

REEVE' REPORT

PERIOD COVERED: December 18, 2007 – January 24th 2008

COUNTY ACTIVITY:

I attended the Health Committee held on January 16th 2008. There are two new members of County Council sitting on it. This committee has responsibility for both Homes for the Aged, the Ambulance and Paramedic Service and other issues pertaining to health. The issue of Valley Manor has re-surfaced as well and it may be dealt with at the next County Council Meeting. It is an issue which in as much as some members of the County hopes it will resolve itself – this issue will need some assistance. There seems to be some mis-information floating around about County responsibility and it has filtered up to the federal level and Ms. Gallant. At this point the responsibility lies in providing political assistance and some leadership for residents in need.

I attended my first Social Services Committee meeting on January 21st. This committee has responsibility for funding child care, for Ontario Works, Social Housing and for some aspects of the Ontario Disability funding. I will provide more information in a future report.

On December 18th I attended the in-augural (for 2008) County Council meeting. The past Warden, Janice Visneski, the Mayor of Killaloe, Haggarty and Richards was acclaimed. As noted in my last report to council I believe she has performed well in the position. I was removed from Finance and Admin as well as Planning and Development and did not receive an explanation. I am not happy with this. The Warden's speech did not contain any revelations and covered the issues being dealt with by County in 2007. It was mildly disappointing as it did not speak about leading the way to acquire broadband or high speed service for the remainder of the residents of Renfrew County. Of note the incoming Warden of Lanark County made it an initiative for his term of office.

At this meeting the military was on hand to present a banner to all municipalities and the County as a token of their appreciation for our support of their families and themselves during this time of war. The MPP and MP were also present as was the Mayors of Arnprior and Renfrew.

The minutes for all county committee's and County Council are available on the County Website.

GREATER MADAWASKA ACTIVITY

A regular council meeting was held on December 18, 2007. I attended all committee meetings held earlier in December. All of council met with members of the community regarding the K & P from Barryvale to Sand Hill. It would seem those present were satisfied with council's response to the initial concerns about truck traffic. The motion heard and passed on December 18th authorized the formation of a committee to advise on the K & P will go a long way to tweaking the operation and maintenance of the trail and will likely allow this to be come a greater success story. I have arranged a meeting with Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority

to discuss the acquisition of the section of the K & P from Tatty Hill Road intersection to the Lanark County border.

On December 18th we also gave preliminary approval to the 2008 budget. It was a goal of Councilor Don Mercer and all of council to have this completed. Municipal staff and the finance committee chaired by Councilor Mercer worked hard to make it happen prior to 2007 ending. We remain hopeful this will be a trend beyond this council's term in office. Our congratulations and appreciation go out to them. The importance to the operation of the municipality can not be understated. It allows staff to proceed with projects and tender them earlier in the year and may result in more timely completion of projects and better price points. In the past most municipalities were not able to start projects until June when the budget was finally passed. The late passing of the budget always hinged on the County and province providing their numbers.

There will be no municipal tax increase this year and the reserves will have a contribution this year as well. The municipality will acquire a new $\frac{3}{4}$ ton four wheel drive plow truck as well for the Griffith garage and the existing 1995 will move to Calabogie with re-placement slated for 2010.

At this meeting Council voted to end the Recreation Agreement with the Town of Renfrew due to it's inability to assist us in our efforts to re-direct the funding towards children only. Residents will now pay the non-resident fee when they register for a program and the municipality will promptly reimburse the resident for the non-resident charge for all children under the age of 18 years. Adults will now need to pay the non-resident fee. This measure was necessary as we are entering into negotiations with the Town of Arnprior to access their recreation system. There has been requests over the years by our ratepayers to utilize their pool.

On January 21st the Committee of the Whole meeting was moved to Calabogie Peaks. The Peaks presented to Council on their proposed development in the area of The Oaks located on Mary-Joanne Drive. The initial building phase will see sixteen units in four unit clusters of Ski-in Ski-out town homes. These will be marketed under the brand Juniper Ridge and will be for sale units. The Peaks staff met with Jim Hutton of the County Planning Dept. last month and the meeting was attended by the Deputy Clerk. This was an initial meeting to discuss the concept.

For this year they have added some new trails and widened a few more. There have been some upgrades to the main lodge. They have added more washroom capacity. Last year they consulted extensively with their clients and acted on the comments.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a beautiful resort in our area. The Peaks has worked hard to develop their business and to produce such an ascetically appealing setting as you drive up to it. They have spread the "Calabogie" destination pretty extensively in Eastern and Central Ontario.

The County of Renfrew Public Works Department presented on their winter maintenance of the County Rds in our municipality. They have two tandem trucks which start at 5:00 am and work

through until 9:00 pm on snow days. We have asked them to start earlier and work later and they are assessing their operation. It should be noted each truck has a four hour 59 kilometer plow run.

The County will respond to our letter on their 10 year Capital Works Plan. Our letter will be posted on the municipal website for review by the public.

At this meeting Bruce Parker, chair of the Economic Development Committee presented on an application to the Province for a Festival Grant. This is scheduled, if the money comes in, for early October 2008.

Further discussion was repeated on the Crown Logging issue as well. A new resolution is to be circulated and comments solicited from Ontario municipalities. This issue will not be settled over night. Our plan is methodical and orderly. We will be meeting with Minister Cansfield of the MNR in February to discuss our concerns and we will attempt to get it on the agenda as a motion at the annual meeting of AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario). We are aware this issue concerns more municipalities than ours and will need to identify them and work with them and the province to resolve this issue. The MNR is not going to roll over and give up the cash only to Greater Madawaska they will need to be made aware of the breadth and depth of the issue first.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

With Councilor Pratt I attended a meeting with the firefighters of Station One prior to Christmas to listen to them and the issues for their service and to discuss future projects.

The Joint Waste Meeting was held on January 21st and I was unable to attend due to a conflict in my schedule.

On January 5th I attended Heritage Radio and participated in a one hour interview with Jake Davies to discuss Greater Madawaska issues as well as Renfrew County issues.

I had a brief conversation with a natural gas provider to discuss this as a future project. The conversation was initiated by them.

On January 14th I attended a meeting of the Economic Development Committee and a presentation by Bruce Moore from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs and Housing. Late that evening I received a telephone call at home from Councilor Pratt about a large fire containing debris on a site not zoned for demolition material or waste disposal. After further review and investigation the Ministry of the Environment was called the following day as waste disposal falls under their legislated mandate.

MEETINGS WITH GREATER MADAWASKA STAFF

I met with or spoke with the CAO on three occasions to discuss municipal business and to sign cheques and by-laws. I spoke to the Deputy Clerk with regards to severances and planning issues. I met with the Public Works Manager to review an equipment issue and to discuss a grant application for a road re-construction. The road selected was the Norway lake Road. Discussions on Ferguson Lake Rd and Tatty Hill Rd ensued as well but Norway Lake Rd was felt to be a project closer to starting than the other two. We also held discussions on the equipment procurement schedule and the life span of our existing equipment. I have had meetings with residents and ratepayers on various issues.

LATER THIS YEAR

As noted previously we will be having a meeting on the Noise Audit and possible changes or not to our By-law. We will take delivery of our 2008 Pumper. We will need to review all municipal policies and procedures as we have committed to upgrading them every three years. Our zoning by-law review will need to be initiated as next year is year five and it is on a five year cycle. We will need to re-start our capital acquisition plan once it has been revisited and the timelines re-jigged.

These are some of the highlights to start mulling over as we get ready to start into an exciting 2008.

Respectfully Submitted

Peter R. Emon
Reeve