

Good day to everyone,

This is my first opportunity as your new Reeve-elect to speak to you all via our community newsletter. I am tremendously proud of the voter participation we had in our recent election. Congratulations to all who came out to vote.

At our inaugural council meeting on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> this year, I will be giving the following Reeve's address to council. It is important for everyone to realize that while the head of council is, by legislation, the leader of council and the municipality, the head of council has only one vote, the same as every other member of council. The head of council can not commit the municipality to any action without the express consent of council.

It is also important to remember that council sets policy and direction for the municipality and that staff are the people who are responsible for the day to day operation of the municipality.

### Reeve's address to our new Council, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

I congratulate each one of our councilors on being acclaimed to Council. Although you did not have the opportunity to participate in an election, you are rightly justified in occupying the position of Councilor. By filing your name, you are no less deserving of a seat on Council than if you had successfully faced an election.

Thank you for taking such an interest in serving our community.

I want to outline to council and staff what I think the residents of this community expect of us as a council and what I, as the leader of this council, expect us to deliver. These expectations are based on my 14 years of experience on council, on the training I have received over those years, on what I learned from residents and non residents during my election campaign, on various codes of conduct, and others are based simply on good manners. Some of you have had training and experience that describes a number of these expectations that you already perform, but I feel it important to repeat them here so that we are all starting off the next four years on the same page.

We, as a council, are expected to:

- Arrange for receipt of our councilor packages.
- Be prepared for meetings by doing our homework and our own research if necessary.
- Show up at every meeting on time.
- Notify staff immediately if we are unable to attend a meeting or will be unavoidably late and, failing that, notify the Reeve or another member of council. This should be done promptly by phone and email if possible.
- Notify staff of any long term absences from the community. (more than a week)
- Ensure we are dealing in facts only.
- Fully participate in debate on all major issues.

- Immediately correct any statements that are not factual.
- In a split vote, indicate why we are taking our position.
- Support council decisions once they are made.
- Be open, frank, polite, and truthful in all our discussions with ourselves, with staff and with the public.
- Use our staff as a source of factual information.
- Do what is best for the long term interests of our community and that includes the silent majority.
- When engaging in discussions with the public, ensure they are aware of policies and procedures and are dealing in facts.
- Be respectful of each other, the public, and staff.
- Ensure the lines between council's duties and staff's duties do not become blurred.
- Be respectful of delegations to council.
- Promptly return phone calls and emails.
- Support and attend community events when possible.
- Participate in training relative to our positions.

Our adherence to these expectations will help ensure that we, as a council, will manage the affairs of this municipality in a manner that our residents can be satisfied is best for our mutual long term interests.