

# Representation on agenda at District Services Board annual general meeting

**Tom Sasvari**  
The Recorder

MINDEMOYA—Manitoulin municipal councils are being strongly encouraged to attend this year's annual general meeting of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (MSDSB), with an appeal being made by one area for more representation on the board.

"What's coming up at our annual general meeting is an issue being raised by several municipalities who are requesting the MSDSB look at apportionment representation on the board," said Central Manitoulin councillor Derek Stephens at a Central Manitoulin council meeting last week. "As a board we would like (local) municipal leaders at the meeting to discuss the pros and cons and 'what ifs' of this proposal."

Fern Dominelli, CAO of the MSDSB, told the Recorder last Friday, "the Sudbury East Municipal Association (SEMA), which includes Markstay, Warren, St. Charles, French River and Killarney, are asking to make a presentation to the board in April looking for additional representation on the board. Our plan is to have a conversation on this issue at our annual general meeting being held in Killarney on May 23."

"The DSB and the board is asking councils to send representation to the annual meeting, as this issue could be very important," said Mr. Stephens.

"How many board members are on the board now?" asked councillor Adam McDonald.

There are 12 members of the board currently, and from an Island standpoint not much would change, however, "it may affect the apportionment fees municipalities are paying as well," said Mr. Stephens.

"The board will be receiving the information from SEMA, and have a discussion on board apportionment," said Mr. Dominelli, noting that in the past, Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands (NEMI) has also indicated they would like more representation on the board.

Mr. Dominelli said, "representation on the board was put in place when the DSB was first created and any changes would need provincial approval."

Right now SEMA has three seats on the board and are asking for four representatives on the board.

Central Manitoulin council agreed that along with Mr. Stephens (as a DSB board member), Reeve Gerry Strong and some other members of council would attend the meeting.

# District Services Board ratifies tentative contract with paramedics

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ESPANOLA — The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (MSDSB) has ratified a tentative new contract deal with the union representing its paramedics.

"We have ratified a tentative deal with OPSEU (Ontario Public Service Employees Union) paramedic employees after six

days of negotiations," stated Fern Dominelli, CAO of the DSB after a board meeting last week.

The tentative agreement was ratified by the MSDSB board on March 20, "and now we are waiting on OPSEU paramedic members to ratify the new deal," said Mr. Dominelli, who pointed out the OPSEU paramedics previous contract had expired December 31, 2011.