

DOKURA NEWS

NOVEMBER 2009



"E" MAIL

In our last edition of this newsletter, we asked that the various groups and organizations in the Kenora District send us a note of a contact individual in their area, that we could reach by "E" Mail. Several have contacted us with this information, and to those who have done so, we say THANK YOU. For those we have yet to hear from, please take a moment and send the information in. It is for YOUR BENEFIT – so we can contact you quickly if we learn of something that may effect your area.

A perfect example of the need for a more comprehensive "E" Mail address list is the SHORT NOTICE we received with respect to the Provincial GROW NORTH public meetings held across the Kenora District. The meeting was held in Kenora on November 24th and a second meeting held in Sioux Lookout on November 25th. Unfortunately, DOKURA did not receive formal notification of the meetings until a few days prior to the actual date – not enough time to let everyone know, other than by "E" Mail.

If we had had your "E" Mail address, we could have let you know, so you could attended.

Yes, DOKURA attended.

So, please take a moment to send our Secretary a note with your "E" Mail address. You can include more than one individual on your Board, thus helping us to build our data base.

You should send your note to dokuraorg@hotmail.com

No, DOKURA will not make the list available to others. The listing, including the postal address listing we have, is for our use only. When we get individuals or groups who approach us wanting a copy so they can contact everyone directly, our answer is "NO". The only way we will allow such individuals or groups to access those on our mailing list, is via an article or advertisement in our next newsletter.

WEB SITE

Yes, DOKURA does have a WEB Site, and it can be accessed at www.dokura.com. It was established last winter, again thru the work of one of our volunteer Directors.

We are pleased to announce that one of our Directors from the Lake of the Woods North area, Barry Baltessen, has undertaken to become the new WEB Master, up-dating what is there already and adding new information.

One of the items the site will contain is copies of previous editions of DOKURA NEWS. That will give everyone the ability to go back and look up an item as the need arises.

Thanks Barry. Your efforts and time are very much appreciated.

And, on the topic of the WEB Site, DOKURA would be please to list community events of interest to organizations and groups in the Unincorporated Territories. If you are involved with a group and would like to get information on a coming event, listed, please send us an "E" Mail at DOKURAORG@HOTMAIL.COM.

DOKURA NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Looking for a way of contacting the Directors of every Roads Board, Road Association, Local Services Board and local community groups in the Kenora District outside municipal boundaries? Consider an advertisement in our next newsletter.

For information, "E" Mail Dokura at dokuraorg@hotmail.com and we'll get back to you.

LET US KNOW IF

Yes, we want to hear from you, and/or any of your members who may have a local issue you feel DOKURA should be aware of, and looking into. You can do this by contacting one of the Directors from your area, or by writing directly to the Association, using either "snail mail" or "E" Mail. Just send your request to the Association's Secretary at dokuraorg@hotmail.com and she will get back to you. Or, if you want to use "Snail Mail", you can reach DOKURA at Box 1245 Keewatin P.O., Kenora, On. P0X 1C0.

If you would like to speak to a Director personally, let the Secretary know the area you live in as well as your phone number, and she will have the Director closest to you give you a call.

AND, if you are reading a borrowed copy of this newsletter, and would like to be placed on our mailing list so you receive your own copy when we next send out an edition, send us a memo containing your address and a note that you would like to be added to our list. We'll do the rest.

District of Kenora Unincorporated Areas Ratepayers Association (DOKURA) tries to send a copy of it's newsletter to more than one individual from each of the organizations we have been able to identify within the Kenora District. Unfortunately, we are not always able to identify everyone who might like a copy, so PLEASE help us out. If you are the only individual in your group receiving this publication, we hope you will make copies available to others in your area. If you would like a number of copies sent to your for distribution, every time we publish a newsletter (two or three annually) please let our secretary know and we'll be happy to send you the required number.

GAS TAX REBATE PROGRAM – AN UP-DATE

In the last issue of our newsletter, we ran an article listing the various Road Association and Roads Boards in the District, noting those who did and did not received Gas Tax Rebates.

And yes, we have met with Federal MP Greg Rickford requesting that everyone be included when it comes to the Gas Tax Rebate program, not just the Roads Boards. He has promised to take the matter up with Federal Minister John Baird, the Minister charged with delivery of the program. Unfortunately, as of this writing, we have yet to hear back from Greg Rickford, but hope that his efforts will bear fruit for all.

We did hear from some of you regarding the dollar amount noted for each Roads Board. The amount listed was the amount each will receive during the current year, not the full five years of the program.

