

# Jack's Recap

July 20, 2015

## Thank You Karl Habla

The city recognized Karl Habla for his twenty years of Canada Day parade pride by presenting him with a well deserved plaque that honours his patriotism. Karl spoke to us all when he said that Timmins was the best place to work and raise a family. He went on to say that it was also the best place to reside after retirement and that Timmins possesses the best LTCF in the Golden Manor and would want to finish out his years there when his time came. The east end water and sewer lift stations are well underway and phase 1 should be complete by December 2015, only just a few months off target. Weather played an important role in delaying most of the construction; however, Luc Duval assured us all that we were on budget and that the target completion date of September 2015 will be missed because of the extraordinary wet and cold weather that this project endured. We will all keep our fingers crossed that Luc is correct with this assessment. Luc also said that the new bypass piping is well under way and that this is a worst case scenario because the new tanks were built large enough to accommodate all the effluent that might come from extreme rainstorms and thaws. Again, let's hope he is right. The selection of the consultant for our new aquatic centre has been made and the planning department has already identified 5 possible city owned locations in hopes that this would reduce the consulting costs. My question to all of you is when did the aquatic centre become the most urgent need of this city? Do we not already own an aquatic centre (albeit maybe not the state of the art facility)? Do we not have more pressing needs? We might need to use this new centre to ease our aching muscles after driving our city's roads! Is this the best use of our tax dollars? Can we not get our aging infrastructure under control before we spend millions on another swimming pool? It is easy to visualize the argument that ensues when visiting sport teams attend Timmins tournaments: "Ok let's flip a coin to see who drives. Loser gets to wreck his or her car on those Timmins roads." Teams can also expect to freeze their butts off in our old decrepit arenas hoping that the roofs can support our snow load. But on the bright side they can always go for a swim in our state of the art aquatic centre. I just wonder when did council agree that the aquatic centre was first on our list of needs? I know our Mayor made it first on his list and that no one questioned his reasoning, but I always heard of a multi-use complex being the city's greatest need. Did Council miss a step here? That's a rap on this week's recap!