

# Town of Canosia Newsletter

Volume 23 Issue 63

Spring 2017

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## **TOWNSHIP DAY: MARCH 14, 2017**

Every year, the second Tuesday in March is the most important day in township government! This is when we hold our town board election and Annual Meeting.

### CANOSIA ELECTION

For the township election on March 14, polls will be open from **NOON** to 8 p.m. at the town hall (4896 Midway Rd.) This year, there is one name on the ballot: Supervisor Kevin Comnick is running for re-election unopposed, but write-in votes are possible. On page 3, Comnick has written an article to introduce himself to all of you. Election results will be announced at the start of the Annual Meeting which begins at 8:30 p.m.

### ANNUAL MEETING: LEVY TIME!

The Canosia residents in attendance will vote on the township property tax levy amounts for 2018. The town board is recommending keeping the levy at \$297,200 with the following breakdown:

Fund	2018 Recommended Levy Amount	2017 Levy Amount
General	\$117,200	\$112,100
Fire Department	\$100,00	\$107,475
Road & Bridge	\$80,000	\$77,625
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$297,200</b>	<b>\$297,200</b>

The residents determine the levy amounts for the three major funds listed above; the decisions on how to spend the money within those funds is then the responsibility of the township board. FYI - The township portion of your property taxes has not gone up since 2009, and actually decreased in 2011 to the current level.

The Annual Meeting is also a good chance to meet other community members and hear updates on all township issues and activities. We hope to see you there on March 14 at 8:30 p.m.! In the case of extremely bad weather, the township election and Annual Meeting will be postponed until the following Tuesday, March 21.

**TOWNSHIP**  
**DAY:**  
**March 14, 2017**

**Election:**  
**Polls open**  
**12 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

**Annual Meeting:**  
**8:30 p.m.**

## **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY**

There will soon be a tiny new library in town! We've ordered a "Little Free Library" for outside the town hall, and we'll install it this spring! We hope the community will take advantage of this free book exchange: just take a book you might enjoy, and leave a book when you can. This will be a great no-cost way to spread the joys of reading right here in our community.

If you have been thinking about installing your own little library, please remember to follow all road setback rules: it cannot be placed within the road right-of-way (typically the R-O-W is at least 33-feet from the center of the road, but roads may vary); in other words, your library cannot be next to your own mailbox! If you have any questions about the setback rules, please give the township a call.



Little Free Library  
21" w x 23.5" h x 18.5" d

## TRAIL SURVEY RESULTS

The results of the Canosia Township Trails Survey are now available. The 12-question survey had 84 responses between October 3rd and November 4th, 2016. This response rate is equal to roughly 10% of Canosia households. The results of the survey will help guide the planning of trails within Canosia Township. Some of the highlights of the survey results include:

- 93.8% of respondents reported that they were supportive or very supportive of trail development or enhancements
- 81% of respondents reported that they lived nearest to Pike Lake or Caribou Lake
- Those who currently walk or bicycle do so mostly on township roads and not on existing trails
- The three highest reasons for not currently walking or bicycling more often were a lack of trails/pathways, lack of awareness of existing trails, and destinations are too far apart
- One of the most important goals to respondents was to inform the community of already existing trails
- Majority of respondents would like to use trails mostly for walking, hiking, cross-country skiing, trail biking, and snowshoeing
- Majority of respondents would like paths to be off-street (not mixing with motorized vehicles) and prefer them to be natural surface or paved trails
- Out of all the destinations, landmarks, and goals – the respondents didn't have an overwhelming favorite. The responses indicated that they were in favor of almost any trail improvements or development within the township. There were a few ideas that seem to have a little more support than others – Connection to the Munger Spur Trail/Schools/Future Health and Wellness Center in Hermantown, utilizing existing trails and publicly owned lands, and connecting the lakes by trail.

The full survey results are available for view on the township website [www.canosiatownship.qwestoffice.net](http://www.canosiatownship.qwestoffice.net).

