

Town of Canosia Newsletter

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Winter 2023



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A BIG THANK YOU to our November Election Judges Laura Solem, Nancy Cameron, Judy Kehtel, Barbara Trush, Amos Restad, David Hedin, and Susan Rees and Head Judge Barbara Misgen.

These amazing judges, along with others, work year-round to protect your right to vote and to ensure that you can vote quickly and efficiently during elections. This Primary Election saw many of our judges putting in a 17 hour shift with few breaks. Why? Because we had a record non-presidential election turnout with 1,079 voters, 45 of which were new township voters! That is a 65% turnout!



Canosia Township Election, Board of Canvass, and Annual Meeting

NOTICE TO CANOSIA RESIDENTS:

The Canosia Township Election, Board of Canvass, and Annual Meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 14, 2023.**

Polls will be open for voting from **12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Canosia Town Hall** (4896 Midway Rd.) to elect the following: One Town Board Supervisor: 3-year term. The Board of Canvass will certify the votes after the closing of the polls.

For those wishing to vote absentee in the Canosia Township election, the town hall will be open on Saturday, March 11, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. You can also contact the clerk at canosiatownship@yahoo.com for additional absentee voting options. The Public Accuracy Test will take place on the same day from 10:00am – 11:00am. We will be testing the Automark assistive voting device that will be used in the election.

The Annual Meeting will begin at approximately 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Items on the Agenda: Election Results and 2024 Tax Levy. The meeting will be held in-person and remotely. The remote log-in/dial-in information will be posted on the website canosiatownship.org. Agenda and year-end reports will be available online as well. In case of severe inclement weather, the Election, Board of Canvass, and Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

For those interested in running for Town Board Supervisor, affidavits of candidacy may be filed with the town clerk of Canosia Township at 4896 Midway Road, Duluth, Minnesota, between January 3, 2023 to January 17, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Kevin Cornick, incumbent, will be on the ballot. If interested in running for this position, please contact the clerk at 218-260-5600 or canosiatownship@yahoo.com to arrange a time to file. The clerk's office will also be open January 17, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. A \$2.00 filing fee is required.

Fire Department



The Canosia Township Volunteer Fire Department responded to a record 244 calls in 2022. This includes 175 EMS calls, 67 fire calls, and 2 service calls.

In addition, they participated in weekly training sessions throughout the region and often in partnership with state and regional entities.

When they aren't responding to calls or training, our firefighters are also volunteering extensively throughout the community. They provided EMS services at the KCPRO snowmobile races on Pike Lake and the Pike Lane Run that occurs each Spring. In addition, they were our master grillers at National Night Out, oversaw Prevention Week at Pike Lake Elementary, passed out candy at the Pike Lake Golf and Beach Club's 3rd annual Fairway to Scareway, and much more!

The township continues to invest in the fire department and 2022 brought the volunteers new packs and tanks.

When you see one of our brave firefighters within the community, please take a moment to thank them for the thousands of volunteer hours they contribute to our township each year.

Recreation Area

Beyond the regular maintenance that goes into maintaining multiple soccer and baseball fields, tennis and pickleball courts, as well as, the playground, the township accomplished multiple enhancements to the recreation area in 2022. The back soccer field was leveled and resodded. The pickleball court was fenced and striped. The far entrance into the recreation area was paved and the pavers at the pavilion were reset. In addition, all electrical lines were moved underground and unnecessary overhead light poles were eliminated. 2023 intends on being a similar year with continued improvements to the recreation area.

Thank You,
Penny Dieryck
Canosia Township Supervisor

Keep Your Road and Drive Clear for Emergency Personnel

During the winter it is imperative that you keep paths clear for emergency responders. Keep these tips in mind because seconds matter:

1. Make sure that your 911 sign at the end of your drive is clear of snow so that they can find your house quickly.
2. Make sure that your road is wide, packed down, and clear of branches for large emergency vehicles. If the road is a dead end, make sure that vehicles have space to turn around.
3. Make sure that your driveway is wide, packed down, and clear of branches for those emergency vehicles. Also, that there is space to turn around, if possible.
4. Make sure that your paths up to your home are shoveled and salted so that emergency personnel can get to you quickly.

