

Mayor's Report – Saturday June 21, 2019

Since our last regular Council meeting, 5 weeks ago, I have represented Head, Clara & Maria Townships at the Renfrew County Council, the County Health, Social Services and Renfrew County Housing Corporation committees, as well as a Special Meeting of the Health and Social Services – Provincial Modernization Ad Hoc Committee.

On May 23rd, I attended an Internal Task Force Meeting concerning the Flooding Emergency hosted by our MPP Minister John Yakabuski in Pembroke. At that meeting, I was able to speak with the Ontario Regional Director of Transport Canada, John Higham concerning the navigation restrictions on our section of the Ottawa River. The following day I joined Councillor Allen at his waterfront to meet our federal Minister Cheryl Gallant to discuss how low water and navigation restrictions are as disastrous to the economy of HCM as flooding has been for our neighbours downriver. Thankfully those restrictions were lifted within the next week. However, as we all know the river is still remains very low.

At a Special Council Meeting on June 6th your Council adopted the 2019 Budget as presented. Based on this year's budget the residential tax rate is 0.00246947 and the taxes on \$100,000 of assessment would be \$246.95. (\$0.92 less than 2018). The County of Renfrew provides our municipality with health, social and family services, as well as land use planning services. It is important to remind our residents that we are the tax collector for the various school boards, the County of Renfrew and OPP police services. Only a small amount of the tax money collected in HCM stays here. I would like to express my thanks to our newly appointed Clerk/Deputy Treasurer Crystal Fischer with support from our municipal consultant for their work in the preparation of the budget document. You can find the entire document on our website under Council & Staff/Agenda & Reports.

On Monday June 17th Deputy Mayor Villeneuve and I attended a meeting of interested municipal leaders hosted by the Upper Ottawa Valley OPP in Pembroke. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the Community Safety and Well-Being programs that Ontario communities must develop by January 1st, 2021. We received an overview of the expectations of the Solicitor General's office and a brief look at work that has been done in Lanark and Prince Edward counties.

Summer is finally here, not only on the calendar but in the weather! Next weekend we will be celebrating our country's 152nd birthday. This Canada Day weekend is a perfect time for family and friends. What a great opportunity to enjoy the beautiful Ottawa River at our parks and boat launches. It is our hope that you will join your neighbours to celebrate with fireworks at Old Mackey Park at dusk on Monday July 1st. If the weather does not cooperate, we promise a rain date on Saturday July 6th.

Mayor Debbi Grills