

ST. EDMUNDS PROPERTY OWNERS INC.

P.O. BOX 152, TOBERMORY, ONTARIO N0H 2R0

1972 - 2023

<https://sepo.ca/>



Credit: D. Hartney

SEPO's GOALS

To lead collective action in support of the long-term affordable enjoyment of our properties in an unspoiled natural environment.

To encourage responsible attitudes for sustaining the high quality of life on our St. Edmunds properties.

As we approach the 2023 Victoria Day long weekend, the SEPO Executive extends best wishes for a safe and enjoyable cottage season at your seasonal homes in the Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula. The weekend will kick start another busy tourist season. Enjoy the cottage season in this special place in Ontario.

FIRE SAFETY

A timely message from MNDP Fire Chief Jack Burt

One hundred and thirty-three people died in fires in Ontario in 2022. This was the worst year for fire related deaths in decades. In most cases, a lack of working smoke alarms led to tragedy. The Northern Bruce Peninsula Fire & Emergency Services implores you to check, test, and maintain your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms in your home. It could be the difference between life and death if fire strikes your home. If fire does strike your home, having a planned and practiced home escape plan is critical to the safe evacuation of the home when the smoke alarm sounds. You have seconds to get out of the home once fire strikes, don't be caught unprepared.



For questions or assistance with smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, and home escape planning call Fire Chief Jack Burt at 519-477-2941 or email the Chief at firechief@northernbruce.ca.

The natural environment in Northern Bruce Peninsula makes this area one of the most unique and beautiful in Canada. Our natural environment can be affected by fire. People living in forested areas need to be aware of the threat of wildfire, and actions they can take to make their homes and neighbourhoods Fire Smart. Northern Bruce Peninsula Fire & Emergency Services encourages you to learn about FireSmart and what you can do to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your home from wildfire. Go to <https://firesmartcanada.ca/> for more information about wildfire safety or call Fire Chief Jack Burt at 519-477-2941 or email the Chief at firechief@northernbruce.ca.

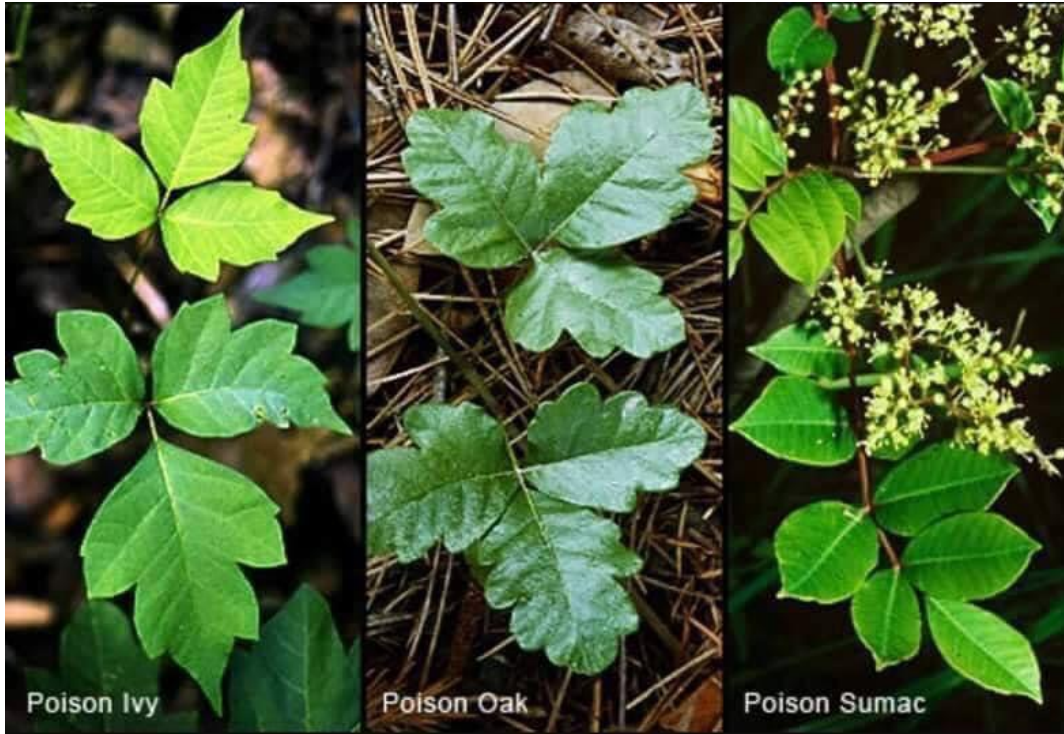


illustrations of.com #213445

TICKS

Tick Season is upon us with every indication of increased presence and concerns for disease transmission, particularly Lyme Disease. The FOCA AGM on March 4, 2023, included a comprehensive presentation by Dr. Maniska Kulkami, Associate Professor at the University of Ottawa. SEPO members can access Dr. Kulkami's presentation on the members only page by logging on to www.sepo.ca. Then select "Property Owners Info" page, go to useful links and then click on Tick Talk.

