

Mayor's report to Council, Feb 17th, 201

Good afternoon Council and Staff

Since my last report on Dec 9th last year I have attended on Council's behalf the County Council inaugural meeting on Dec. 13th during which we swore in a new warden, Mayor Jennifer Murphy from Bonnechere Valley (Eganville and area). I have every confidence she will do a good job. I also attended the Jan 25th meeting of County Council.

This term I serve on the Health Committee and the Operations Committee of County Council and have attended two meetings each in January and February.

I also attended meetings of the Rural Mayors Forum of Eastern Ontario on Jan 6th in Calabogie and on Feb 10th Cloyne. At the Jan 6th meeting we were made aware of a proposed change to the Building Code that would require mandatory pumping of septic tanks every five years and would require the home owner to retain records of that having been done so they can provide the record to the building inspector if required. Without attending these RMFEO we may have never known about this. I have written a letter to the Minister opposing this change and as a result of that letter, Councillor Grills and I had an hour long conference call with six Ministry staff on Tuesday morning of this week. I'll speak more of this later in this meeting.

On Jan 29th, 30th and 31st I attended my first Provincial conference. This was the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) annual conference held in Toronto. For the last 16 years it has been a joint conference with the Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA). This year ROMA decided they would hold a separate conference and had hoped to get between 600 and 800 people to attend. I guess separating from OGRA was the thing to do because we had 1050 delegates in attendance.

At this conference there was an election for the position of Zone six representative to the ROMA board. I ran unsuccessfully in that election and lost to a delegate that had attended the last 17 conferences. Results: Bresee 25, Gibson 16, Feurth 2

At the conference, there was a one hour question period where the Premier and 20 of her 26 cabinet ministers were on stage to answer questions.

I will definitely attend the next conference.

On Feb 1st I attended a meeting of Whitewater Council (Cobden and area) and asked if I could have delegation status. It was granted (majority vote) and I encouraged them to support us in our opposition to the proposed building code change. They will discuss it at their next meeting.

This concludes my report. I will be pleased to answer any questions.

Thank you