



Volume 1
March 2018

MUNICIPAL E-NEWSLETTER

TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA

2297 Highway 12, Brechin, ON L0K 1B0

www.ramara.ca



Mayor	Basil Clarke	705-327-3426	bclarke@ramara.ca
Deputy Mayor	John O'Donnell	705-484-5742	johnod@hotmail.ca
Councillor - Ward 1	Marilyn Brooks	705-689-6553	m_brooks1@sympatico.ca
Councillor - Ward 2	Margaret Sharpe	705-484-5786	msharpe@ramara.ca
Councillor - Ward 3	Erika Neher	705-325-6654	eneher@ramara.ca
Councillor - Ward 4	John Appleby	705-484-5918	N/A
Councillor - Ward 5	Kal Johnson	705-345-6374	kjohnson@ramara.ca

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR CLARKE

This new e-newsletter is our latest initiative to reach out to our residents and keep them informed! I encourage you to share it with your neighbours who are not online.

This e-newsletter will be posted on the Township website monthly.

Council welcomes your ideas and comments. Please feel free to get in touch with any member of Council and share your ideas on how to make this great Township even better!

Council has worked hard with staff to pass a realistic and forward thinking budget. You can see the 2018 Municipal Budget on the Township [website](#).

Our Township is a wonderful place to raise a family, work, relax and retire. Our goal is to ensure the Township of Ramara continues to provide the high quality of life that our residents have come to expect. We are committed to serving our ratepayers by promoting responsible development, using tax money efficiently and encouraging job growth.

2017 proved to be a very busy year for Council and staff! We have reached many milestones and look forward to serving our residents in the future!

FOLLOW US ON



ACCESSIBLE FORMATS

Upon request, the Township of Ramara will provide, or arrange for the provision of, accessible formats and or communication supports for people with disabilities in a timely manner. Please contact the [Clerk's Department](#) at 705-484-5374 Ext. 242 if you wish an accessible format or communication support.

RECENT ITEMS that Council is working on!

March 26, 2018 Council—

[March 19, 2018 Committee of the Whole](#)—Fill Bylaw, Noise Bylaw

[March 5, 2018 Committee of the Whole](#)—Proposed Shooting Range, Election Sign Bylaw

[February 26, 2018 Council](#)—Proposed Shooting Range, Ramara Industrial Park

[February 12, 2018 Council](#)—Request for street lights, 2017 Audit

[February 5, 2018 Committee of the Whole](#)—Dog Licence Sales, Fire Statistics

[January 15, 2018 Committee of the Whole](#)—Procedural Bylaw Amendments, CN Rail concerns

[January 8, 2018 Council](#)—MPAC 2017 Year End Assessment Report, 2017 Treasurer Statement

A **Council meeting schedule** can be found on our website www.ramara.ca or by calling the Administration office.

Individuals who submit their letters and other information to Council should be aware that any personal information contained within their communications may become part of the public record, and may become available to the public through Council / Committee agenda process which will be posted on the Township's website. You can email these communications to council@ramara.ca. If you wish to appear as a delegation before Council, please complete the [delegation form](#) found on the forms page of our website. The form must be received by 9:00 a.m. the Wednesday prior to the Council meeting. The written request must state the purpose of the deputation and provide a specific detailed outline of the subject matter of the presentation. **Deputations/Delegations shall be limited to not more than 10 minutes.**

ELECTION 2018— MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT BETWEEN OCTOBER 12 AND OCTOBER 22, 2018!

Due to changes to the Municipal Election Act, the Nomination Period is from May 1st, 2018 to July 27th, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

The Township of Ramara will be using **telephone/internet voting in 2018.**

Eligible electors must be on the **Voters' List** in order to receive their personalized Voter Information Letter which includes your 8 digit PIN, internet voting website address and 1-800-number to use phone voting, phone assistance and other election information.

