

Strategic plan an early goal in '19: Temagami mayor

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Speaker Reporter

TEMAGAMI – As he heads into his first term as Temagami's mayor, Dan O'Mara is optimistic about the team at the council table and behind the scenes.

It appears that everyone wants to work together, said O'Mara in an interview looking ahead to 2019.

That in turn will support the municipality's staff, he said.

To enable them to do their job more easily, "we need to make sure that our act is together," he said.



Temagami Mayor
Dan O'Mara

In terms of projects, he said one of the first tasks will be the development of a strategic plan to guide council for the next four years.

He envisions involvement from people across the community, and his goal is to have a plan completed by May or June.

Council's other priority will be securing the services of a planning firm to begin the review of Temagami's official plan, he said.

He outlined the initiatives in his inaugural address in early December.

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They also included the hiring of a consultant to review Temagami's waste management plan.

Changes to its asset management plan are also required, he said.

The plan evaluates the condition of all municipal equipment, buildings and infrastructure and sets priorities and timelines for their repair and replacement.

He also hoped that work on the municipality's 2019 budget would be well underway by the end of February.

In an interview, he identified the need for work at the

Temagami North sewage lagoon.

He also said council is also looking at how it does business.

Many of the councillors, he said, have expressed a wish to be more involved.

They've endorsed a switch in meeting formats.

Council is dropping committee-of-the-whole, at which members discuss issues and pass recommendations on to regular council meetings for a decision.

It will instead hold two regular council meetings a month.

Council is also introducing a

question-and-answer period for the public each meeting for items on that meeting's agenda.

If new processes don't work, "well, we'll just adjust them as we go along," he said.

He said council also wants to reach out.

While campaigning last fall, he said he heard from some Marten River residents that they feel "on the outside."

Council must do more to "make them feel like they're part of our community," he said.

It took a step December 13, holding a council meeting in the Marten River fire hall.