

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 5:00 PM Closed Session and 6:00PM Open Session Held via WebEx Video, Teleconference and In-person

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT		STAFF PRESENT
Mayor:	John Beddows	Shellee Fournier, CAO
Councillors:	Colin Brown	Penny Kelly, Clerk/CEMC
4	Matt Harper	Brenda Guy, Manager of Planning and Development
	Patrick Kirkby	Melanie Kirkby, Treasurer
	Anne-Marie Koiner	Doug Wark, Manager of Parks and Recreation
	Vicky Leakey	David Armstrong, Manager of Public Works
	David Osmond	Scott Gee, Police Chief
Regrets:		Gord Howard, Fire Chief

1.	Call Meeting to Order		
	Mayor Beddows called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.		
2.	Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest & General Nature Thereof		
	Councillor Brown declared a Conflict of Interest with respect to Report Council- UTIL-2023-11, as it relates to the accommodation industry.		
3.	Closed Meeting of Council (Beginning at 5:00 PM)		
	Move into Closed Session		
	Moved by Councillor Koiner that the Council of the Council of the Town of Gananoque, in accordance with Section 239.2 of the <i>Municipal Act,</i> moves into Closed Session at 5:02 PM for the purpose of discussing one (1) item under Advice that is Subject to Solicitor-client Privilege, including Communications Necessary for that Purpose; one (1) item under Personal Matters Concerning an Identifiable Individual, Including Municipal or Board Employees, and; one (1) under a Position, Plan, Procedure, Criteria or Instruction to be Applied to any Negotiations Carried On or to be Carried on by or on Behalf of the Municipality or Local Board.		
4.	Mayo Out of Closed Session at 6:05 PM		
4.	Move Out of Closed Session at 6:05 PM		
	Council resumed the Open Session at 6:15 PM.		
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5.	Reporting Out of Closed Session – Matters Arising		
5.	•		

Motion #23-114 – Tolling Agreement with the Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands (TLTI)

Moved by: Councillor Koiner Seconded by: Councillor Harper BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE AUTHORIZES THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO SIGN A TOLLING AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF LEEDS & THE THOUSAND ISLANDS, AS PRESENTED IN CLOSED SESSION.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

6. Canadian National Anthem

- The National Anthem was played.
- 7. Land Acknowledgement Statement
 - Mayor Beddows read the Land Acknowledgement Statement
- 8. Public Question / Comment (Only Addressing Motion(s) or Reports on the Agenda)

***Councillor Brown left the room while his father presented comments with respect to Report Council-UTIL-2023-11, and; returned to the room once Jeff Brown's comments were heard by the Council members present.

- Members of the public also addressed Reports on the Agenda.
- 9. Disclosure of Additional Items
 - 1. Gananoque Community Garden and Food Forest Request for Concrete Planters Mayor Beddows (circulated to Council on May 15, 2023)
- 10. Delegations None
- 11. Presentations / Awards / Deputations None
- **12.** | Mayor's Declaration None
- 13. | Public Meeting None
- 14. Unfinished Business

Council-CAO-2023-12 - Thousand Islands Youth Boxing Club (TIYBC) Lease

Motion #23-103 – Thousand Islands Youth Boxing Club (TIYBC) Lease – Direction to Staff

Moved by: Councillor Harper Seconded by: Councillor Koiner BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE POSTPONES REPORT COUNCIL-CAO-2023-12, ENTITLED "THOUSAND ISLANDS YOUTH BOXING CLUB (TIYBC) LEASE;

AND FURTHER DIRECTS STAFF TO EXTEND THE CURRENT LEASE AGREEMENT WITH TIYBC FOR AN ADDITIONAL SIX (6) MONTHS AT THE CURRENT RATE;

AND FURTHER AUTHORIZE STAFF TO SPEND \$3,000 FOR THE ENGINEERING STUDY OF LOU JEFFRIES FLOOR, WITH THE REPORT TO INCLUDE FLOOR PLANS FOR THE 1ST AND 2ND FLOOR OF THE ARENA WITH LAYOUT OF TIYBC AND OTHER INFORMATION STAFF DEEMS IMPORTANT.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

15. Approval of Minutes – Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Motion #23-102 – Approval of Minutes – Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Moved by: Councillor Koiner Seconded by: Councillor Harper
BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE
HEREBY ADOPTS THE REGULAR MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, MAY 2ND,
2023 MEETING.

