

DOKURA NEWS

FALL 2012

ANNUAL MEETING

In keeping with past tradition, DOKURA moves the site of it's annual meeting back and forth from east to west in the district.

It's time for the meeting to be held on the eastern side of the Kenora District – this year's meeting set for THURSDAY, October 4th, starting at 7:00 PM in Vermillion Bay.

We've been there before – the site, that is. This year's meeting will be held in VERMILLION BAY SENIOR'S CENTER.

Plan to attend. The Volunteer Directors who make up the Board, will be on hand to bring everyone up to date on their activities over the past year.

LOCAL EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE

Those who attended last year's annual meeting will recall that a Resolution was passed asking the Kenora District Services Board to expand their emergency ambulance service to include a base in Vermillion Bay.

Well, the Resolution was presented to the Services Board by the DOKURA representatives, and was well received.

No, that is not to say that a new ambulance facility is underway in Vermillion Bay, rather the proposal from DOKURA prompted KDSB to undertake a review of their entire ambulance facilities throughout the Kenora District. Hopefully this review will support DOKURA's feeling that the District – and Unincorporated areas in and around Vermillion Bay, are in need of additional service.

And, while on the topic of improved ambulance service, if you haven't been to Kenora lately and taken a drive past the almost completed new ambulance base on Barsky Hill, you should.

It's located next door to Kenora's new fire hall and looks most impressive.

And remember, regardless of the fact that the base is physically located within the City of Kenora, it's a base owned and operated by the local Services Board and includes protection to those living outside the city in the Unincorporated Areas surrounding Kenora proper.

NON EMERGENCY TRANSFER

It's been the topic of discussion at many Services Board meetings over the past few years – the fact that too many local ambulances are tied up providing non-emergency patient transfers.

No, there is no simple solution to the problem, however at the August meeting of the KDSB, a motion was passed, to be effective November 9th, calling for that Board to bill the dispatching institution the cost of non-emergency transfer service.

No, it's not a popular move, but one KDSB Directors felt they had to move forward on.

Residents with a question or concern regarding this change in policy will have the opportunity to question the four DOKURA Directors who make up part of the KDSB Board.

Just another reason to attend the Annual Meeting!

OXDRIFT AREA RESIDENTS

With the election of DOKURA representative, Sarah Campbell, to the Ontario Legislature, DOKURA was charged with the task of selecting an individual to replace her on the local Services Board.

That process involved DOKURA advertising for local residents who might be interested in filling the position, to put their name forward. The selection of a replacement being the sole responsibility of the DOKURA Board Members.

As noted, advertisements were run in local newspapers, and letters sent to the various Roads Boards, Road Associations and other community groups in the Oxdrift area of the Kenora District.

DOKURA received a number of calls from individuals who wanted more details regarding the position, and expectation was that formal applications would be received from a number of individuals.

In the end, just one application was forwarded by the closing date (a second arrived after closing), making the job of “selection” easier on the DOKURA Board.

Ray LeRay, a long time Oxdrift area resident was selected and currently fills the Oxdrift position on the KDSB.

Congratulations Ray.

And, on this topic, last but not least, congratulations to former DOKURA board member and representative, Sarah Campbell, on her election from this area, to the Provincial Parliament of Ontario.

FEDERAL GAS TAX REBATE PROGRAM

Those familiar with DOKURA will recall it's involvement in getting the Federal Gas Tax Rebate program extended to include the various Roads Boards in Northern and Western Ontario.

Unfortunately, in spite of the activities of DOKURA, the program continues to exclude the various Road Associations in the Unincorporated areas of Ontario.

No, DOKURA has not given up on this matter, rather is hoping the renewal of the program at the end of 2014 will include such additional local groups.

And, at the same time, DOKURA will be reminding both Federal and Provincial politicians that the existing Roads Boards need to be included, once again, in the program. There is no agreement on the distribution of such funds past 2014. No, not even the existing Roads Boards are guaranteed to see a continuation of their present Gas Tax funding.

UNINCORPORATED AREAS ENUMERATION

Those involved in the last election – Fall of 2010 – to select representatives from two of the four DOKURA areas, will recall the mess of a voters list the Province of Ontario – thru it's Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – provided.

The lists left off thousands of names, and those provided, for the most part, were vastly inaccurate.

With the next election set for the fall of 2014, DOKURA has been trying to work with MPAC to come up with a more accurate list.

Presentations have been made to Queen's Park and the President of MPAC, pointing out the flaws and offering to work with them in preparing a proper list for 2014.

Yes, DOKURA has heard back from MPAC's President, suggesting we meet with some staff from his Thunder Bay office.

Unfortunately, attempts to arrange a meeting with the hope that something can be worked out to correct the problem, seem to have fallen on deaf ears. DOKURA is still waiting to hear from Thunder Bay!

CONTACT DOKURA

The Directors of DOKURA – that's the incorporated non-profit association representing the interests of the residents of the Unincorporated Areas of the District of Kenora – are always interested in hearing from area residents on matters of local concern. They don't promise a quick and easy solution to your problem, but will try and help out whenever possible.

Readers can reach DOKURA by "E" Mail at dokuraorg@hotmail.com
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