For more information on RAMARA VOTES 2018, visit www.ramara.ca

MUNICIPAL WORKS Mosquito Larviciding Program—The Township will carry out a spring aerial mosquito control program between April and May, 2018 in the area along the shore of Lake Simcoe and Couchiching from the Talbot River in the south to Fawn Bay in the north. The program will utilize one application of the biological insecticide Bacillus Thuringiensis (BTI) Biological Mosquito Larvicide under the Pest Control Products Act. A map of the areas to treated and details of the project may be accessed online. <https://www.ramara.ca/Pages/Municipal%20Works/Mosquito-Control.aspx>



Street Sweeping occurs every year to approximately 60 km of Township roads in order to remove any sand or debris left over from the winter season. Sweeping is normally scheduled for June of each year.

TREASURY SERVICES

****PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO TAX DUE DATE****

Monday, February 26, 2018

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

****Monday, June 25, 2018****

Tuesday, September 25, 2018



PAYING YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

By Mail—Make cheques payable to **Township of Ramara**, write your **roll number** on the front of the cheque, post dated cheques are accepted

PLEASE NOTE: Your payment is recorded the date it is received, not the date it is mailed.

Penalty will be charged on all late payments.

In Person—You may pay by debit, cash or cheque at the Administration Centre, 2297 Hwy 12, Brechin, Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.—You may also drop your payment off in our after hours drop box (near front entrance)

Telephone / Internet Banking—You can set up your payment through your financial institution. You will need to use your full roll number located on your bill for your payment to reach your tax account.

Pre-Authorized Payment Plan—You may have your taxes deducted from your bank account monthly or on each due date. Application forms are available at the Administration Centre or on our website at <https://www.ramara.ca/municipal-services/forms-permits>

Late Payments / Returned Payments—If your payment is not received by the due date, there will be 1.25% interest charged on the first day of each month your amount due remains outstanding. These charges cannot be cancelled by staff or Council. Any payments returned by your bank are subject to service charges.

Taxes for New Homes—If you purchased, built a newly constructed home, your property may not be fully assessed and your tax bill would be based on a vacant lot only. A separate supplementary tax bill will be issued for taxes related to the house only, which will be retroactive to the date of purchase or completion. Please ensure that you keep money aside in order to pay this extra bill when it arrives.

LAGOON CITY PARKS AND WATERWAYS COMMISSION

The Lagoon City Parks & Waterways Commission ('LCPW' or the 'Commission') was established in 1986 pursuant to [Bill Pr11, An Act respecting the Township of Mara](#), to manage, maintain, regulate and control private parks, foot bridges, foot paths and waterways in Lagoon City.

The **RAMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY** is about more than just books. Visit

www.ramarapubliclibrary.org to learn about a wide variety of programs and services for seniors, adults, teens and children. Here's a snapshot of some of the programs coming up. Each of these programs occur at the Ramara Centre branch. For more information about any of the programs, call 705-325-5776 or email info@ramarapubliclibrary.org

TOWNSHIP OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED—

March 30, 2018—Good Friday, April 2, 2018—Easter Monday

May 21, 2018—Victoria Day

July 2, 2018— for Canada Day

August 6, 2018—Civic Holiday

September 3, 2018—Labour Day

October 8, 2018—Thanksgiving

December 24, 2018—at noon until 9:00 a.m. January 2, 2019

CANINE CONTROL

Dogs within the Township of Ramara, three (3) months of age and over, must be licensed. The license fee is \$16.00 if purchased by February 28, 2018 and \$50.00 per dog thereafter. (2018 promotional rate is \$25.00 per dog.) When a dog reaches three (3) months of age, the license is pro-rated.

The limit is three (3) dogs per property.

Licenses expire on December 31 each year.

It is unlawful to allow dogs to run uncontrolled in the Township. All dogs on Township property must be leashed and must be wearing a current dog tag. Dogs that are running at large will be impounded.

The Canine Control Officers for the Township can be contacted at 705-623-7295.

Dogs are prohibited on the Ramara Centre property (including the sports fields) and in some Township parks. Please watch for and obey the signs.