CARRIED – UNANIMOUS

16. Staff Reports

Council-FIN-2023-21 - Capital Matters Pending

Motion #23-104 - Capital Matters Pending

Moved by: Councillor Koiner Seconded by: Councillor Harper BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE RECEIVES THE CAPITAL MATTERS PENDING UPDATE, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT FIN-2023-21.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

Council-FIN-2023-22 - Reserve Schedule

Motion #23-105 – Reserve Schedule

Moved by: Councillor Koiner **Seconded by:** Councillor Harper BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION THE 2023 RESERVE SCHEDULE, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT FIN-2023-22.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

Council-FIN-2023-23 – Renewal of Managed IT Service Contract – ITI Canada Inc. (formerly Zycom Technologies)

By-law No. 2023-063 – Renewal of Managed IT Service Contract – ITI Canada Inc. (formerly Zycom Technologies)

Moved by: Councillor Koiner Seconded by: Councillor Harper BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE PASS BY-LAW NO. 2023-063, BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CLERK TO SIGN A THREE (3) YEAR AGREEMENT WITH ITI CANADA INC., FORMERLY ZYCOM TECHNOLOGY INC., FOR THE PROVISION OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE'S MANAGED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) SERVICE RENEWAL, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT FIN-2023-23.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

Council-FIN-2023-24 – Purchase of Replacement Server – ITI Canada Inc. (formerly Zycom Technologies)

By-law No. 2023-064 – Purchase of Replacement Server – ITI Canada Inc. (formerly Zycom Technologies)

Moved by: Councillor Koiner Seconded by: Councillor Harper BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE PASS BY-LAW NO. 2023-064, BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CLERK TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH ITI CANADA INC., FORMERLY ZYCOM TECHNOLOGY INC., FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A REPLACEMENT SERVER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$110,553.65 (INCLUSIVE OF TOWN PORTION OF HST), TO BE FUNDED FROM CAPITAL RESERVES, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT FIN-2023-24.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

Council-FIN-2023-25 - Request for Quotation (RFQ) and Purchase of Investments

Motion #23-106 – Request for Quotation (RFQ) – Interest Rates for Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs)

Moved by: Councillor Koiner Seconded by: Councillor Harper BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE DIRECTS STAFF TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS (RFQ) FOR INTEREST RATES FOR GUARANTEED INVESTMENT CERTIFICATES (GIC) AND TERM DEPOSITS, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT FIN-2023-25.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

^{***}At this point, the Chair called a recess at 8:00 PM.

^{***}The meeting reconvened at 8:11 PM.

By-law No. 2023-068 - Purchase of Investments

Moved by: Councillor Koiner **Seconded by:** Councillor Harper BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE PASS BY-LAW NO. 2023-068, BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND THE TREASURER TO OPEN AN INVESTMENT ACCOUNT TOTALLING \$5,000,000.00, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT FIN-2023-25.

CARRIED – UNANIMOUS

Council-REC-2023-14 – Lease Agreement – 110 Kate Street – MyFM Broadcasting Corporation

***Moved by Councillor Harper and seconded by Councillor Brown that the recommendation contained in Report Council-REC-2023-14, be amended to remove "THREE (3) YEAR", and replace with "ONE (1) YEAR", and; that the following be added "AND FURTHER THAT THE WORDING OF THE LEASE INCLUDE THE FACT THAT THE CURRENT RENT COVERS THE COST OF OPERATING THE BUILDING AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP) COSTS".

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

By-law No. 2023-065 – Lease Agreement – 110 Kate Street – MyFM Broadcasting Corporation

Moved By: Councillor Harper Seconded By: Councillor Brown BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE PASS BY-LAW NO. 2023-065, BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR AND CLERK TO SIGN A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH MYFM BROADCASTING CORPORATION, FOR A PORTION OF 110 KATE STREET FOR A ONE (1) YEAR TERM, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT—REC-2023-14.