What's Next? The steering committee developing the township trail plan is made up of the town board members, interested residents and a representative from the Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC). With the help of MIC, the committee is now developing a list of potential short-term (0-5 years), mid-term (5-10 years) and long-term (10+ years) projects which will all be compiled into a formal plan. The township will hold another public meeting this summer before finalizing this proposal. The actual development of trails from the plan will depend on a lot of factors including available funding, cooperation between various land-owning entities (school district, DNR, etc.), and the extent of volunteer manpower.

**TRAIL TRIVIA!** Did you know our township is home to the Canosia Wildlife Management Area (CWMA)? This 2500-acre property maintained by the DNR is used for hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The easiest access point is the parking lot at the north end of Ugstad Rd. Additional access points can be found on the Lavaque Rd and the Lismore Rd.

## RECREATION AREA

The township rec area will get a big boost from the recent Proctor School District bond referendum. As part of the deal, Canosia is slated to get \$50,000 which must be allocated for Parks & Rec. What are your thoughts for town recreation improvements or projects? Let the brainstorming begin!

The winter doldrums seems to be inevitable for our ice rink. We were counting on ice being available from Dec - March. With the recent thaw, the ice melted leaving only about half the rink covered. We will do our best to get ice back but we are currently looking at early March as the longest we can go.

We also have some plans for the front dugouts. Hopefully, in August we can replace one and have the other one leveled out. We use the dugouts primarily in the spring and early summer of the year so that is the reason for the August time frame. We hope this will leave the dugouts in good shape.

## RECYCLING

Canosia residents are first-rate recyclers!

In 2016, you brought in over 191,000 lbs. of recyclables to the township shed. To put that in perspective: that's an average of roughly 89 lbs. of recyclables per resident (Our last population count was 2,158).

Our recycling operation is funded by a grant from WLSSD. Currently we accept household glass, aluminum, and plastic containers, along with cardboard and mixed paper. Details are on our website. This year WLSSD is also planning to add plastic film (i.e. grocery bags) and food waste/organics recycling options at the township shed. More information will be available this summer.

### Township Recycling Hours

**Tues & Thu: 5- 8 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

## CANDIDATE INTRODUCTION: KEVIN COMNICK

Dear Fellow Canosia Residents,

My name is Kevin L. Comnick. I am the current chairman of the Canosia Town Board. I am seeking re-election to the town board for the next three years. I am asking for your continued support, and your vote, on Tuesday, March 14, 2017.

With your past support, which is deeply appreciated, we have been able to move Canosia Township forward in a positive way. We have completed safety improvement at the playground. We have completed the new basketball and new tennis courts. We have begun a four-year Road Improvement Program in partnership with St. Louis County. We have implemented the new planning & zoning ordinance. We have also purchased a new Fire Department rescue vehicle. We have established an Aquatic Invasive Species Program.

With your continued support, we can complete the repair and replacement of the dugouts at the recreation area. We can complete the Road Improvement Program. We can retire the Pike Lake Area Wastewater Debt. We can enhance the Aquatic Invasive Species Program to include Pike Lake and Caribou Lake with additional grant monies from St. Louis County. We will be installing a public boat cleaning station at the Carmen's Way Landing (*see pic and additional info on page 5*). We will be completing our Hiking and Biking Trails Project in hopes of implementation. We will continue to address all issues coming before the town board.

In my time on the Canosia Town Board, I have always worked to foster positive working relationships with St. Louis County, the Proctor School District, the Lake Associations, Duluth Area Townships, as well as the residents of Canosia Township. I have always been fair and equitable, made tough decisions when needed, and displayed leadership when representing Canosia.

I am proud to report that we have been able to accomplish these projects without a levy increase. I have always felt that we can accomplish things with proper discussion and planning. I take fiscal responsibility very seriously.

I also currently serve as Chairman of the Joint Airport Zoning Board, Chairman of the Joint Airport Board of Adjustment. I oversee the Aquatic Invasive Species Program for the township. I am also the current supervisor in charge of the township roads, along with Road Foreman Gary Oswell.

