

# REEVE' REPORT

**PERIOD COVERED: March 01, 2007 – April 16, 2007**

## **COUNTY ACTIVITY:**

On March 13<sup>th</sup> I attended the Finance and Administration Committee meeting. It was a full day session and was hosted by the town of Deep River. Presentations were made by local businesses . One industry was Bubble Technology Industries. It was founded in 1988 as a spin off from AECL. It has 50 staff and has clients in defense, overseas and in the U.S. Products are land mine detection, radiation detection and land based radar. The major issues they deal with are attracting and keeping qualified staff and their spouses, shipping weaknesses and time delays, power interruptions and communication and internet difficulty.

Another presenter was from a tourist Lodge. Issues for them Ottawa River has two sets of rules one for Ontario and the other from the Province of Quebec and some of their guests have been charged. They also had difficulty with electrical supplies and with internet access. They went to a satellite system as other land based providers were not responding to them. Other issues are adequate docking facilities for river travelers and tie-ups for the houseboat traffic. Gasoline and septic pumpouts are also in demand. MPAC, Revenue Canada demands, shortage of labor, insurance, Native Land Claims, fuel costs, water regs, and cancellation of GST rebates for visitors were also noted.

It was suggested the ATV trails in Matawa were the model to emulate when building trails in the County. They are extending eastward towards Renfrew County.

Staff discussed the departmental budget and of significant note is the roof on the County Administration building is a series of 10 roofs and in need of replacement at a cost of nearly \$250,000. There will be staff reduction in this department of one. There are some re-alignments of responsibility for others. There was discussion about obtaining 20 plus kilometers of CPR track for trails in Laurentian Valley.

April 10, I also attended a Development and Property meeting. Renfrew County Place is on schedule and budget for completion. There was some discussion about spraying of power lines in Renfrew County on and around County Property. We discussed the Endangered Species Act – Bill 184. I feel it is a detriment to the municipality and adds a further burden and layer of acrimony legislated by the Province and monitored and enforced by municipalities. Numbers presented show Greater Madawaska continues to use a great deal of the Planning Departments time in a month. County staff have had some contact with Ms. Gallant's task force on Broad band.

March 19<sup>th</sup> and April 16, I attended the Finance Committee meetings. Topics discussed included weighted voting, funds for volunteer committee members. The septage agreement was discussed and approved between the Province and the County. This provides the funding for the two test sites in the County.

The goals and objectives of the CAO were reviewed and added to for 2007.

I attended a Health Committee meeting on March 14 and April 11. Discussions were about the ambulance service and equipment upgrades, computer and software upgrades for both homes for the aged and the resignation of the Bonnechere Manor Administrator. We had a presentation from students about over medication in the Homes for the Aged and the tool they developed to track it. Both Homes for the Aged have had their agreements transferred from the Province to the Champlain LHIN. Bonnechere Manor has 174 residents and Mirimichi has 163 residents. It was noted the government had promised sometime ago (3 years) to increase funding by \$6,000 per resident at this time they have achieved \$2,000 per resident.

I attended two County Council meetings one on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and the one on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The minutes are posted on the County of Renfrew website for your review.

I also attended a budget meeting on April 04 at the County as well. The tax increase will be in the area of 2.2%. Of specific interest to our municipality is the various Public Works projects:

- i. County Rd 34 (Norton RD) will receive engineering prep work from the English Road to Pucker Street.
- ii. County Rd 508 (Calabogie Rd) will receive engineering prep work from Ferguson Lake Rd to County Rd 71.
- iii. The bridge over the Madawaska River/Centennial Lake on County Rd 71 will be evaluated and repairs scheduled in the next 18 months.
- iv. A further 2 km will be reconstructed on County Rd 71.

### **GREATER MADAWASKA ACTIVITY**

A regular council meeting was held on March 15, 2007 several by-laws were passed ranging from private road agreements to severances. Minutes for the meetings of February meetings were passed and should be available on the municipal web site.

On March 08, 2007 and April 12, 2007 Committee of the Whole Meetings were held. The following presentations were made to council.

- a. MNR staff presented on the new approach to the Aggregate resources Act which will primarily affect pits in wards 2 and 3. Current pit owners need to act by July 01, 2007 to register their existing pits in order to not have a series of expensive hoops to contend with.
- b. The Matawatchan Market Committee attended the meeting in Griffith and informed council of their plans for the summer. Council has agreed to make application for a grant in which the committee can use it to

On March 06, 2007 and April 05, 2007 I attended all Municipal Standing Committee Meetings:

1. Finance and Administration -
  - i. the statement of development charges was presented indicating the municipality collected \$42,000 in 2006 and the funds were allocated to specific reserves and functions.
  - ii. The statement of council remuneration was presented and it will be published in the near future.
  - iii. MacKilligan and Associates was appointed the Municipal Auditor for the period of January 2007 until December 31, 2009 at a cost of \$51,100 plus taxes.
  - iv. The municipal insurance needs were reviewed and the renewal cost was \$63,994 plus taxes for 2007.

There were other issues discussed and moved forward for council's deliberations.
  
2. Environmental Management -
  - i. Discussions on the review of tenders about municipal landfill equipment and the tender was let to RDI Systems at a cost of \$204,000.
  - ii. Landfill Monitoring and Reporting tender was awarded to Greenview Environmental Management for the period of 2007 - 2011 at a cost of \$237,127 plus taxes.
  - iii. Recycling Depot Services tender was awarded to Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre for a one year period beginning March 01, 2007.

There were other issues discussed and forwarded for council's deliberations.
  
3. Public Works
  - i. Discussions were conducted on reviewing our relationship as a service provider for the Municipality of North Frontenac
  - ii. Discussions were conducted with regards to establishing a full time municipal custodian and it was recommended a position description be developed.
  - iii. A discussion was held with regards to MNR and the enforcement of the Aggregate Act.
  - iv. A general discussion was had with regards to Wind Farms.

There were other issues discussed and forwarded for council's deliberations.
  
4. Planning and Economic Development -
  - i. Various severances, zoning amendments, subdivision and private road agreements were discussed and forwarded to council.
  - ii. A Property Standards By-Law was discussed and forwarded to council for discussion.

Other issues were discussed and forwarded to council for further discussion.
  
5. Public Services -
  - i. The Municipal Fire Protection Information Survey was presented and the methodology outlined.
  - ii. Recreation Committee members and a Library Board appointee were approved.

In early March I attended the opening of Jerry Larocque's display of art at Calabogie Peaks. The paintings were marvelous and largely about winter.

I also met with one ratepayer to discuss the strategic plan and its implementation and informed the process would be outlined as part of the budget deliberations.

### **MEETINGS WITH GREATER MADAWASKA STAFF**

I met with the CAO on two occasions to discuss municipal business and to sign cheques and by-laws. I spoke to the Deputy Clerk with regards to severances and the Committee of Adjustment. I met with the Public Works Manager to review an equipment issue.

Respectfully submitted to council on June 21, 2007.

Peter R. Emon  
Reeve