So, in order to save DOKURA having to answer any more "E" Mails on the total amount each Roads Board received, we've listed everyone again, and this time, showing the five year total.

Remember, the program is not over yet. The program was initially extended for an additional four years. Confirmation has been received that the Unincorporated Territories have been included in the four year extension. We just don't know how much each group will receive. In addition, while we know the Federal program has since been extended indefinitely, we don't have a confirmation that the Unincorporated Territories have been included in this "indefinite" extension. When we know, you'll know.

Here's the total payable during the term 2005 thru 2010;

<u>LAKE OF THE WOODS NORTH AREA</u>	GAS TAX REBATE	<u>OXDRIFT AREA</u>	GAS TAX REBATE
Cygnnet Lake Road Association	NIL	Aubrey East Local Roads Board	\$29,796
East Long Pine Road Association	NIL	Britton Twp. Local Roads Board	\$51,523
Ena Lake Local Roads Board	\$11,484	Eton Local Roads Board	\$80,388
Engineer Lake Road Association	NIL	East Cedar Lake Road Association	NIL
Gordon Lake Local Roads Board	\$15,519	Ghost Lake Local Roads Board	\$6,984
Ingolf Local Roads Board	\$3,259	Colenso, Redvers East & Wabigoon East	
Laclu Local Roads Board	\$20,485	Statute of Labor Board	NIL
McConnell Lake Local Roads Board	\$1,552	Mutrie Local Roads Board	\$76,974
Minaki Local Roads Board	\$7,449	McIntosh Local Roads Board	\$38,332
N. E. Bay Subdivision Road Association	NIL	Melgund Local Roads Board	\$56,023
Pellatt #2 Local Roads Board	\$35,849	Rowell Local Roads Board	\$49,971
Pickereel Lake Local Roads Board	\$15,519	Rugby Local Roads Board	\$26,382
Redditt Local Roads Board	\$9,932	Snake Bay Road Association	NIL
Sturgeon Road Association	NIL	Southshore Road Association	NIL
Sherwood Lake Roads Board	\$12,260	Southworth Local Roads Board	\$58,041
Tannis Lake Local Roads Board	\$6,208	Van Horne Local Roads Board	\$60,369
War Eagle Lake Local Roads Board	\$4,190	Wainright Local Roads Board	\$66,731
<u>LAKE OF THE WOODS SOUTH AREA</u>		Wabigoon Redvers West Local Roads Board	\$55,713
Burma Road Road Association	NIL	Wabigoon S.E. Local Roads Board	\$6,984
Bigstone Bay Local Roads Board	\$2,793	Zealand 3 Local Roads Board	\$36,004
Blindfold Lake Local Roads Board	\$6,052	Zealand 1 Local Roads Board	\$56,178
Dogtooth Lake Road Association	NIL		
Group Four Road Association	NIL	<u>LAC SEUL AREA</u>	
Gold Pointe Road Association	NIL	Hopperstad Road Association	NIL
Hawk Lake Road Association	NIL	Van Patter Road Association	NIL
Inglis Lake Local Roads Board	\$3,725	Snake Falls Road Association	NIL
Kendall Inlet Local Roads Board	\$8,225	Chicago Point Campers Association	NIL
Kenricia Local Roads Board	\$8,691		
Lake of Two Mountains Road Association	NIL		
McKenzie Portage Local Roads Board	\$10,863		
McCallum Point Local Roads Board	\$6,673		
Northern Peninsula Road Association	NIL		
Paddy Lake Road Association	NIL		
Red Pine Ridge Local Roads Board	\$8,846		
Rush Bay Local Roads Board	\$71,387		
Storm Bay Local Roads Board	\$29,952		
Spruce Lake Road Association	NIL		
Welcome Channel Road Corporation	NIL		
West Longbow Lake Road Association	NIL		

ANNUAL MEETING

DOKURA held it's annual meeting and election of Directors, in the Longbow Lake Fire Hall, the Friday evening of August 21st. That was a little later in the summer than in past years, however if the attendance was any indication, the late August date seems to be more preferred than June or July. We had a record number of individuals in attendance. To those of you who took the time to make the trip, the organizers say "THANK YOU".

The meeting saw the election of Directors and Officers for the coming year, including the addition of two new individuals to the Board. Ian Clark joined the Board as a Director at Large for the Lake of the Woods South area; Barry Baltessen joined as a Director at Large for the Lake of the Woods North area; and Bill Latham replaced retiring Director, Bob Wall, as the Director at Large for Oxdrift.