Canine Control Officers will be canvassing the Township again this summer ensuring all dogs are licensed.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

If you are selling your home, **please ensure that your lawyer contacts the municipal office** to provide pertinent information such as closing date; new owners contact information and arrange for a final read of your water meter.

If you have concerns or questions about water quality, system pressure, possible leaks, or billing inquiries, please contact the Township Office at 705-484-5374.

Effective January 1, 2018, water rates are:



2018 QUARTERLY WATER AND SEWER BASE RATES										
AREA	WATER					SEWER				
	RESIDENTIAL					RESIDENTIAL				
	SERVICE SIZE					SERVICE SIZE				
	Less than 1"	1"	1.5"	2"	3"	Less than 1"	1"	1.5"	2"	3"
Vacant	\$117.76									
Lagoon City	\$117.76	\$164.86	\$211.97	\$341.50	\$1,295.36	\$141.06	\$197.48	\$253.91	\$409.07	\$1,551.66
Brechin	\$117.76	\$164.86	\$211.97	\$341.50	\$1,295.36	\$141.06	\$197.48	\$253.91	\$409.07	\$1,551.66
Bayshore Village	\$117.76	\$164.86	\$211.97	\$341.50	\$1,295.36	\$141.06	\$197.48	\$253.91	\$409.07	\$1,551.66
Heritage Farm	\$117.76	\$164.86	\$211.97	\$341.50	\$1,295.36					
Val Harbour	\$117.76	\$164.86	\$211.97	\$341.50	\$1,295.36					
Mara Shores Estates	\$117.76	\$164.86	\$211.97	\$341.50	\$1,295.36					
Davy Drive	\$117.76	\$164.86	\$211.97	\$341.50	\$1,295.36					
Park Lane Crescent	\$117.76	\$164.86	\$211.97	\$341.50	\$1,295.36					
Somerset Park	\$117.76	\$164.86	\$211.97	\$341.50	\$1,295.36					
*Non-metered Service	\$353.28					\$423.18				

Plus water consumption charged at \$2.53 per cubic meter.

Sewer usage charged at \$2.88 per cubic meter (of water usage).

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

For information on Garbage and Recycling Collection, please contact the County of Simcoe at 705-735-6901 or from 426 or 689 exchanges call toll-free at 1-800-263-3199.

County of Simcoe Customer Service operators are available to help you Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Message from the Fire Chief Dave McCarthy

Ramara Fire & Rescue Services consists of three Fire Halls, Station 1 in Brechin, Station 2 in Atherley and Station 3 in Washago. The department is a volunteer organization comprised of up to 70 dedicated men and women. All of whom under the direction of the Fire Chief Dave McCarthy, strive to provide the best possible service to the residents of our municipality, whether the response is regarding a fire, a motor vehicle accident or a health related issue.

The Fire & Rescue Services' primary function is to attend to fires within our communities; however they are also very involved in emergency rescue on land and water. Our Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Prevention Officer, Tony Stong, provides inspection services with regard to home safety, wood stove installation and vendor licensing.

Our Department also provides the community with a very strong Public Safety Awareness Program whereby some of our volunteers go to schools and rural fairs to demonstrate the "fire house" and advise residents with regard to home safety.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Creating your plan

[Make a Plan](#)

[Build a Kit](#)

[Be Informed](#)

[Know the Risks](#)

[Children in Emergencies](#)



IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?

BUILDING AND PLANNING SERVICES

ARE YOU PLANNING ON CONSTRUCTING A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE?

If so, keep in mind a building permit may be required! Building permits ensure that all buildings within the Township have been inspected in accordance with the Ontario Building Code regulations and the community can be assured the buildings are safe, healthy and accessible. If you are unsure if a building permit will be required, feel free to contact Building and Planning Services at 705-484-5374, ext. 234 or visit our website!