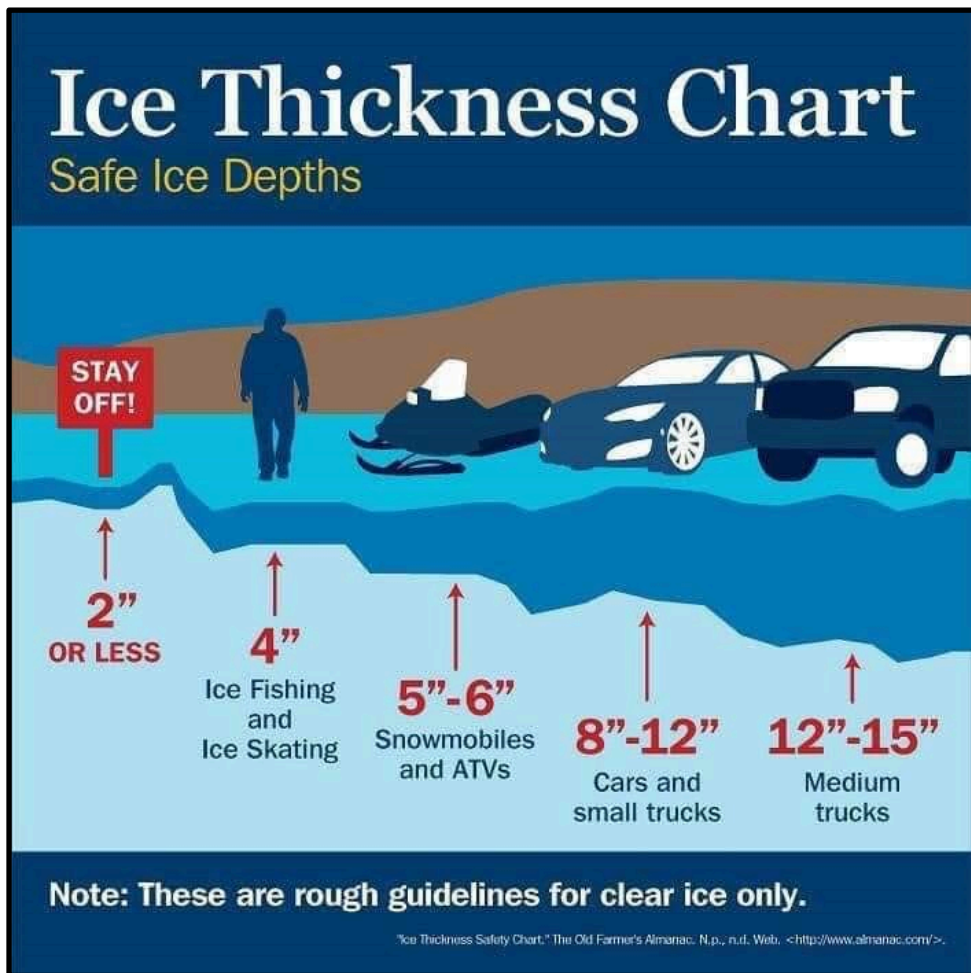
Road News

This past year Canosia Township continued our ongoing road maintenance program in partnership with St. Louis County. We continue to maintain our gravel roads to provide a good driving surface for our residents. We also had all of our asphalt roads striped this past summer.

Next year the county’s proposed project of redoing Midway Road from US53 to Kehtel Road has been scaled back. In 2023 Midway Road from North Pike Lake Road to Kehtel Road will be resurfaced. Industrial Road from Midway to Sunny Lane, as well as, Sunny Lane itself will be done next year also. You may have noticed the county this Fall replacing and adding additional new culverts along Midway Rd., Industrial Rd., and Sunny Lane. This is part of that planned resurfacing project. Canosia Township also replaced many culverts this past year and we will continue replacing any that may need replacing going forward.

The county’s plan for resurfacing the stretch from US53 to North Pike Road has been pushed back to 2026. The county determined that this section will not need to be completed until then. I anticipate that these road projects will lead to our residents having to show patience and caution during these projects. As always, if you see an issue with our township roads, or culverts, please let us know. You can reach me at 218-590-6473 or canosiacomnick@gmail.com.

Thank You,
Kevin L. Comnick
Canosia Road Supervisor



Is Your Dog Licensed?

Canosia Township requires all dogs living within the township to be licensed. Licensing requires a simple form to be completed, along with a \$10 licensing fee. Your pet then receives a very nice tag!! To license your dog, contact the Town Clerk at canosiatownship@yahoo.com.

Recycling News

Think Tiny!



Please bring small loads. We need the drive-up line to move smoothly and large loads back up traffic. We offer multiple days for drop off to help, and you can also donate at the Grand Lake Recycling Center if you have large loads that cannot be broken down.

Recycling Center Hours of Operation

T/Th 5:00pm-8:00pm
Sat 9:00am-5:00pm



Plants, pots, and soil are NOT recyclable... even if they have the triangle mark on the bottom.



Boxes must be flattened before arriving at the recycling center.



Plastic Film Bags

i.e. such as those from SuperOne, Wal-Mart, Target, etc. can NOT go into the dumpsters. Place them in the ORANGE barrel.



Food... Gross



Anything recycled must be clean of food remnants. Otherwise, our recycling is gross... not cool.

FYI
Metal scraps
and broken items
cannot be recycled.

