

Good evening. It is with a great deal of pride and gratitude that I appear before you this evening. I have been elected Reeve of Greater Madawaska and frankly this has been a position I have always wanted to fill but thought it might and hoped it might only happen in the distant future. Before we proceed I would like to introduce former Reeve's and Councillors in the audience.

Reeves Jack Frost, Barry Moran, J R Easton, Deputy Reeve Eldon Pennock, Councillor Bruce Parker. Warden Bob Sweet, Reeve Mary Campbell of McNab Braeside.

I would like to thank Councillor Parker and Reeve Kristijan for their inspiring and tireless service to the people of this municipality. They both brought vigor, both physical and intellectual, to council and all of their tasks and a strong work ethic which will be difficult to replace. I should express as well a thank you on behalf of the municipality to their respective spouses; Edith and Mike, for allowing them the time and supporting them in such a fashion as to allow them to so completely fulfill their obligations to the public.

On a personal note I would like to thank my friends and family for allowing me the opportunity to sit as Reeve. My mother and father were great examples of showing care for their community and the members of the community as I was growing up and my mother remains involved in our community. My wife, Alanna must have quietly cringed when I came home to talk with her about running for Reeve. She has had numerous holidays and family outings impacted by a five minute visit here or there and has shown great patience with and support of me. I have been most fortunate to have her assistance and support since 1988 which was before we got married in 1989. I have many great friends and extended family who keep giving me support, ideas and volunteer time when a project needs to be initiated or completed.

Since 1988 I have sat on council and been fortunate to have worked with Reeve's Easton, Moran, Frost, Doyle and Kristijan. Each had their strengths, whether the ability to bring the issues of the ratepayer to the table, the willingness to think of changing the physical dimensions of who we were, a desire to get on with the job, a wish for more public involvement or a desire to re-shape what we do as a local government. All of them have left me with something lasting to emulate as I assume the position of Reeve.

We have been elected to conduct the affairs and business of the municipality on behalf of all ratepayers and we will show on a daily basis we are worthy of that trust. Nothing about local government is simple anymore. The volume of complex, challenging and satisfying work continues and as it progresses we need to be continually aware of our legal responsibilities and the potential liabilities for every service provided and decisions we implement. This already complex process is then over-laid with a high degree of provincial regulation and oversight which we must consider at every turn.

Members of Council will need to constantly take the time to gain a good understanding and knowledge of the issues placed before them, at the same time they will need to practice the controls expected of elected officials, plan for new initiatives and advance them or see them

through to completion and all the time being pleasant and attentive to the electorate and keeping a high profile and availability.

This Council has a great deal of practical experience, common sense, a high level of energy, a large number of varied life experiences and a strong desire to do what is best for the community. We can accomplish great good if we act cohesively without rancor and as individuals don't care who gets the credit for all progress. Disagree at the table but leave the arguments here, then go next door for a bit of tea after a meeting whenever possible.

We are committed to making the committee system continue to work well and very excited by the hard working members of our community which will occupy the public membership on the standing committees. The members of the public possess outstanding skill sets and are equally as dedicated to improving the image of our municipality, to prioritizing and developing key initiatives for our communities benefit. I have great faith and belief in the members of Council, our staff, our volunteers and the people of Greater Madawaska to ensure our community marches forward.

In the election campaign and during the Strategic Planning process the message was clear – development was recognized as necessary but it needs to continue to be controlled and it needs to be seen as reasonable. Growth and development is an important issue for Greater Madawaska. As development continues at its present rate, we need to be ready for it, our planning documents predict no significant slow down. Council will work to ensure the integrity of the environment and to preserve and to enhance the quality of life valued by the residents of Greater Madawaska.

We are most fortunate our construction values have been on the range of \$7 million over the last three years and will be close to \$8 million this year. The estimates we have indicate 320 new homes will be constructed over the next 10 years and 800 new residents will arrive in the same period.