Avoid these three plants



2023 BUDGET

The 2023 Budget was unanimously approved by Council at the conclusion of the public meeting scheduled for this purpose on March 13. The meeting was accessible in person and via ZOOM. There were no questions or comments from the public during or after the budget discussions amongst the council members, which in themselves were very brief.

APPROVED

Following further review of the Asset Management Plan an additional \$110,000 was added to Reserve transfers, resulting in a final Tax Rate increase of 6.45% and overall Levy increase of 7.68%. The combined total tax rate increase for Municipal, County and school board taxation is 6.04%.

The opening balance of the Reserve Fund for 2023 was revised to \$17.054 million, an increase of 11.1% and \$5.1 million more than what was anticipated in the last budget. The net draw down of the Fund over the current year is anticipated to be \$5.1 million with a year end balance of \$12.8 million. It is noteworthy that the Reserve Fund has doubled since 2019, practically all funded by year over year surpluses from the Operating budgets! It is a reflection that there is practically no correlation between plan and actual in the annual budgeting process. There is no guidance to management at the beginning of a budgeting process and no benchmarks to measure departmental efficiencies.



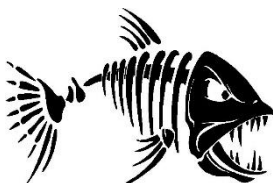
One major capital item planned for this fiscal year is the re-development of the Lion's Head arena. Planning for this upgrade began in 2012. The estimated cost of the project is \$10 million. An outside firm has been taken on to manage the project and assign contracts. Funding for the project will consist of \$1.976 million Federal and \$1.646 million Provincial grants as well as \$1.317 million from the Reserve Fund with the balance of \$5.06 million to be in the form of an Infrastructure Ontario 20-year loan at an annual cost to taxpayers of \$300,000.00. An alternative for consideration at a previous council meeting was to fund the balance from the Municipal Reserve Fund rather than a provincial loan.

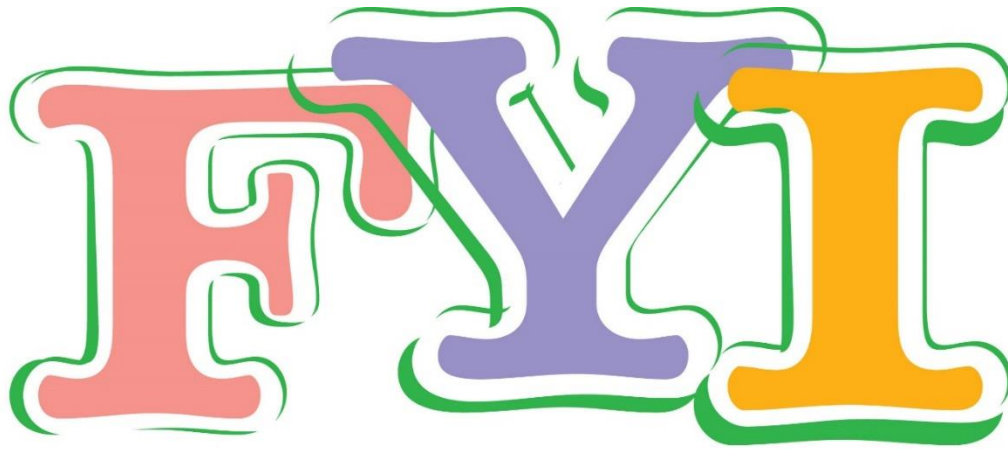
The annual interest charge would not be insignificant. However, the risk in taping into the Reserve Fund for the balance is that there will be no compelling reason to hold to the project cap of \$10 million given the available capital in the Fund. *These days, the substantially increasing building costs could push the final cost "right through the roof"!*

Also looming is the uncertainty to property owners of their future property values as valuations by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) have not been carried out since 2016 due to Covid 19. It is anticipated that MPAC will re-start the process in 2024 which will undoubtedly lead to jaw-dropping increases to individual property values and, subsequently, higher property taxes!