Please be prepared to quickly unload your recycling. We have a small parking lot and one unprepared person can cause the recycling line to significantly back up... sometimes into the road.

Winter Safety Tips

- ❄️ **Winter Wear:** Wear dry, loose-fitting layers. The outside layer should be waterproof. Wear warm accessories such as hats, ski masks, gloves, and socks, along with sturdy waterproof, insulated boots.
- ❄️ **Car Safety:** Keep hand warmers, blankets, and extra hats/mittens in your car. Keep the tank ½ full or more, car fluids filled, and check your tire pressure regularly. Keep jumper cables, first aid kit, cell phone charger, flash light, shovel, water, snacks, etc. in your car in case you get stuck somewhere.
- ❄️ **Home Safety:** Keep your phone(s) charged. Never use portable generators indoors. If you use an alternative heat source, keep a fire extinguisher close by. Make sure that smoke and carbon dioxide alarms are working. Keep shovels by your door and sand/salt ready for ice. Take breaks when shoveling and ask your neighbor for help. We are a community.
- ❄️ **Help Your Neighbors:** Check on them and make sure they are safe with heat, food, medications, etc. When we get a lot of snow, if you have a plow/snow blower and time, please help plow them out. Again, Canosia Township is a community. Let's keep each other safe this winter season. 😊



Reminder: The Town Hall parking lot is for township business only 24/7. Do not park in the township parking lot unless you are there for township business or to recycle materials during the recycling center's hours.

Aquatic Invasive Species News



I am pleased to share that this past season was completed with no major incidents. However, there was one concern that did arise on Pike Lake that I would like to address.

There was a resident who was rude to one of our inspectors because he felt that as a resident his boat did not need to be inspected. Our inspectors are trained to conduct inspections, record data, and educate the community. In no situation do they deserve to be questioned in an intimidating manner. If residents have concerns about the AIS process, they can contact myself as the township AIS director.

ALL watercraft entering Pike or Caribou lakes must be inspected when AIS inspectors are present and ALL identified Invasive Species must be removed.

Please respect these rules and treat our inspectors with the respect they deserve. They are doing a job that benefits Pike and Caribou Lake.

In 2022 our seven inspectors conducted 1630.25 inspection hours. Going forward, Canosia Township has applied for a DNR grant for 2023. We should be notified if we are successful in early 2023. This program has been very successful over the years and I am confident that the township will receive the renewed grant.

Thank You,
Kevin L. Cornick
Canosia AIS Supervisor

Pike Lake Area Wastewater Collection System (PLAWCS)

As the current Chairman of the Canosia Town Board and of the Pike Lake Area Wastewater Collection System (PLAWCS), I want to give the Canosia Township residents who are serviced by the sewer district an update.

This past year we had a major Capital Improvement Project which was completed this past November. Lift Station #2, located next to Carmen’s Way, had a complete upgrade. This was the last of the lift stations to be upgraded. The cost was close to \$220,000.00. This depleted a large portion of PLAWCS’ dedicated capital funds. At the same time, we were told that the control boards on the remaining four lift stations were in need of upgrades. This was going to cost an additional \$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00. With the capital funds being used to complete Lift Station #2, it put PLAWCS in a position of not having enough funding to complete these upgrades.

What were the options? PLAWCS could do as much as they could afford and put off the other necessary repairs for a future time period. It could borrow money against the sewer district in order to afford repairs. Lastly, each township could contribute ARPA funds to offset the repair costs.

In the end, Canosia Township made the wise decision to use the township’s ARPA funds for upgrading the control panels on lift station’s 1, 3, 4, and 5. The town supervisors felt, and still feel, that this was a way to complete a much needed project that would ensure infrastructure needs for years to come.

Thank You,
 Kevin L. Cornick
 PLAWCS Chairman

Town Hall News

Upcoming Town Board Meetings

Meetings are held at the Canosia Town Hall and online at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise noted. For online/phone log in information, please visit the website at canosiatownship.org.

February 1, 2023

*Board of Audit Meeting 5:30 p.m.
 Budget Meeting to follow
 Regular Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.*

March 1, 2023

Regular Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

March 14, 2023

*Board of Canvass at 8:00 p.m.
 Annual Meeting 8:30 p.m.*

April 5, 2023

*Re-Organization Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Regular Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.*

How to Protect Your Home’s Sewer

Don’t Flush

- **Food wastes:** animal bones, egg shells, coffee grounds, corn cobs, melon rinds, fruit peels, home brewery waste
- **Personal Care Products:** bandages, condoms, diapers, sanitary pads, wet wipes
- **Chemicals/Toxins:** auto fluids, caustic cleaners, herbicides/pesticides, medications, drugs, oil-based paints, ammonia, solvents, thinners
- **Other Common Items:** Cat litter, cigarette butts, cloth towels, rags, film developing waste, metal, plastic objects, modeling clay, paper towels, scraps, plastic bags, rv waste, string/yard, yard waste.

