



NEWS

Q&A: Kawartha Lakes mayor looks ahead to 2021

By [Sarah Sobanski](#) Kawartha Lakes This Week

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2020 was a hard year, not only world-wide, but here at home in Kawartha Lakes. The COVID-19 could have some big impacts on 2021 including affecting the city's capital investments, services and more.

With that in mind, Kawartha Lakes This Week sat down with Kawartha Lakes Mayor Andy Letham to ask him about where the city is heading next year:

Q: What are you looking forward to next year?

A: Next year, I am looking forward to getting back to some sort of normal. Get

through the pandemic safely, and get everything and everyone back to a level of comfort. Anxiety is high right now.

I feel that aligns well with the city's and council's goals. An efficient model for delivering our services and meeting those expectations. Not easy.

Q: What do you think the city's/council's goals will be?

A: I am looking forward to Beach Park in Bobcaygeon getting underway. It is going to be an awesome addition to our outside spaces and a big win for the whole city.

Downtown Lindsay will be mostly complete next year with a bit of work in 2022.

Fenelon Falls downtown is now approved for an upgrade in 2021, which is much needed and due.

Look forward to downtown Omeme as the next major project for reconstruction. I am pleased our council has endorsed these improvements to our downtowns.

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Q: What major projects and/or initiatives are you looking forward to seeing come to fruition?

A: For the next six months, we need to continue to be careful and go slow with the pandemic. It has certainly thrown everyone off their game and changed everyone's life for a while.

We must never forget what happened in Pinecrest this past spring. Very tragic and we as a country must make sure that never happens again. I think it woke us all up that our perfect little safe and selfish world, wasn't quite so.

There are some things we can't control out there, and we must never take them for granted. And I don't think we ever will again.

Q: What do you think some challenges of the next year will be?

A: I think the biggest challenge next year, and probably the year after, will be what kind of normal will we get back to. There are a lot of expectations out there about what that means. New ways of doing business and new opportunities as things continue to evolve. Not everyone likes change, so it will be a challenge. But we will adjust and move on, just like we have done in the past and will continue to do in the future. Some will embrace that better than others.

Q: Is there anything people should be looking out for in the next few months/half year/year?

A: Overall, I am optimistic about the direction we are going as a community. Financially, we have turned a huge corner and I believe our municipality will thrive in the years to come as a result of that.

Growth and development will create new opportunities for many, but those opportunities must be available for everyone, not just the wealthy in our community.

Affordable housing and good employment opportunities for young working families will insure we continue to thrive into the future. Balance that with the retirement opportunities for seniors and we will truly be a community that has something to offer for all.

From trails to boat launches and lakes to parks, our natural assets will be our greatest win moving forward as long as we continue to look after them.

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