Our Mayor continues to beat his chest that our municipality has the lowest property tax in the County based on cost per \$100,000 of property value. Perhaps true but not relevant given the unique infrastructure and service cost differences amongst the municipalities. The mayor's pronouncement is like parsley on fish; colourful but useless!





• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

The SEPO website <https://sepo.ca/> contains information that is frequently updated.

In the past six months, we have sent membership renewal notices to all members with memberships that had expired or will expire as of December 31, 2021. If you are wondering about the status of your membership, please contact info@sepo.ca. Thank you to the many people who supported "SEPO" by renewing and taking out new memberships in the past year.

FIRE PERMITS

Fire Permits can be applied for and related information found online by following this link to the MNBPN website: <https://nbp.burnpermits.com/home>

NEW Bylaw 2022-21, Revised Fireworks Bylaw;
<https://northernbrucepeninsula.civicweb.net/filepro/documents/74324/?preview=77898>

SMOKE ALARMS AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

It is a legislated requirement to have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home in order to give occupants the precious seconds they need to escape a fire. Please contact Fire Chief Jack Burt for further information – 519-793-3713

DELEGATIONS TO COUNCIL

Those wishing to appear as a delegation are required to submit a completed form [Delegation to Council](#) to the Clerk. Delegations are received on a first come, first served basis. Anyone wishing to view, discuss or provide written comments on any by-law (or agenda document) or submit Correspondence for the Council Agenda or submit a completed Request for Delegation form shall provide same to the Clerk no later than 12 Noon on the Wednesday preceding the scheduled Council meeting.

PARKING

A Paid Parking Program is in effect in The Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula from May 15 to October 15 each year. Please follow this link for more information:

<https://www.northbrucepeninsula.ca/en/municipal-services/by-law-enforcement.aspx>

For your convenience, parking tickets can be paid online at:

<https://precisebi.securepark.io/user/mnbp>

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WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING

From the MNBP's website

<https://www.northbrucepeninsula.ca/en/live/waste-management.aspx>

Guide to what can be recycled: *Please read the information in order to know what items can be recycled in The Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula, it may be different to what you are accustomed to recycling where you live. Please follow this link to Waste Management's Company website for specific recycling information:*

<https://www.wm.com/us/en/recycle-right>

MUNICIPALITY'S 2023 NEWSLETTERS

February 2023 Newsletter

<https://sepo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/MNBP-February-2023-Newsletter.pdf>

CURRENT AND PAST ISSUES OF THE BRUCE PENINSULA PRESS CAN BE VIEWED AT:

<https://brucepeninsulapress.com/category/archives/>

BENEFITS FOR SEPO MEMBERS

- **Sparlings Propane** offers bulk rate pricing to members of St. Edmunds Property Owners, Inc.
- SEPO is a member of **FOCA** (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations), as such, you as a SEPO member can benefit. Additional information is available on the secure section of <https://sepo.ca/> Recently, you received an email detailing access to the secure section of the website. Please contact us at info@sepo.ca if you need assistance accessing the secure section of the website.
- Reduced price (\$20.00) for an annual subscription to "**Cottage Life**" magazine which includes weekly emails with interesting and helpful information.

MEMBERSHIP

To join SEPO or to renew your membership, please click on <https://sepo.ca> for our webpage containing information and a link to download a membership application form.

REMINDER The membership form can be completed and submitted **online** and the fee can be paid by Interac e transfer. Of course, memberships can be renewed by mailing the form and cheque to: SEPO, P.O. BOX 152, TOBERMORY, ONTARIO N0H 2R0
Mailed in memberships and payments will take longer to be processed.

ST. EDMUND PROPERTY OWNERS, INC. EXECUTIVE

President	David Almack
Vice-President	Udo Nixdorf
Secretary	Udo Nixdorf
Treasurer	Carrie King

Directors
Kevin Doyle
Dave Hartney
Tom McAfee
Jack Schenk

**Contact us at: St. Edmunds Property Owners, Inc.
P.O. Box 152, Tobermory, ON
N0H 2R0
OR at: info@sepo.ca**

St. Edmunds Property Owners, Inc.
*Representing property owners in the former Township of St. Edmunds and
the entire Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula*

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