My wife and I have resided in Canosia for the last 17 years and I am proud to call Canosia my home. I enjoy serving our residents as your town supervisor and will continue to represent Canosia Township in a way that keeps us moving forward in a positive way. I am asking each of you to consider casting your vote for me on March 14, 2017. Together we can continue making Canosia Township a Shining Light!

Thank you,  
Kevin

### COMMUNITY CHURCH CHANGE

A long-standing Canosia church is changing hands. The Pike Lake Community Church on Martin Rd. will soon be the new home for the Northern Lights Community Church (NLCC).

The NLCC is currently located at the Four Corners area on Miller Trunk Hwy. Pastor Michael Hunter says their doors will be open to everyone, whether you don't have a home church or are in need some sort of assistance. The NLCC will open in its new location at the beginning of April.

### SPRING CLEANING REMINDER!



As you clear out your closets this spring, please take advantage of the cloth collection bin in the town hall parking lot.

The bin is owned by the local chapter of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). They accept cloth donations, like clothes, shoes, and bedding. The DAV is able to sell the used items to Savers and then use the proceeds to help local veterans programs. Thank you!

## FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT & EQUIPMENT NEWS

The Canosia Volunteer Fire Department had another action-packed year responding to 144 calls in 2016. That averages over 2 ½ calls per week. Add this to all their required training sessions and it equals a big-time commitment for our volunteers.

Of those 144 calls, 89 were medical emergencies for Canosia residents and 23 were various fires within the township. Thank you, CVFD!



**ATV:** The FD has a cool new tool at its disposal: A three-seater, side-by-side ATV, thanks to a grant from Yamaha and RJ's Sport & Cycle. And it gets even better: Yamaha will replace it yearly with a new model! The Viking will be used for off-road or ice emergencies and other precarious situations.

**RESCUE VEHICLE:** The township's new mini-pumper rescue vehicle is next in line at the manufacturer. The cab & chassis portion was drop-shipped to Custom Fab & Body in Wisconsin this winter; they'll soon customize it to our needs and we can pick it up later this spring. The mini-pumper will be used for car fires and accidents, grass fires, and medical emergencies.

**GENERATOR:** For the first time ever, the town hall and fire hall will have a generator to keep us up and running during power outages. This will make life a lot easier for the FD: In past blackouts, the huge fire hall garage doors would get stuck in the closed position and need to be manually opened. To do this, a firefighter would have to climb onto the truck roofs and haul the doors open one by one. Obviously, this was not ideal during emergencies! In the next few years, with the generator in place, the goal is to have the town hall open as a public shelter during widespread power outages.

## PLANNING & ZONING ORDINANCE ADOPTED

Canosia Township, which has administered its own zoning ordinance for more than forty years, has adopted a new updated version that went into effect on January 1, 2017. Our five-member Planning and Zoning Commission completed its updating work on the Zoning Ordinance in late fall and it was sent to the town board for its final review. This ordinance regulates land uses within our township. The new version of the Canosia Zoning Ordinance can be found on the Canosia website at <http://canosiatownship.qwestoffice.net>. A paper copy (\$15.00) can be obtained by contacting the town clerk.

The town board extends its appreciation to Tom Amendola, Dan Jezierski and Gary Oswell for their service to the community on the Planning and Zoning Commission. They are leaving the commission after having completed their current terms. They have each provided their knowledge, time and talent to the township for several terms.

Tom has served our community in many roles over the years including Police Chief, Board of Adjustment member and most recently as P&Z Commission member for eighteen years. Dan has shared his time and expertise since 2007 on the commission and is a regular attendee at the town board meetings. He said, "It has been an honor being able to serve our township." Gary who completed his third, three-year term on the commission also wears many hats in our township as Road Foreman, Cemetery Administrator, Board of Adjustment member and recently as Noxious Weed Inspector. Good job guys!!

The town board welcomes residents Kyle Anderson, Tom Collard and Mark Lockhart as new members on the P&Z Commission. It is great to have residents who are willing to step forward and participate in our township government.