AND FURTHER THAT THE WORDING OF THE LEASE INCLUDE THE FACT THAT THE CURRENT RENT COVERS THE COST OF OPERATING THE BUILDING AND ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP) COSTS.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

***At this point, Council considered Report Council-UTIL-2023-11.

Council-RDS-2023-09 – Award of Contract – Detailed Engineering Design – Arthur Street Phase II

By-law No. 2023-066 – Award of Contract – Detailed Engineering Design – Arthur Street Phase II

Moved By: Councillor Koiner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE
PASS BY-LAW NO. 2023-066, BEING A BY-LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR
AND CLERK TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH MORRISON HERSHFIELD
LTD., FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES TO COMPLETE A DETAILED
ENGINEERING DESIGN FOR THE REHABILITATION OF ARTHUR STREET
BETWEEN CHARLES STREET AND THE PARKLAND EAST OF WILLIAM
STREET, TO AN UPSET LIMIT OF \$104,170.00 (EXCLUDING HST), AND THE
OPTIONAL COST SUBMISSION FOR CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION AND
INSPECTION TO AN UPSET LIMIT OF \$76,800 (EXCLUDING HST), AS
PRESCRIBED IN RFP RDS-2023-02, AND AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL
REPORT RDS-2023-09.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

Council-UTIL-2023-09 – Request for Council Support – FCM Grant Application for Acti-Zyme Program

Motion #23-107 - Request for Council Support - FCM Grant Application for Acti-Zyme Program

Moved By: Councillor Harper Seconded By: Councillor Koiner BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE SUPPORTS TOWN STAFF SUBMITTING A GRANT APPLICATION THROUGH

THE GREEN MUNICIPAL FUND OF THE FEDERATION OF CANADIAN MUNICIPALITIES (FCM), AND THAT THE TOWN'S SHARE OF 20%, BEING \$37,010.95 IS COMMITTED FOR OUR ACTI-ZYME TRIAL PROGRAM, AND THAT IF SUCCESSFUL THE FUNDING COULD COVER UP TO 80%, BEING \$148,043.70 OF THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROGRAM, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT UTIL-2023-09.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

Council-UTIL-2023-10 - Water and Wastewater First (1st) Quarter Reports

Motion #23-108 – Water and Wastewater First (1st) Quarter Reports

Moved By: Councillor Harper Seconded By: Councillor Koiner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE

RECEIVES THE WATER AND WASTEWATER FIRST (1ST) QUARTER

REPORT FOR INFORMATION, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT UTIL2023-10.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

Council-UTIL-2023-11 – Municipal Servicing Agreement – Development in the Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands (TLTI)

***Councillor Brown declared a Conflict of Interest and left the room.

By-law No. 2023-067 – Municipal Servicing Agreement – Development in the Township of Leeds & the Thousand Islands (TLTI)

Moved By: Councillor Harper

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE
PASS BY-LAW NO. 2023-067, BEING A BY-LAW ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT WITH 1291092 ONTARIO INC., TO ESTABLISH THE
INSTALLATION AND RATES FOR SERVICING A DEVELOPMENT LOCATED
IN THE TOWNSHIP OF LEEDS AND THE THOUSAND ISLANDS (TLTI),
SPECIFICALLY THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS PT LT 18 CON 1 LEEDS AS
IN LR375506; LEEDS/THOUSAND ISLANDS; SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT IN
GROSS OVER PART 1 28R15528 AS IN LE139838, AND SUBJECT TO FINAL
REVIEW BY THE TOWN'S LEGAL COUNSEL, AS PRESENTED IN COUNCIL
REPORT UTIL-2023-11.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS, by those voting

***Councillor Brown returned to the room.

Council-LIB-2023-02 - Gananoque Public Library Quarterly Report

Motion #23-109 – Gananoque Public Library Quarterly Report

Moved By: Councillor Harper Seconded By: Councillor Koiner

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE

RECEIVES THE GANANOQUE PUBLIC LIBRARY QUARTERLY REPORT, AS

PRESENTED IN COUNCIL REPORT LIB-2023-02.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

- 17. | Motions (Council Direction to Staff)
- Physician Recruitment Working Group Seeking Council Representative(s) Mayor Beddows

Motion #23-110 – Physician Recruitment Working Group – Seeking Council Representative(s)

Moved By: Mayor Beddows **Seconded By:** Councillor Harper **WHEREAS** A PHYSICIAN AND HEALTH TEAM RECRUITMENT WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO LOOK AT WAYS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN DOCTORS;

AND WHEREAS THE WORKING GROUP CONSISTS OF TWO (2) FAMILY HEALTH CLINICS, A PHYSICIAN FROM STONE'S MILL CLINIC AND TWO (2) COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF LEEDS & THE THOUSAND ISLANDS (TLTI);

AND WHEREAS THE WORKING GROUP IS SEEKING COUNCIL REPRESENTATION FROM THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE APPOINTS:

- 1. MAYOR BEDDOWS, AND;
- 2. DEPUTY MAYOR LEAKEY,

TO SIT ON THE PHYSICIAN AND HEALTH TEAM RECRUITMENT WORKING GROUP.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

2. King Street Pedestrian Bridge Request for Proposal (RFP) – Mayor Beddows

Motion #23-111 – King Street Pedestrian Bridge Request for Proposal (RFP)
Moved By: Mayor Beddows
Seconded By: Councillor Harper
WHEREAS ON APRIL 18, 2023, THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
GANANOQUE PASSED MOTION #23-089, DIRECTING STAFF TO ISSUE A
REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ) FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE KING
STREET PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE FOR COUNCIL'S REVIEW AND
CONSIDERATION;

AND WHEREAS A REQUEST TO AMEND MOTION #23-089 TO ADD THE FOLLOWING:

"ISSUE THE REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ) TO ADD TWO (2) SEPARATE COSTING OPTIONS, TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. REMOVAL OF BOTH SPANS, AND;
- 2. REMOVAL OF THE SPAN CROSSING THE GANANOQUE RIVER ONLY

AND FURTHER DIRECTS STAFF TO ENGAGE AN ENGINEER TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF RE-OPENING THE REMAINING SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE BRIDGE, AS SET OUT IN ITEM "2".

OF GANANOQUE AMENDS MOTION #23-089 TO ADD:

"ISSUE THE REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ) TO ADD TWO (2) SEPARATE COSTING OPTIONS:

- 1. REMOVAL OF BOTH SPANS OF THE BRIDGE, AND;
- 2. REMOVAL OF THE SPAN CROSSING THE GANANOQUE RIVER ONLY.

AND FURTHER DIRECTS STAFF TO ENGAGE AN ENGINEER TO INVESTIGATE THE FEASIBILITY OF RE-OPENING THE REMAINING SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE BRIDGE, AS SET OUT IN ITEM #2"

DEFEATED - 1 Aye, 6 Nays

3. Corner of Water and Kate Streets – Stop Signs / Courtesy Crosswalk – Councillor Harper

Motion #23-112 – Corner of Water and Kate Streets – Stop Signs / Courtesy Crosswalk

Moved By: Councillor Harper Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Leakey BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE DIRECTS STAFF TO BRING BACK A COSTING REPORT TO REMOVE THE STOP SIGNS LOCATED AT WATER AND KATE STREETS AND REPLACE WITH A COURTESY CROSSWALK.

CARRIED - 5 Ayes, 2 Nays

4. Shoreline Erosion and Sea Wall Repairs – Refer to 2024 Budget Deliberations – Councillor Harper

Motion #23-113 – Shoreline Erosion and Sea Wall Repairs – Refer to 2024 Budget Deliberations

Moved By: Councillor Harper Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Leakey BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE DIRECTS STAFF TO BRING BACK A COSTING REPORT FOR THE 2024 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS REGARDING REPAIRS TO THE PUBLICLY OWNED SEA WALLS AND THE SHORELINE EROSION.

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

18. Correspondence

- 1. Accounts Payable April 25 to May 9, 2023
- 2. Town of Prescott Homeless Crisis in Ontario Request for Support

Motion #23-115 – Town of Prescott – Homeless Crisis in Ontario – Request for Support

Moved By: Councillor Koiner Seconded By: Councillor Harper BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE SUPPORTS THE TOWN OF PRESCOTT'S MOTION #75-2023, DATED APRIL 3, 2023, WITH RESPECT TO THE HOMELESS CRISIS IN ONTARIO.

CARRIED – UNANIMOUS

- 3. Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) 2022 Compliance Report
- 4. Tony Fleming 2022 Annual Integrity Commissioner Report
- 5. Enbridge Gas Locate Charge Update
- 6. Cataraqui Source Protection Area Ontario's Best Practices for Source Water Protection Guidance
- 7. Cataraqui Conservation Flood Watch Downgraded to Water Safety Statement for Cataraqui Watershed and Gananoque River System
- 8. Cataragui Conservation 2021 and 2022 Annual Report
- 9. Minister of Infrastructure Ontario Launches New Interactive High-Speed Internet Map
- Kingston Area Rural Commuter Transit Study April 12th, 2023 Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
- 11. Unadopted Minutes Police Services Board (PSB) February 21, 2023, and; March 28, 2023

