked residents to talk to her if they are interested in participating in our CAN Executive. There are a number of roles that are currently vacant, including Recording Secretary and Vice-Chair.

6. Councillor Update and Citizen Feedback

Councillor updates and citizen feedback items were done as part of the discussion at the beginning of the meeting.

7. Next Meeting

Tentatively 7 pm, November 18, 2015 at Twin Forks.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.