Submitted by Kurt Brooks

**MAILBOX REPLACEMENT NOTICE** If your mailbox is accidentally damaged by a snowplow, please be forewarned: St. Louis County will only replace the mailbox supports that meet their requirements for size, height, location placement, etc. They will not replace the box itself. For additional details, we have placed a link on our website.

## ROAD REPORT

2016 was the beginning of our 4-5 year Road Improvement Program. We have partnered with St. Louis County to provide a plan to improve our asphalt roads, and when complete, will extend quality driving surfaces for the years to come. In 2016 Dubla Drive and Pike Lake Place were repaired and sealed. In addition, Lindahl Road and Kehtel Road had transverse and longitudinal cracks routed and sealed. These two roads will get new striping this coming summer.

In 2017 Vaux Road, Dunaisky Road, and Pike Lane will be improved with a "Scrub Seal". We also have plans to continue our gravel road program, insuring that our gravel roads remain in good driving condition for years to come.

The 2017 projects have all been approved and budgeted for. The board is also discussing the possibility of paving the town hall parking lot. If the Town Board feels we can add this to 2017 without a negative effect on the road and bridge levy, there is a possibility we can accomplish this also. I am optimistic that we will be able to approve this.

2017 also finds us having to designate a Township Noxious Weed Inspector. The program has been in existence for some time, but there is a concentrated effort to prioritize it in 2017. This is required under MN Statute 18.80 Subd. 2. The Town Board has designated Road Foreman Gary Oswell to be the inspector beginning this year. Gary will be responsible for identifying and reporting noxious weeds.

We will make every effort to keep you posted on the dates road work will be scheduled. We will attempt to have this information posted on the Canosia website. As always, we ask that you contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the township roads. Sometimes you are the best set of eyes we have.

Thank you! -- Kevin L. Connick, Township Supervisor

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) UPDATE

The township was honored to welcome the St. Louis County Board to the town hall on February 14. The seven County Commissioners, along with the County Administrator, Auditor and board clerk were all in attendance for one of their periodic travelling meetings.

On that day, the county board approved Canosia's \$30,000 grant request for the continuation of our AIS boat inspection program at Pike and Caribou Lakes. The town board and local lake associations believe educating boaters can go a long way in invasive species mitigation. Pike Lake already has zebra mussels. So far Caribou has no AIS designations; we will strive to keep it that way for as long as possible!



**HIRING SOON!** This spring, the township will be hiring part-time, seasonal Watercraft Inspectors (\$12/hr) to work from mid-May to mid-Sept. Please keep an eye out for job postings or contact us this spring if you are interested!

Look for this brand-new type of machine at the Pike Lake landing this summer! It's called a CD3 station (Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose). It's a user-friendly boat cleaning machine to help rid boats of AIS. Unlike "decontamination stations" which typically require trained AIS professionals using high-pressure heated water, this is a self-service machine which uses air compressors, a vacuum and a variety of attached tools to help boaters follow best practices for boat cleaning and bait disposal. The machine is electronically monitored so we will know automatically when it needs to be emptied and serviced.

The township is partnering with the county and the CD3 company for a two-year pilot program at the landing. The machine, installation and servicing are not costing Canosia anything at this time. If the CD3 proves effective after two years, we will take ownership. The ongoing maintenance costs would likely be covered by grant money.



**CD3 MACHINE**

**HISTORICAL NOTES: REMEMBERING CANOSIA RESIDENT ALBERT TRETTEL**

By Millicent O'Connell, Canosia Township Historical Society

A long-time citizen of the Town of Canosia was Albert Trettel. He was a man of many hats!

Audrey Eaton and I came to know him well while attending Town Meetings. One time was when we were asking the Town Supervisors for permission for the Pike Lake 4-H Club to clean up the Pike Lake public access and also to plant flowers at the Town Hall. I was new to town government, but Audrey knew the ropes for how things worked; she had been involved as an election judge and with other duties. Al wasn't afraid to speak his mind to help the supervisors, make good decision in serving all the citizens of the area.

In getting to know him, he told me that, among his many construction jobs, he had helped build the Alaska Highway, many buildings in downtown Duluth, even blasting at the "Point of Rocks" where they found a gold mine tunnel. "No gold, though," he laughed.

