

# REEVE' REPORT

**PERIOD COVERED: April 16, 2007 – July 19, 2007**

## **COUNTY ACTIVITY:**

On March 14<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup> I attended the Finance and Administration Committee meetings. They were full day sessions. On the 18<sup>th</sup> committee met with the BRAVO Task Force and was treated to an informative discussion on Broadband. The committee also held and heard discussion on the Province's report on the usage of Algonquin Park and it's recommendation to lessen the amount of park space utilized by the local forest industry. The county has put together an excellent response available for viewing on it's web site.

May 08<sup>th</sup> I attended a Development and Property meeting. Renfrew County Place remains on schedule and budget for completion. Numbers presented show Greater Madawaska continues to use a great deal of the Planning Departments time in a month. On June 12<sup>th</sup> I missed the meeting hosted by Greater Madawaska in Calabogie. Councilor Lehnhardt was present in my place and welcomed the committee members. The committee received presentations and information from Calabogie Peaks, Calabogie MotorSports, and Don Adams a local outfitter. The presentations highlighted our area and it's many attractions.

May 9<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Health Committee meetings. Topics discussed included a lowering of the county's contribution to the Health Unit as the Province will be contributing more. A resolution to the dispute with the City of Ottawa regarding patient transfers and billing for those services. The hiring process for the new administrator at Bonnechere Manor was finalized and implemented with a new administrator hired. Discussions continue about the ambulance service and equipment upgrades as well as the finalizing of the lease for the station in Petawawa. Bonnechere Manor has 174 residents and Mirimichi has 163 residents.

I attended three County Council meetings one on May 30<sup>th</sup>, one on June 27<sup>th</sup> and a special meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup>. The minutes are posted on the County of Renfrew website for your review. The July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting was important as it dealt with an application for Broadband funds to improve connectivity in Renfrew County.

This was especially gratifying as CABA and our own Economic Development Committee took a lead role in rallying letters and emails of support being sent to the county and attached to the application for funds. This application was forwarded to Lanark County, which is taking the administrative lead on behalf of Renfrew County with this issue while dealing with the province.

## **GREATER MADAWASKA ACTIVITY**

A regular council meeting was held on April 19, 2007, May 17<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup> several by-laws were passed ranging from private road agreements to severances. Minutes for the meetings of March council were passed and should be available on the municipal web site.

On April 12, 2007, May 10<sup>th</sup>, June 14<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup> Committee of the Whole Meetings were held. A number of issues were discussed by council.

- Matawatchan Community Market
- Advertising for a position in Public Works was commenced and completed with Dan Cameron being the successful applicant. Welcome to our staff Dan.
- Discussion about the purchase of Beauman
- The K & P trail with resolution being the Economic Development Trails Subcommittee will provide a report to council with recommendations on it's management in the future.
- Wind Power by Brookfield Power and their proposed development in the Mount St. Patrick area.
- Generator purchase in principle were approved for the Municipal Office and the two Fire Stations in the event of a massive power failure. The Community Hall in Calabogie already has one.
- An annual \$5,000 and \$3,000 grant was approved for the DACA and Matawatchan Hall.
- The Municipal Audit for 2006 was presented to council and it was positive.
- Presentation from Dave Darch, Public Works Director for the County of Renfrew
- The Deadman's Island appeal to the OMB has been withdrawn by the applicant after extensive negotiation with municipal staff and the issues have been resolved.
- Log Jam 2009 has been discussed and given approval in Principle with no funds allocated to the concept yet.
- A gravel tender was let with the winning bid of \$6.60 per tonne being submitted by Cavanaugh.
- Work is progressing on the Capital Asset management plan.
- Buy Local
- Town of Renfrew recreation agreement will be examined and modification sought
- Discussions and meetings over development of a soccer field in Calabogie provided there are enough participants this year.
- a strategic Plan initiation group consisting of Tom Ryan, Karen Lehnhardt, Peter Emon, Bruce Parker, Bill Hewson, Ross Richards, and Glenda Roberts has been struck and will report back to council.
- A citizen with questions about the municipal budget and the capital expenditures.