The following is a complete listing of the Directors and Officers of DOKURA for the coming year;

President	Bill Blower	Lac Seul
Vice President	Jack McKenzie	Lake of the Woods South
Secretary-Treasurer	Irene Kember	Lake of the Woods South
Director	Bill Latham	Oxdrift
Director	Colin Hodgson	Lake of the Woods South
Director	Gord Dingman	Lac Seul
Director	Ken Pride	Lake of the Woods North
Director	Penny Lucas	Lake of the Woods North
Director	Barry Baltessen	Lake of the Woods North
Director	Ray Leray	Oxdrift
Director	Ian Clark	Lake of the Woods South

Unfortunately, the two speakers DOKURA had lined up had to cancel at the last minute, due to medical problems. The topics they were to cover, Infrastructure Grant Applications and the formation of a Local Services Board, were tackled by the DOKURA Board members. Hopefully the information they were able to provide was of benefit to those in attendance.

In other Annual Meeting Business, those present were brought up to date on some of the activities of the Association over the past year. They included;

1 - An application for Associate Membership in the Kenora District Municipal Association. Membership in this organization would give DOKURA yet another opportunity to work with our Municipal neighbors in areas of common interest. That organization meets regularly, with Provincial and Federal politicians and being a member would give us a better opportunity to become involved.

2 - A report followed on the presentation Vice President Jack McKenzie made in Ottawa in August, to Provincial Cabinet Minister Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Community and Social Services. This presentation was a follow up to a similar presentation DOKURA made in August 2008, to the same Minister, regarding a number of issues of concern to Unincorporated Area residents – both permanent and seasonal.

3 - An up date on DOKURA's being accepted as the member representing the Unincorporated Territories of the Kenora, Rainy River and Thunder Bay Districts on a new group that could best be described as a Political Lobby Group – Common Voice of the North. This is a group made up of the Municipalities of the area, together with a number of business and community bodies, First Nations and others. Director Penny Lucas is our delegate to that body, and DOKURA is proud to be involved. Hopefully that group's collective voice on matters of common interest will be heard in eastern Canada, where the voice of individual members would be ignored.

The meeting concluded with approval of the financial statement; a report on the up-coming Home Retro Fit Grant Program and an up-coming meeting with Federal MP, Greg Rickford.



NORTHERN HOME REPAIR AND NEW RENTAL HOUSING FUNDING AVAILABLE

In the last edition of this publication, the availability of funding from each segment of the two programs, was detailed. Individuals interested in applying were directed to contact Adrian Deporto of the Housing Department of the Kenora District Services Board – Dryden office.

We understand several individuals who learned about the two programs thru this newsletter, have contacted Adrian. This edition of DOKURA NEWS contains an advertisement placed by the Services Board with more information about one of the programs. We hope everyone will take the time to read it, and, if they know of anyone in the District whom they feel may be interested, please make an effort to let them know about it. It's OUR tax dollars at work and we want to make sure those in the Unincorporated Territories get their fair share.

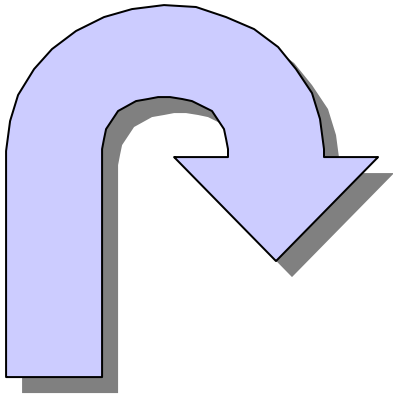
With respect to the HOME REPAIR grant segment, representatives from the Services Board are available to make public presentations and answer specific questions. It is the hope of the DOKURA Board that meetings can be arranged in the various communities of the Unincorporated Territories, if enough interest is shown. DOKURA would like to see a meeting in Mianki, Redditt, Wabigoon, Dinorwic as well as the new LSB area of Oxdrift. Representatives from these, or other Unincorporated Territory communities, who would like such an information meeting held in their area, should contact one of the DOKURA Directors to arrange a time and location.

ELECTION DATE CHANGE

The Attorney General for the Province of Ontario recently introduced changes to the elections act that will see the date for the Municipal and TWOMO Elections, every four years, changed to the fourth Monday in October. Traditionally, the election date has been in mid November, every four years.

Hopefully, this earlier date will make it easier for the TWOMO Voters in the Kenora District, to vote.

More on the election date change in subsequent editions of DOKURA NEWS.



FEDERAL MP GREG RICKFORD MEETING

Friday, September 11th saw DOKURA's Vice President meet with Kenora District Federal MP, Greg Rickford in Kenora. The meeting was to familiarize our MP with some of the activities of DOKURA, and to ask for his assistance in several areas.

