

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – O'CONNOR DAY PLANNING MEETING
NOTES – July 7, 2008

Notes of the O'Connor Day Planning meeting held on July 7, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the municipal building.

Present: Councillors: Racicot, Nygard, Vezina
Clerk-Treasurer Buob, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot
Visitors: Fire Chief Henry Mattas arrived at 7:30 p.m.
Ron Biloski, Ronda Martin - O'Connor Community Club

Acting Mayor Racicot called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

O'Connor Day will be held on Saturday, August 23rd with a rain date of August 24th this year.

The pros and cons of O'Connor Day 2007 were discussed. Some of the cons mentioned were the lack of seating in the food area. Councillor Racicot will look into getting some molded seating with tables from Pays Plat. He will also look at borrowing a tent for the food area. It was suggested that possibly some of the tables and chairs from the Township of Conmee could be put in the food area instead of all in the rink area. There was again a problem with the PA System last year. We will look into renting a different system with possibly more speakers this year. We ran out of onion rings and corn last year. The amounts will be increased this year. The beer in the coolers was warm, partially because the sun was shining on the coolers. The beer will be taken out of the cases sooner and awnings will be put out over the windows to keep the sun from shining into the rink shack. The crib tournament and horseshoe tournament again conflicted. It was decided to hold the crib tournament first starting at 3:30 p.m. followed by the horseshoe tournament at 5:30 p.m. There was no Tim Hortons coffee last year because it was asked for too late. We will send a letter a couple of weeks ahead this year. The condiment table was hard to keep refilled and clean. We need to have one person specifically for refilling and cleaning the table and we should have two tables. This person will also check on the coffee and creamers etc. It was suggested that the organizers wear fluorescent t-shirts so that they will be easy to spot.

The pros were also discussed. The set up worked well with the scaffolding again, however it will have to be marked where we want it this year before it is setup as it was set too far from the propane tanks last year. Fire Chief Mattas has spoken with Marlis Dudzinski and we can borrow the tarps again this year. He will speak with Bruce Kruger with regard to the use of the scaffolding. The rink shack worked well for serving the beer and alcohol. A new counter will need to be installed. The children's carnival continues to be a huge success for the children up to the age of 14. Mr. Biloski does have a few new games this year and he does have enough volunteers to run the carnival. The price for the games will remain the same, as the cost of prizes has not gone up. The carnival will again start at 4:00 p.m. and go until 7:00 p.m. so that the volunteers can also enjoy the day's events and they have time to take the carnival down before the fireworks. Mr. Biloski asked for a cheque in the amount of \$150.00 to cover the costs. The paintball area continues to be of interest for the teens. The BBQ continues to be a huge success with a good variety of food and low prices. The costs of the food will be looked at this year to see if they need to be increased or not. Councillor Garbutt will be asked to check into the bun prices and the Clerk-Treasurer will check on the other items. This information will be brought to the next meeting for consideration. The community club will continue to have the concession and sell the glow products. Councillor Racicot will see if we can get the donated popcorn back. The inflatable jumper will again be setup.

The 2007 schedule of events was reviewed. The anniversary activities, which were held in 2007 will not be held again, such as the heritage hunt, the chess tournament or the pie baking contest. It was however suggested that we could possibly ask for donations of pies to sell at the concession. There will be no donation of trees from Abitibi Consolidated this year. The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, the Ontario Provincial Police, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Norwest Community Health Centre will be contacted to see if they would like to have a display again. The O'Connor Women's Institute would like to set up a display inside the hall.

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Attendance prizes will again be held each hour. Names will be posted on the board and then will be announced. Donations letters are available for anyone who would like to help solicit prizes or cash donations. Personalized letters will be sent to previous donators.

Games to be played were again discussed. It was decided not to have the hole in one again this year. There will again be a guess the weight contest. It was decided to have the combined weight of Council as the item to be weighed. It was suggested that a photo of each member be posted with the ballots for those who do not know who Council are. The bucksaw and the nail driving contest will be held again. Councillor Vezina will look into getting the bucksaw blades sharpened.

Tractor rides continue to be a hit and will be held again.

Hydro One will again be contacted to see if they can have a display and if they would be willing to donate a bike for the free draw. Canadian Tire will also be asked to donate a helmet to go with the bike.

The map of the area was reviewed. It was decided that because more seating is required close to the BBQ possibly the bucksaw and nail driving contests could be held on the inside of the ball diamond. Another tent will be set up if we can get one donated for seating closer to the food area. The Township of Conmee will be contacted to book the tables and chairs again. It was suggested that the history books and community club clothing could be setup with the Fire Department booth. The bar will again be setup in the rink area using the rink shack to serve from. The porta-pottie locations from last year worked out well.

Live Music and entertainment were discussed. It was decided not to have a live band in the bar area but to go back to using satellite radio for background music. It was suggested that we look into having a band inside the hall in the early evening until the fireworks. The Wannabees will be contacted to see if they are available and if they will play for donations. If they are not available Councillor Nygard will look into finding another band.

The Fire Department will again hold a raffle for a Bar-b-que. The last chance for the purchase of fire department auxiliary raffle tickets will be at 9:30 p.m. with the draw being held at 9:45 p.m. They will have their large tent set up. Sparky will also again be available.

Roberta Busch will again be asked if she would like to dress up and hand out balloons to the children. Councillor Nygard will arrange to get the balloons and helium.

Fireworks were discussed. London Fireworks will again be asked to do the display. The amount of \$3,500.00 was agreed upon with the O'Connor Community Club donating \$500 towards that. Other donations will also be requested to help offset the costs. It was noted that the gate openings into the ball diamond will have to be closed off before the fireworks start to keep people out and a safe distance from the fireworks. They will again be set off at 10:00 p.m.

Volunteer food coupons were discussed. It was decided that we defer the decision as to who is eligible for free coupons and how many each volunteer will get to the next meeting.

The BBQ has been booked from Party Pro, the same company as last year. The booking will be confirmed and pickup and drop off information decided. Councillor Racicot will get a portable cooler and sink for the food area.

Councillor Nygard will put the liquor licence in her name this year. Mr. Kiessig will be contacted to see if he can get ice from his same source as last year.

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It was suggested that the Thunder Bay Boys and Girls Club be asked to setup their skateboard park. The Clerk-Treasurer will contact them to see if they are available and if there is a cost involved.

Overall O'Connor Day continues to be a success and improves each year.

It was decided that another meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at 7 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer