

DOKURA NEWS

SUMMER 2011

ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendar for SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 27TH, at 7:00 PM.

The meeting is open to all area residents – property owners and tenants – in the Unincorporated Territory that makes up the District of Kenora.

In keeping with DoKURA's usual practice of alternating the location of the annual meeting from east to west in the District, this year's meeting will be held in the PELLATT COMMUNITY CENTER HALL. For those unfamiliar with the exact location of the hall, it is located in the Lac Lu area. The hall is attached to the P.U.F.F. Fire Hall – 1km south of the junction of Provincial Roads #641 and #596 on highway #641.

DOKURA DIRECTORS

With the election that took place late last fall, DoKURA has a few new faces on it's Board, however, like all volunteer organizations, is constantly on the lookout for new faces. The work of running the organization is not too time consuming, however in order to make sure the views of all the areas of the District are considered, DoKURA is looking for a few new bodies to help manage the affairs of the organization.

The Directors have appointed Barry Baltessen and Ken Pride as the nominating committee for this year's Annual Meeting. They have been instructed to come up with at least one new face for each of the four areas that make up DoKURA.

In addition, Barry and Ken are looking for someone to replace retiring Director Ian Clark who has represented the eastern section of the

Lake of the Woods South for the past few years. This is a well populated area of the District – the unincorporated territory area east of Kenora, south of the Trans Canada Highway – so if you know of someone who they should consider, please give either Ken or Barry a call.

NO – the job is not one that involves countless meetings and travel, rather requires attendance at two or three meetings a year. Most of the work of the group is conducted over the Internet by "E" Mail.

If you have someone in mind, or would like to volunteer yourself, please pick up the phone and call the committee, today.

Barry may be reached at 807-543-3621 and Ken at 807-543-2491.

The following is a listing of the current Directors:

President	Bill Blower	Lac Seul
Vice President of the	Jack McKenzie	Lake of the Woods South
Sec/Treasurer	Irene Kember	Lake of the Woods South
Director	Sarah Campbell	Oxdrift
Director	Gord Dingman	Lac Seul
Director	Josh Johnson	Oxdrift
Director	Colin Hodgson	Lake of the Woods South
Director	Ken Pride	Lake of the Woods North
Director	Ray LeRay	Oxdrift
Director	Barry Baltessen	Lake of the Woods North
Director	Ron Cooke	Lac Seul
Director	Ian Clark	Lake of the Woods South

MAILING LIST

DOKURA has developed an extensive mailing/contact list made up in part of the various Road Associations, Roads Boards, Local Services Boards and other District community groups. The

problem is keeping it up to date as most of the groups are run by elected volunteers whose faces change, from time to time.

One of the sources of names and addresses DOKURA has relied on for the past several years, is the Ministry of Transportation. That Provincial department compiles a listing of the individuals who are elected at annual public meetings, to run their Local Roads Board.

Unfortunately, when DOKURA went to obtain the current – 2011 – copy of the list, MTO staff advised that it was no longer available to DOKURA, based upon instructions received from an area supervisor based in Thunder Bay.

It seems that the department has noted that DOKURA has, thru it's newsletter, suggested various community groups, and individuals, might consider making a donation to support the activities of DOKURA. The supervisor took exception to this and told the local office not to provide a copy of the list.

Yes, DOKURA is in the process of contacting the Regional Director of Transportation to see if the directive can be reversed, however, in the mean time, if your organization has some new faces that should be added to our contact list, please take a moment to send us a note with the individual's name and mailing address. The information should be sent to;

DOKURA
Box 1245 Keewatin P.O.
Kenora, On. P0X 1C0

Or, the information can be sent by "E" Mail to;
DOKURAORG@HOTMAIL.COM

FUNDING OF LOCAL ROADS

It must be an election year in Ontario!

The Ministry of Transportation, the Provincial Ministry responsible for administering the public funds that go into local roads, announced this spring that it had decided to increase the amount of public money provided annually to the region's Local Roads Boards.

Previously, Local Roads Boards received matching funds from the Province. For every dollar they collected in local taxes, the province gave them a dollar.

With the recent change, effective for the current year, the province will now provide two dollars

for every dollar raised by the Boards thru taxation of those served by their roads.

Unfortunately, this increase in funding was restricted to just the Local Roads Boards. The few Local Road Associations (also known as 50-50 specials – did not benefit from this increase. They will continue to receive just matching funds.

ROAD ASSOCIATIONS

Readers of DOKURA NEWS are no doubt aware of the difference between the Local Roads Boards and the area's many Local Road Associations. The latter seldom, if ever, receive any Provincial funding for the maintenance and operation of their roads. A few, which the Ministry designates as 50 – 50 Specials, are given some funding.

Unfortunately, many of the Local Road Associations that appear to qualify for this designation, and provincial funding, are not aware of the availability of the funding, or, thru some local quirk, have been deemed ineligible for assistance.

In operating the election last fall for representatives to the District Services Board, DOKURA Directors made many trips into areas of the District that led them to access roads that did not appear on any of the listings of Local Roads Boards or 50 – 50 Special Roads.

DOKURA has been in touch with area officials of the Ministry of Transportation, on behalf of some of the Road Association type roads, and while they have not responded with pockets full of money, they have agreed to discuss the problem with us.

Unfortunately, while DOKURA has the contact name and address for a few of the Road Associations, it does not have the information for all. What DOKURA needs is not only the name and address of the individual or individuals who operate the road, but also some information on the road itself. We need a count of the approximate number of properties served by each such Road Association, as well as the approximate length of each road.