OFFICIAL PLAN REVIEW

We are currently undergoing a comprehensive review of the Official Plan. Please visit the [EcoVue Consulting website](#) for more information. Click [Official Plan](#) to view the document.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Township underwent an Organization & Service Delivery Review in 2015 and a list of recommendations was presented to Council. One of the recommendations was for Council to develop a mission, vision, and Strategic Plan to serve as a guide for all other plans in the Township. All stakeholders in the Township including Council, taxpayers, businesses, ratepayer groups, churches and other groups assisted in developing this strategic plan through meetings and discussion to identify and rank strategic priorities for the Township.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT On June 26, 2017 the Council of the Township of Ramara passed a Bylaw abating non-residential development charges within the Township with the exception of the Rama Road Corridor.

Water and Sewer development charges have also been waived in the [Ramara Industrial Park](#). The County of Simcoe will match the Development Charge Abatement program for Industrial Development.

SPRING RECREATION PROGRAMS Spring has SPRUNG and so has our lineup of Spring Programs here at Ramara Recreation! Your old favourites are back like Yoga, Zumba and Recreation Nation – but look at what is new on the roster. We've got new instructor Steve Hazard who comes to us from the Toronto area where he's got years of Ballroom and Latin teaching experience who is providing Couples Ballroom and for the singles out there Ballroom Line Dancing. Another new highlight is the Kids Art Jam Mural program with Lori Klan – a specialized art program where kids ages 6 + will use a variety of techniques and mediums to create their own mural for their bedroom- CREATIVE! To register for any of the above programs or to see what else is on tap head to <http://ramararec.maxgalaxycanada.net/Home.aspx>



YOUTH COMMITTEE

With the hiring of new Youth & Family Services Coordinator Karly McCabe early this year, we are starting to ramp up new Youth & Children's Programs at the Ramara Centre. Look for more PA Day programs like Mother's & Father's Day Crafts, Creative Play with Books and Wednesday morning Playgroup for Caregivers and children. Craft programs require pre-registration at <http://ramararec.maxgalaxycanada.net/Home.aspx> Another focus is on the Ramara Youth while Karly focuses to provide more opportunities through not only the popular monthly dances but now a once a month youth drop in for ages 11-14 years. The first one was held on March 9th while the next one is on April 13th from 7-10 at the Ramara Centre. These drop ins for youth are held the 2nd Friday of the month! Contact us if you want more information at recreation@ramara.ca

RAMARA SUMMER DAY CAMP

Summer will be here before you know it! And we have got a SPECTACULAR line up of camps from ages 4 years and up. We dare you to not find something you like! Our brochure is available to see at <https://www.ramara.ca/Pages/Recreation.aspx> (check out the link on the right hand side of the page) and of course sign up is already open and starting to fill for some weeks. <http://ramararec.maxgalaxycanada.net/Home.aspx> Come make a SPLASH at Camp Ramara this Summer!



TEEBALL

For ages 4-6 years, this popular 6 week league has been running for 10 years in Ramara! Come join us on Tuesday nights for a one hour skills practice and game that will provide the fundamentals of the game, what it's like being on a team and hopefully some fun milestones along the way. \$35 gets you a jersey, team and individual pictures and a trophy at the end. Sign up today at ... <http://ramararec.maxgalaxycanada.net/Home.aspx>

TRAIL SURVEY

The Township of Ramara is undertaking a feasibility study to extend a section of trail from Lagoon City, north to Concession 7. The majority of the trail will be aligned along an existing rail corridor. This initiative is the result of a recommendation of the Ramara Parks and Recreation Masterplan with the ultimate goal of connecting Lagoon City with Atherley.

This project will have three main phases: public consultation, natural heritage evaluation, and conceptual design. The result of these three phases will determine the ultimate feasibility of this trail.

The goal of this survey is to gather input regarding the preferred use(s) of this trail facility to inform the natural heritage evaluation and conceptual design phases.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeq-3_s-eKwWbUObEDkEHeCo3SeTu8A0DO0ExMZce1EwwiKeQ/viewform