On May 03, June 07, and July 12, 2007 I and all of council attended all Municipal Standing Committee Meetings:

1. Finance and Administration
2. Environmental Management
3. Public Works
4. Planning and Economic Development
5. Public Services

Budget meetings were held March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 07<sup>th</sup>, May 07<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>.

A special meeting was held with Shaw's in May to discuss the control's necessary on the K & P in order for them to share the trail with other users.

A special meeting was held with the bylaw enforcement officer to discuss the track operations. He reported to council over 60 complaints had been registered by mid June and one charge was laid.

An acoustical audit will be conducted by municipal contract staff and a report presented to council prior to the end of season.

May 09<sup>th</sup> I attended a meeting at Beauman's to tour the facility. Mr. Menard has indicated a desire to sell his facility and retire. A follow-up meeting was held at McNab-Braeside on July 16<sup>th</sup> and attended by myself and Councilor's Pratt, Mercer and Ryan. A smaller committee will be struck consisting of representatives from the Town of Arnprior, Renfrew, Townships of Horton, Madawaska Valley, Whitewater, Admaston-Bromley, Lanark Highlands and the Municipality of Mississippi Mills.

In early June Councilor Lehnhardt presided on my behalf at the re-opening of the Barnet Cottage after the construction and repainting of the building. This project has been lead by Don Swift.

June 27<sup>th</sup> Councilor's Mercer and Pratt and myself attended the Norway Lake Cottage Associations Annual General Meeting and answered a number of well thought out questions.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> I attended the annual firework's display in Calabogie a show that gets better every year. Earlier that day I accepted the last monies raised by the Lakers from their annual pancake breakfast. A search has been started for another group to take this over. We owe a debt of thanks to the Lakers for their eleven years of service and over \$18,000 raised for the community.

On July 07<sup>th</sup> with Councilor Lehnhardt I attended the opening of the Matawatchan Community Market. A volunteer based organization wanting to produce goods locally and make them available to promote natural produce and keeping jobs locally.

On July 16<sup>th</sup> all of council met with Calabogie Peaks management staff to discuss future development and their business model. It was a very informative meeting.

On June 1<sup>st</sup> I attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in Calgary. I attended sessions on affordable housing models, homelessness and migration from urban areas. Another session I attended was Foreign Investment and the need to attract it and how to greet it. We also had presentations from Mr. Harper, Mr. Dion and Mr. Layton. I attended an informative session of crime and crime rate reports. I attended the debate and vote on 1 cent of GST being diverted to municipalities.

## **BUDGET**

The budget increase is approximately 16% with the increase to overall tax bills being 5%. Our reserves both dedicated and unallocated at the moment are \$788,763.75. Our budget for 2007 is \$3,147,159.00. Our capital budget is \$188,750 for this year and \$915,208 to be financed over the next number of years.

The breakdown is as follows:

1.	Fire Pumper	\$250,000	2007 – 2017
2.	Griffith Hall Renovations	\$ 24,000	2007
3.	Tractor Broom	\$ 13,000	2007
4.	Tandem Plow Truck	\$189,205	2007 – 2017
5.	Track Excavator	\$100,000	2007 - 2012
6.	2006 Road Work	\$294,758	2007 - 2010

There is also the \$600,000 to match the \$1.2 million grant for Waste Site improvements to be financed over 25 years.

To get greater detail on this and other issues please visit our website for detailed minutes of council and committee meetings.

## **MEETINGS WITH GREATER MADAWASKA STAFF**

I met with the CAO on twenty 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. I have had over thirty meetings with residents and ratepayers on various issues ranging from disputed water access on lakes, to beaver dams.

Respectfully submitted to council on July 19, 2007.

Peter R. Emon  
Reeve