When he bought his land at the end of the Midway Road, his deed showed several former owners who lost the land because they could not pay the lumber yards that sold them lumber to build their homes and barns. Hard times.

Annabell Janov would call upon Al when her home and tavern, next to the Town Hall, would get out of kilter after a winter thaw. Al would tackle any task.

His sense of humor was wonderful. When he laughed, his grin was wide and there was a catch in his throat, like he was short of breath. And he held one elbow with his hand to support his strange bony shoulder that stuck up under his plaid flannel shirt.

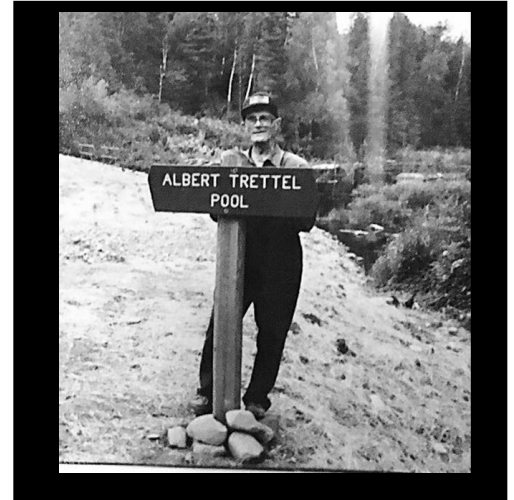
During trapping season, he would pull a sled full of supplies to catch beaver, mink, muskrat, or fox. He went across pond or lake ice holding a long iron rod that he tapped as he went to test the ice. One time, I asked if I could go with him and he said, "OK". That winter, I had walked all over the ice all the time. Al said, "I followed your tracks many times and you could have fallen through many times where the vegetation was rotting under the new-formed ice. As we walked together, suddenly his rod disappeared through the ice. He turned quickly and walked around that area. A few days later, he showed up with a young lad and a sled that held a strong magnet, to get his rod back. Sometimes my brother, Jerome, who was also a trapper, would pick up Al's furs along with other trappers' furs, to bring to a meeting point in central Minnesota where someone would bring them up to Canada where the price for furs was higher. They were all members of a trappers association.

On one bright, sunny day, I followed the sun straight west to Al's house. He lived two miles west of me, and the same distance north of the Martin Road. It was really hot by the time I got to his house, so I knocked on the door where he was skinning his latest catch. I got a glass of water to drink, and he insisted on driving me home, as he thought I would get lost!

Behind Al and Regina's house, near his garden, was a small building that was the home of one of the former owners. Now and then, the man would come and stay there when his wife and some of her friends would stay too long at his house drinking.

Shortly before Al died, he drove down my long driveway to bring me some butternuts he had picked from a tree in his yard. I was really surprised to see his big truck there – well, it must have been because he was too ill to walk down that day. When he left, he couldn't turn the big truck on my driveway, so he tried to go around the yard that was full of rocks. He got hung up. I called the new neighbors, who came right over. The wife got in the truck – the husband directed her. She backed off the boulder, barely missing the big Norway pine with the side view mirror, and neatly backed into the driveway; and Al drove home. I went to his funeral a few weeks later, at the Polish church downtown.

*(contd. on next page)*



*(Historical Notes: contd. from page 6)*

On one of Al's visits to my home, over coffee, he asked if I had ever roasted a beaver. I had when I was a young bride, for my brother, Victor, who was a trapper, too. So Al brought me a beaver that he said came from a very clean pond, and I roasted it for him with vegetables, and it was a delicious meal.

When we had the Town of Canosia's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1988, we held a dinner over at the Catholic church basement for all the visitors who had come from a distance for the two-day celebration. Al told me he had to be very careful that Regina didn't find out that he had come to the dinner, for they were only to go to the Polish church in downtown Duluth.