The development charges by-law is the municipality's commitment to you to provide funding, approximately \$720,000, for the infrastructure needed to accompany this growth. This very important piece of our future will be discussed and implemented prior to the end of this year.

Council will need your help in the very near future on two very important issues. The province and the feds need to give us more money. They're running huge surpluses with your money. Last year the province targeted \$400 million to the nearly 500 municipalities in Ontario (ReNew Ontario, COMRIF, and Move Ontario) Municipalities were encouraged to repair roads and bridges. The Ontario Good Roads Association reports 98% of municipalities directed that money to expensive road and bridges projects where it should have gone. It is estimated the province needs to input that much more into the system this year and for the following 5 years to get the backlog of construction completed and then focus on the projects slated for 2006 through planned replacement. Downloading Ontario Works, social housing and other previously provincially funded services has caused a \$2.8 billion dollar shortfall for Ontario municipalities, money taken out of property tax dollars which could have been spent locally. There is a provincial election in October 2007 and a federal election whenever the tea

leaves can convince Mr. Harper he will win a majority. When the candidates come calling this year ask them for their support for Greater Madawaska prior to giving them yours. We want more of the gas tax from both levels of government and more grants aimed at infrastructure replacement. We also need their pressure and commitment to cell service and high speed access. The provision of these tools will allow another service for our businesses to provide their customer base and also allow more people to consider alternate businesses in Greater Madawaska.

We should not fool ourselves, money doesn't just appear from the senior levels of government because they think it is just, nor will it appear because we political birds lobby hard or strategize well- it will appear because of the efforts on a political level plus with an organized letter writing campaign, and well researched newspaper articles, hard work, complete and convincing submissions and some political arm twisting. We are going to need each and every one of you present tonight to do some of that heavy lifting as well. We'll identify the needs and then ask your assistance to get the deserved funding and we will want you to lobby them hard.

A similar approach will be needed with the reform of MPAC. When the public consultation meetings are announced we will be there to state our case and we will want you there beside us at the same time.

In a broad sense, myself and council will strive to develop a stronger relationship with existing businesses and groups to discuss their needs and lobby for them. We will review the trends to assist in enhancing the viability of our area and continue to assist and encourage expansion. We ask all of you to support the buy local campaign undertaken by various organizations in the County. Our businesses know they need to work hard to get and maintain your business but they want the chance to get you in their door and woo you.

This council will continue to honour volunteerism. We will show it proper appreciation. The Canada Day Community Builder awards started last year will continue. Municipal resources will be utilized where possible at minimal costs to assist with community events.

Council wants to improve our communication with you – the ratepayer. We will issue more press releases and all council members, early in the term, will have municipal email addresses which they can access from home. I am hopeful we can move to an electronic pop up service which you subscribe to and we can send out mass municipal email blips which document coming meetings and agendas for council and committee meetings. Ideally I hope we can get to the point where if there is an issue appearing on the proposed agenda you can offer comment prior to the meeting or schedule a presentation to Council.

Council will also work hard to communicate between members as well. Sometimes Council can become fragmented and with that comes unnecessary discord. It is my job to ensure that doesn't happen.

I look forward to serving on County Council. I believe we need better results for the money we send to them. I believe they need to figure out what they are to be doing, do it better and explain what they are doing.

Finally, I need to comment on our staff. Led by CAO John Baird, they are second to none. I have had the privilege of working with them for a long time and I can tell you they are second to none. We will continue to expect them to continue to be the promote and thrive in a climate of honesty, integrity, fairness and respect for the taxpayer and their money. Our managers will be given training for the human resources component of their jobs with focus on managing employees and evaluating results. Each employee will get the training they need to perform their job and to develop skills. I will be discussing with the CAO and Public Works Manager traveling to Wards Two and Three twice per month for a half day to ensure ratepayers can meet with them.

I believe the challenges of today, the progress of yesterday and the opportunity of tomorrow – contribute to a strong healthy organization and make us ready for growth and for our citizens to prosper in this safe, affordable, caring, beautiful community.