19. Notice Required Under the Notice By-law

- Mayor Beddows advised that the following Class III Development Permit Public Meetings will be held at the next Council meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 2023:
 - 1. DP2023-08 81-83 Charles Street South June 6, 2023
 - 2. DP2023-09 90 St. Lawrence Street
 - 3. DP2023-11 88 James Street
 - 4. DP2023-12 130 King Street East

20.	Committee Updates (Council Reps) – Postponed				
21.					
 Gananoque Community Garden and Food Forest – Town Park Concrete Planters – Mayor Beddows (circulated to Council on May 15, 2023, and 					
at	tached) 🖟	<u>-</u>			
	Motion #23-116 – Town Park Conc	rete Planters			
	Moved By: Councillor Harper Seconded By: Councillor Koiner				
	BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE APPROVES THE RELOCATION OF THE 3-D CONCRETE PLANTERS FROM				
	THE REAR OF THE TOWN HALL TO THE COMMUNITY GARDENS/FOOD				
	FOREST LOCATED OFF ARTHUR	CARRIED – UNANIMOUS			
22.					
	Questions from the Media – None				
23.	Confirmation By-law				
	By-law No. 2023-058 – Confirming By-law – May 16, 2023				
	Moved By: Councillor Harper Seconded By: Councillor Koiner				
	BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GANANOQUE PASS BY-LAW NO. 2023-058, BEING A BY-LAW TO CONFIRM THE				
	PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON				
	TUESDAY, MAY 16 ^{1H} , 2023, BE RE/ THIS 16 TH DAY OF MAY 2023.	AD THREE TIMES AND FINALLY PASSED			
	THIS TO DAT OF WAT 2023.	CARRIED – UNANIMOUS			
24.	Next Meeting(s)				
	1. Special Closed Session – Council Training – Thursday, June 1, 2023 at				
	5:00 PM				
	2. Regular Council – Tuesday, June 6, 2023 @ 6:00 PM				
25.	Adjournment				
	M O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O O				
Moved By: Councillor Harper Be it resolved that Council hereby adjourns this regular meeting of Council at					
	9:58 PM.				
		CARRIED – UNANIMOUS			
Ms Body.					
Jan . January		(worning of line.			
John S. Beddows, Mayor		Penny Kelly, Clerk / CEMC			

From: Pam Hudson

Sent: May 12, 2023 4:13 PM

To: Penny Kelly <clerk@gananoque.ca>

c: jbeddows; gan.communitygarden@gmail.com

Subject: Concrete Planters

Dear Mayor Beddows and Members of Council:

The Gananoque Community Garden and Food Forest were recently approached by Mayor John Beddows to inquire if we would be interested in having the 3D printed concrete planters, currently located adjacent to the Town Hall, as a living indigenous sculpture at our Arthur Street location at Grasshopper Park.

Our committee members support the sculpture at our site if Council is favourable to the relocation. Should the planters be located at the Gananoque Food Forest we will take responsibility for planting and care of the living sculpture. We would use the sculpture to introduce our community to indigenous plants of Canada and to educate people on their use by our first peoples. The plants selected would be those used for food, medicine and ceremony that require amended soil; plants such as sage, sweet grass, cedar, blueberry, cranberry, wintergreen, lingonberry, service berry and Canadian wild ginger. We also plan to condition the concrete to grow moss on the exterior of each planter.

If Council supports the relocation of the sculpture, we ask that Town Staff move the planters in the upcoming weeks, before the end of May, so that planting can commence as soon as possible. I am available the week of May 15th to 19th to assist as required.

We are excited to share that the first guild planting of the food forest last year was a great success with a large turnout of all ages for the dedication and planting. The site is now easily identifiable thanks to the location of the new town sign that was prepared and erected with the hard work of town staff. Further, the dead ash has been safely removed and two small black walnut trees. This will now allow us to add additional guilds and edible species of trees and plants to the site. A big thank you to town staff for all their work.

The bare root pear and apple trees planted last May are all healthy and blossoming as are haskaps, elderberry and rose. Rhubarb and Egyptian walking onions have taken root and are forming healthy patches as are strawberries and raspberries. Ground nuts, that are also native to our area, have also taken root. Harvesting from this guild will soon be possible for the public ensuring increased food access in our town.

Rotary and the rest of our partners of the Gananoque Food Access Network are excited to continue the development of the food forest in 2023 with Council and Town Staff. We look forward to your decision regarding the indigenous planters sculpture.

Sincerely,

Pam Hudson

Gananoque Food Forest Coordinator Environmental & Youth Exchange Officer Rotary Club of Gananoque Mobile: 613-329-9778