The Ministry officials DOKURA spoke with are not prepared to consider what they refer to as "Turkey Trails" - a long driveway serving three of four homes, but indicated they were prepared to

sit down and review the matter with us regarding other roads.

So, DOKURA needs your help in compiling the information. Neither the Ministry of Natural Resources or the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, or the Ministry of Transport has any information on how many such roads exist in the District, let alone details of how many people they serve or how they are funded.

The following is a list of the Road Associations DOKURA has been able to identify and the area of the District in which they are located. Those that DOKURA has information on have an "*" following their name. The others are roads that we have partial, or no information on.

Please take a moment to look over the list and if you are involved with one that information is missing or incomplete on, PLEASE take a moment to contact DOKURA with the information. If all you can provide is the name and address of a contact person for the road, that's great. Just send it along.

Better still, collect the information on your Road Association and bring it along with you to DOKURA's Annual Meeting.

Where to send the information? Send it to DOKURA at either the mailing address or "E" Mail address detailed elsewhere in this publication.

LAKE OF THE WOODS NORTH AREA

East Long Pine Road Association *
South Shore Royal Lake Road Association
Engineer Lake Road Association
Cygnet Lake Road Association
Rice Lake Road Association
North Shore Royal Lake Road Association
Trout Lake Road Association

LAKE OF THE WOODS SOUTH AREA

Spruce Lake Road Association *
Dogtooth Lake Road Association
Paddy Lake Road Association
Hawk Lake Road Association *
Gold Point Road Association *
Hansen's Bay Road Association *
Northern Peninsula Road Association *
Burma Road Road Association
Lake of Two Mountains Road Association
West Longbow Lake Road Association *
Group Four Road Association *
Riley Road Association
Bell Road Association
Deception Bay Road Association

OXDRIFT AREA

South Shore Ghost Lake Campers Assn.
Cobble Lake Road Association
East Cedar Lake Road Association
Snake Bay Road Association

LAC SEUL AREA

Hopperstad Road Association *
Van Patter Road Association
Snake Falls Road Association
Chicago Point Campers Association

INTERESTING INFORMATION

The entire Province of Ontario lists a total of 89 Local Roads Boards. All are located in the Unincorporated Territories of the province.

Of the 89 in the entire province, 41 are located in the District of Kenora.

That's 46% of all the Roads Boards in the province.

MEANINGFUL VOTERS LIST

Readers of DOKURA NEWS will recall the problems DOKURA had last fall, in running the election for area representatives (4) to sit on the Kenora District Services Board.

The government department responsible for producing and up-dating the voters list provided a document to DOKURA that was a complete mess. The listing had little, if any, relation to where people actually were, and missed what DOKURA estimates to be, thousands of eligible voters.

Yes, DOKURA has offered to work with MPAC – the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation – to try and produce something meaningful, but to date, have heard nothing positive back from those in charge.

DOKURA will keep up the pressure, and hopefully, something can be resolved.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

DOKURA sends out copies of its newsletter to all the local Roads Boards, Road Associations, Local Services Boards, Volunteer Fire Teams and other community groups in the Kenora District.

Needless to say, the distribution of the publication misses many who might be interested in the activities of the Association.

If you are borrowing a copy of this edition, and would like to be added to the mailing list for future editions, please take a moment to send us an "E" Mail with your name and address.

DOKURA can be reached by "E" Mail at dokuraorg@hotmail.com or by regular mail at Box 1245 Keewatin Post Office, Kenora, On. P0X 1C0

We look forward to hearing from you.

FUTURE FEDERAL GAS TAX FUNDING

Readers of this publication are well aware of the efforts of DOKURA in securing Federal Gas Tax Funding for ALL the Local Roads Boards in Ontario. It was a difficult fight, but the end result made sure that many residing in the Unincorporated Areas of Ontario received their "FAIR SHARE" of this funding.

Unfortunately, not all of those charged with operating and maintaining public roads in the Kenora District were included. DOKURA has continued to press both the Government of Ontario and the Federal Government, to expand this tax rebate program to all.

Recently, DOKURA heard from an Assistant Deputy Minister of Infrastructure Canada – the Federal Ministry responsible for the program. The individual acknowledged our position on the issue and commented that the process for distributing

the funds was set until the end of the current agreement with Ontario. That takes us thru until the end of 2014.

The letter went on to explain that Canada and Ontario will be sitting down to "revise" the current agreement, dealing with its extension beyond 2014.

Roads Boards should expect to receive their share of this funding thru 2014, however just what and how much each will receive beyond that date, is open for negotiation between the Province and Ottawa.

Yes, DOKURA will continue to lobby both levels of government to make sure the Unincorporated Territories are not forgotten, AND, at the same time, will continue to pressure Ontario to not forget about the many Road Associations this time around. They, and the property owners they serve, are taxpayers too, and deserve to receive their "FIAR SHARE" of this funding.

ROADS BOARDS ANNUAL MEETINGS

It's getting to that time of year when all the Local Roads Boards will be holding their annual meetings and election.

DOKURA has sent Directors to many such meetings in the past, and would once again like to remind those in charge that DOKURA Directors would be pleased to attend your meeting and explain who DOKURA is and what it does, to local residents.

If you are involved in organizing your Local Roads Board Meeting and would like someone to attend, please contact DOKURA Secretary, Irene Kember.

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LOOKING OUT FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE RESIDENTS FROM THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS IN THE DISTRICT OF KENORA