Naturally the Gas Tax rebate program and the lack of information on the extension of the program, were at the top of the list. Roads Boards need to know just what dollar amounts they will be receiving over the next four years, so they can plan effectively, what work they can afford to complete.

In addition to concerns of Local Roads Boards, the fact that area Road Associations have been left out of the program entirely, was brought to Rickford's attention.

The lack of good information from Statistics Canada via its census, with respect to the Unincorporated Territories, was discussed. Many of the items we at DOKURA are called upon to deal with at various levels of government, are based, in part, on the information provided in the last census. Unfortunately, the information gathering process, and subsequently the published results, are very inadequate when it comes to the Unincorporated Territories.

Hopefully, something can be done in time for the next Canadian Census.

For boaters and snowmobile operators on the Lake of the Woods, who may, from time to time, cross the international boundary, into the USA (Minnesota), the problems with Canada Customs accepting the new NEXUS permit, was discussed. At present, individuals apply for a NEXUS permit to Canadian officials, have an in-depth interview by US officials, and then receive their NEXUS card. The expectation is that individuals in possession of the card can cross the border, easier.

Well, for boaters on the Lake of the Woods, and those traveling by snowmobile during the winter, all it takes to cross into the US with your NEXUS card, on the Lake of the Woods, is a phone call (use your own Cel phone) to check in with US officials.

Unfortunately, returning to Canada is not as easy. Canada Customs will not accept the NEXUS card and a phone call. They INSIST that individuals who wish to cross by snowmobile or boat, pre-purchase an annual Canadian permit called a Remote Area Border Crossing Permit, or, make the trip to one of the approved customs phones in the North West Angle area of the lake.

Again, hopefully something can be done in this area to make the crossing easier for all.

And last, but not least, in our meeting with Greg Rickford, an invitation was extended to him to meet with the entire Board of DOKURA. This meeting was set for October 14th, in Vermillion Bay. Unfortunately, duties in Ottawa demanded his presence. No doubt, as time permits and schedules allow, the meeting will take place, He has met with many of the District's Municipal Councils and the DOKURA Board looks forward to a similar meeting.

DOKURA MEETS WITH PROVINCIAL MPP MADELEINE MEILLEUR MINISTER OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DOKURA Vice-President had the opportunity to meet with Minister Meilleur while in Ottawa this past August, while attending the annual meeting of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Jack was there as an official representative of the Kenora District Services Board, and took advantage of his time in Ottawa to sit down with the Minister and several of her senior staff, to discuss items of importance to Unincorporated Area residents – both permanent and seasonal.

Of concern to DOKURA was the question of whether or not seasonal residents were eligible to vote when it came time to select DOKURA's representatives on the Kenora District Services Board. A subsequent in Toronto, with Assistant deputy Minister Alexander Bezzina, earlier this month indicated that Seasonal Residents are eligible to vote.

Another point raised with the Minister was the lack of a vote at KDSB Meetings attended by one of the alternates for the elected members who represent the four elected KDSB Unincorporated Territory areas. From time to time, the elected representatives are unable to attend a meeting, and their alternate attends on their behalf.

The desire of DOKURA is that such individuals be allowed to vote, thus ensuring that the concerns of Unincorporated Area residents are represented at all meetings.

The DSSAB Act of Ontario, allows for the Municipal representatives appointed to DSSAB Boards to have an alternate appear for them and vote, but does not extend the same privilege to representatives from the Unincorporated areas.

Again, we followed up on this subject with the Assistant Deputy Minister. Unfortunately, the Ministry does not seem inclined to do anything to level the playing field, and suggested that some form of local government for the Unincorporated Territory was needed in order to accomplish what we were looking for.

The next item on the agenda for discussion with the Minister was the question of selecting a replacement representative from an Unincorporated Area, should one of the elected officials be unable to complete their term of office, for what ever reason.

As presently written, regulations on the Municipal side of the field allow for Municipal Councils to select a replacement representative, but do not allow the Unincorporated Territories the option of selecting (public vote) a replacement. The present rules call for the DSSAB – Kenora District Services Board, in our case – to APPOINT a replacement. There is no provision for the Unincorporated Territories to make the selection.

This subject too was reviewed with ADM Bezzina and he noted that a bye-election was not the route to go. What he suggested, however, was the DOKURA, thru it's elected representatives on the Kenora District Services Board, conclude an agreement with that Board that in the event of a vacancy, that the remaining Unincorporated Representatives arrange for a replacement and so advise the Services Board, who, in turn, would make the appropriate appointment.