Canosia History Snapshot

A Short History of the Town of Canosia, by Millicent R. O'Connell

Presentation given to the St. Louis County Board in Canosia Town Hall, April 9, 2013

In 1888, the Town of Canosia was established with three supervisors, a clerk, treasurer, two constables, a justice of the peace, a road foreman, and an assessor. Most of these positions have been eliminated through the years. Our record books have beautiful handwritten minutes; the Treasurer's books are so wonderful to read and provide a record of life in those early years, available at the town hall. Justice of the peace, birth and death records reveal how well these town's people managed to support the citizens of the town.

Through Historical Society's research, we discovered that land was donation to the town for our Town Hall, cemetery, and schools. The Town Hall was placed in the middle of the township area. In 1888 our township originally contained the area of Canosia and Grand Lake townships. Some furniture was built for the building, a table and benches for meetings. Several continue to be in use today.

There are parts of four lakes in Canosia: Caribou Lake, Fish Lake, Wild Rice Lake, and Pike Lake (originally called Canosia Lake, which is an Indian name.) Canosia Lake remains on early maps, some abstracts and deeds. The Historical Society has never found out by whom or when the name changed to Pike Lake. Much of our land is swampy, from which our forefathers used tamarack logs to build roads to open up land for early settlers. They cut birch, maple, white pine, cedar, white and black spruce, and basswood. We also have quite a few small gage railroad beds used for hauling logs in the 1800's. Pieces of rails, lumbering equipment and all types of home/farming tools have been donated and are displayed in the Canosia Town Hall. The Historical Society is permitted to show and display around the edge and walls. The Canosia Town Board continues to use some of these donated items for township business since 1888.

The township roads were usually named for the family that lived on the end of the road. These names changed often as new families occupied the homes. The Canosia Town Board requested research on these roads in the 1980s, leading to the discovery that we were approaching our 100th anniversary. The Historical Society was formed at this time. A book concerning Canosia Township and Pike Lake, with an illustrated history was written by a township resident and her daughter. Members of the University of Minnesota Duluth geology department have researched several of the rocks and stone tools found by Canosia residents and donated to the Historical Society, for display in our town hall. The old Swan Lake Road and Hermantown Road were the original roads running to and through our township. The Midway Road and Miller Trunk Highway are their names now.

The American Automobile Association (AAA) purchase property and formed the present gold, picnic, and swimming grounds in 1908. It is the only Country Club remaining in the AAA system today. [UPDATE: it has since been sold and is now the Pike Lake Golf and Beach Club.] The Merritt family built a cabin on the south side of Pike Lake. Cub LaJoy provided summer fun for swimmers, boating, dancing, and roller-skating. On Caribou Lake, barn dancing was held at Kehtel's at the end and west of the Midway Road.

At Midway and Swan Lake (Miller Trunk Highway), known today as Four Corners: Sather's Hardware, Bromme's Bridgeman Store, a Standard Oil Gas Station, Carter's Groceries, and Anderson's Hotel were the commercial area. The St. Louis County Tool House was on the northwest corner is still there today, although greatly expanded. A family ran a large dairy farm on the Martin Road and LaVaque Road, before the Martin Road was extended east to the Rice Lake Road. Ledge rock, sand, and gravel pits dot many areas. Sand from here was used to extend the Duluth Air Base runway so that the largest airplanes can land there now. There were no roads connecting the northeast corner of the township with the rest of the town. Speculators plotted a town-site and tried to secede from Canosia and attach with Fredenberg.

Ditches were dug in swampy areas of many townships in the 1920's to drain land for vegetable gardens. This was required by the State of Minnesota and the Township's townspeople had to pay for benefits gained by their endeavor- which proved futile, as the soil did not contain enough nutrients needed by the plants. Many townships went bankrupt due to the requirement. My deed had a lein on it that had to be paid before my mother could transfer my home to me. The ditch that was dug north of my 40 acres did not even touch this property, which was high land. Men from the work farm, currently the Duluth Airport, were hauled across our land. There was a large camp built west of the LaVaque Road to house the men, horses, and large shovels that dug six-foot ditches north and south and east and west across these bogs. St. Louis County still has many of these ditches visible today. Hand dug wells and septic systems are still in use here today, except around Pike Lake, which is now connected to WLSSD. Our school buildings were small one and two-room buildings, some with teacherages. Most homes supported themselves by selling wood, eggs, and cheese in Duluth via an all-day trip by horse and wagon; and raising crops and animals for home use. The 1918 fire was a devastating event from Moose Lake to Duluth. The Historical Society has stories about this tragedy in our archives and in books written about this area. Canosia Township celebrated its 125th anniversary this year, 2013.