

Mayor's Report – Thursday November 21st, 2019

Welcome to all in the public gallery.

Since our last Council meeting, I have represented Head, Clara and Maria Townships at a number of meetings and events.

On October 30th at the Renfrew County Council meeting, we received an update from Jim Pine and Lisa Severson of the Eastern Ontario Rural Network (EORN) on Phase 1 of the cell gap analysis. Renfrew County figures are expected to come to council in early 2020. There is considerable concern from the municipalities that Renfrew County is not represented on the EORN Board of Directors. It was strongly suggested that a zone system of representation would be more appropriate to our geographical and social needs.

At the November 7th Community Policing Advisory Committee (CPAC) held at the Upper Ottawa OPP Detachment, I had the opportunity to meet with Detachment Commander Neufeld, Staff Sergeant Duchrow, as well as Mayor Reinwald (LH), Councillor Nicholson (WW) and Councillor Gauthier (LV). This was an introductory meeting for those attending. We received and discussed the Calls for Service reports for our municipalities. That document has been forwarded to all of Council and should be noted that it is not a crime trend report. There will be a notice in the upcoming newsletter concerning the latest OPP initiative of Online Reporting for Minor Crime. The CPAC committee meets quarterly and our next meeting will be February 2020.

On the celebration side, my husband Bob and I received an invitation to attend the 28th Unity in Diversity Multicultural Potluck Supper in Chalk River on November 9th. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and enjoy the food, music and cultures that make up our unique part of the Upper Ottawa Valley.

Although not a member of this committee, I attended the November 12th Renfrew County's Development & Property Committee meeting. The Ontario Chief Negotiator for the Algonquin Land Claims, Doug Carr made a presentation of interest to HCM concerning the negotiations to date. An Agreement in Principle was signed in 2016 and there will be more public engagement in 2020 with the intention of a Treaty Agreement finalized in 2023.

On November 13th, at the Health committee meeting, Chief Michael Nolan of the Emergency Services department gave a presentation on the findings of Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Lori Gray concerning mental health and occupational stress of workers in public safety. The Social Services department reports a continuing downward trend of Ontario Works clients. Thankfully employment opportunities are increasing in the Pembroke area. The Renfrew County Housing Corporation has invited the municipalities to answer an online survey concerning housing in our respective communities. A representative from HCM has also been invited to a Town Hall session on November 27th for the review of the 10 year Housing and Homelessness Plan for our county.

Those who were able to attend know that the November 16th HCM Library's Christmas Market was a great success. Congratulations to the Library Board members and all the volunteers who took part. I enjoyed working at the HCM table and greeting all of our visitors.

I took part in the Community Partners Focus Group at the DRDH on November 18th. A number of local stakeholders were represented including Garrison Petawawa, the Pembroke Regional and Mattawa Hospitals, the Town of Deep River and the town of Petawawa to mention a few. This meeting was part of the survey for Accreditation Canada's program to measure DRDH's clinical and operational performance against established healthcare provider standards.

I would like to express my thanks to Deputy Mayor Villeneuve, who represented HCM at the Shared Services meeting in Eganville on October 23rd. A copy of the Compilation of Shared Services document has been forwarded to Council by the Clerk.

The Remembrance Day ceremony at our Veterans Memorial was well attended by approximately 50 participants despite the cold and windy morning. I must thank the Council, staff and volunteers who helped to make the day a success.

Mayor Debbi Grills