This is something DOKURA will be working on in the near future.

With this agreement in place, those in the Unincorporated Territories will effectively, be on a level playing field with our Municipal Cousins. They get to select who their representative will be for the Services Board, and we too will be able to do same, in the event of a vacancy.

The last item discussed with the Minister, and again with her deputy in Toronto, was the funding of the election. Current regulations call for the Ministry to forward \$15,000.00 to the Services Board to cover the cost of running the election. This is the amount provided to each of the ten Services Boards across Northern Ontario.

Unfortunately, when the regulations were established, no one bothered to consider the fact that some Services Boards have more than a single representative. Those with a single representative from their Unincorporated Territory – such as Thunder Bay – receive the same funding as does the Kenora District, where we have four elections to run.

Unfortunately, with the current economic conditions in Ontario, we were advised not to expect any additional funding for this purpose. The fact that we have more representatives than any other DSSAB in Ontario, is of little interest to the Ministry. They will fund the cost, up to the \$15,000 limit, and no more.

Yes, we understand others have expressed concern to the Ministry over this same matter, so hopefully something can be worked out in time for next fall's election.

Unfortunately, there is no voters list for the non-school board areas of the Unincorporated Territories of the Kenora District. The expectation is that MPAC is to provide same – do the necessary enumeration in the non-school board areas and compile a list.

Again, there is little interest from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to follow up on this, their only suggestion being that DOKURA take the matter up with MPAC. This is something DOKURA will be doing.

DOKURA FUNDING

Readers of this newsletter are no doubt aware that ALL of the activities of DOKURA are carried on by the volunteer efforts of those who serve on it's Board. No one is paid for their services.

DOKURA has been successful in building up a small bank account, thru the generous donations of a few. The need continues for funds to cover the on going costs related to meeting with government officials, as well as preparing and delivering this newsletter.

That's where you come in, as an individual or community group. DOKURA has no formal membership fee schedule, rather is open to all in the Unincorporated Territories of Ontario's Kenora District. What they do ask for, however, is a voluntary donation to help with their activities.

The response this year by individuals and Roads Boards/Associations has been wonderful, but with the number of activities DOKURA is involved in, we are constantly looking for more donations.

To those who have contributed, we say THANK YOU. To those of you who feel that our activities are worthwhile, and worthy of your support, a donation form follows at the bottom of this page.

Please take a moment to send us your check. It is appreciated.

DONATION TO DOKURA SPECIAL ACTION FUND (for government advocacy and consultation)

_____ \$20 _____ \$30 _____ \$40 _____ \$50 _____ \$ Other

Name _____

Address _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO DOKURA
MAIL TO DOKURA
P.O. BOX 1245 KEEWATIN POST OFFICE
KENORA, ONTARIO
POX 1C0



GROWTH PLAN FOR NORTHERN ONTARIO

DOKURA participated in the public forum held in Kenora on November 24th, and will be making a more formal, written presentation at a later date. The deadline for comment by the public is set for February 1st, 2010

The GROW NORTH PLAN is part of the Places to Grow plan presented by the Provincial Government which is said to be a twenty five year blueprint for prosperity in Ontario's Northern region.

Details of this Northern Growth Plan can be found at www.placestogrow.ca.

Individuals with thoughts or ideas they would like DOKURA to consider in preparing it's brief on this subject, are asked to put same down on paper and send it along to DOKURA's Secretary at dokuraorg@hotmail.com. Your thoughts and ideas WILL be taken into consideration.

KENORA DISTRICT MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

The Kenora District Municipal Association (KDMA for short) is an organization made up of the nine municipalities within the District of Kenora. It meets regularly to discuss matters of common interest and is in part, a joint lobby group when it comes to dealing with the provincial Government.

Readers of this publication will remember that DOKURA has approached KDMA asking for some form of membership, so that we can work with them, on matters of common interest to the District.

DOKURA heard back from KDMA noting that their organization's rules and regulations limited their membership to Municipalities. Having said this, they did invite DOKURA to send representation to their mid October Board Meeting in Vermillion Bay, to further discuss the matter.

DOKURA attended that meeting and noted that they had no desire in a formal membership in this group, that would include voting privileges. Rather we are looking for some form of an Associated or Affiliated Membership. That would enable DOKURA to work with the Municipalities on matters of common interest, and participate in some of their meetings and conventions involving representatives of senior government.

At this writing, DOKURA has yet to hear back from KDMA, however is hopeful some form of affiliated membership agreeable to both groups, can be worked out.