There is a second dammed pond in the Canosia Wildlife Management Area, built by the St. Louis County Highway Department when they had to replace wetlands that they had filled in when building roads. They call it "wetland mitigation". The pond was named for Albert Trettel. Al was honored for his many years of trapping beavers that had flooded county roads and for his important part as a member of the United Northern Sportsmen club in bringing about the establishment of this important addition to Northeastern Minnesota.

Albert Trettel is only one of the many dedicated citizens in our township. In Canosia Town Hall there is a picture of Albert Trettel with an article about him. Stop in to see it next time you attend a Town Meeting or go there to vote.

By Millicent O'Connell, Canosia Historical Society

## **NO MORE MS4! MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM UPDATE**

In January, we received good news from the Stormwater Section of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. They reviewed our MS4 permit application and we discussed how the township has very few ditches and culverts in the urbanized area around Pike Lake. They determined that Canosia Township is not subject to regulation at this time.

This determination enables Canosia Township to set aside creation of ordinances, inspections, and other requirements that would have otherwise been required within the next six months to three years. We originally entered into the permit process because of the urbanized area around Pike Lake indicated by the 2010 census results. The future 2020 census results could introduce changes that may subject us to the regulation at that point, but we are glad for the reprieve now.

Of course, clean storm water will remain important to us all. We will continue education intended to eliminate or reduce suspended solids, oil and grease, chloride (salt), and other contaminants that would enter our lakes, streams and rivers. We may also continue as a member of the Regional Stormwater Protection Team so we can continue to partner with surrounding communities to educate the public and obtain best practices in stormwater protection.

## **PLAWCS RECEIVES GRANT FOR INFLOW AND INFILTRATIONS STUDY**

PLAWCS has been awarded a grant from the Minnesota DNR and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to investigate inflow and infiltration (I/I) in the sewer system. The work of the study will be to televise some of the gravity sewer mains to look for potential sources of inflow and infiltration. While PLAWCS has not seen immediate issues with I/I overall in the past few years, increased attention from WLSSD spurred the need to begin looking forward.

Canosia Township Supervisor and PLAWCS Chair Kurt Brooks worked with the district engineer, Joe Jurewicz from MSA Professional Services to apply for the study. The funds will be used to hire a specialty contractor to televise gravity sewer mains and cover PLAWCS costs for providing a summary report highlighting issues and potential solutions. "Sewer televising is the backbone of identifying issues in sewer mains for long-term maintenance." Jurewicz stated. "This grant helps support PLAWCS long-term maintenance; specifically to prepare, and more importantly, budget for long-term maintenance needs."

The study is funded in part by the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office for Coastal Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration under Award NA14NOS4190055 provided to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program.

**Canosia Township Newsletter**

Canosia Town Hall  
4896 Midway Road  
Duluth, MN 55811

**TOWN HALL**

4896 Midway Road, Duluth MN 55811  
Phone/Fax: 218-729-9833

Email: canosiatownship@yahoo.com  
Website: www.canosiatownship.qwestoffice.net

Official Posting Places:  
Town Hall and Intersection of Lavaque & Martin Roads

**TOWN BOARD**

Regular meeting: first Wed. of each month at 7 pm

Kevin Connick, Chair: 590-6473  
Kurt Brooks, Supervisor: 393-0304  
Dan Golen, Supervisor: 464-2365  
Susan Krasaway, Clerk: 590-6746  
Cheryl Borndal, Treasurer: 729-9833

**PLANNING & ZONING**

Regular Meeting: 2nd Wed. of each month at 7 pm

Tim Walburg, Director: 340-5924  
Call for building permits or P&Z questions

**PLAWCS**

Phone: 729-9007 Fax: 729-9447  
Email: plawcs@qwestoffice.net  
Website: www.PLAWCS.com

**FIRE DEPARTMENT & BURNING PERMITS**

Gene Stevens, Chief: 729-6211  
Emergencies: 911  
Burning Permits: Tom Amendola 393-5533

**OTHER**

Rec Area: Director Mike Ellingson, 729-7428

Historical Society: 729-9833, Regular meeting on the  
fourth Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

Recycling: Tues/Thu 5-8 p.m., Sat 9 a.m. – 5p.m.