

Mayor's Report – Thursday September 19th, 2019

Welcome to all in the public gallery. Thank you for taking the time to join us this evening. It is my hope that you had the opportunity to speak to council members before the meeting.

I represented Head, Clara and Maria Townships, on August 28th at the monthly County of Renfrew Council meeting. Petawawa's Mayor Sweet reported on his delegation at the AMO conference that was of great interest to the MTO. His presentation outlined how \$20 million could be saved from the provincial coffers if they chose to stone dust the Algonquin Trail from Mattawa in place of hard shouldering Highway 17 from Arnprior to Renfrew.

At the September 4th meeting of the Health committee, the director of Emergency Services Michael Nolan outlined the continued use of drones in search and rescue with the Sierra Team in Algonquin Park. He is also continuing to work with hospitals to reduce "non-emergent" transport, especially to Ottawa hospitals. It is imperative to keep Renfrew County ambulances available for emergent care here instead of waiting to off load in Ottawa.

It was a pleasure to greet residents of our community at the special open public meeting to discuss the Strategic Plan for 2019 to 2022 on September 7th here in the Municipal Hall. Ideas for future consideration included: snow plowing for low income seniors, Hwy 17 concerns of auto-extrication, recycling solutions and possible areas for future efficiencies in municipal services.

The United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria is on the radar of at least one candidate in the upcoming federal election. I had the opportunity to meet with the Independent candidate for our riding of Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, Dan Criger, at his request at the Municipal office on September 9th. I took him and his campaign manager on a tour of both our indoor and outdoor facilities, including our library and helipad. I outlined for them some of the challenges that face the 12th smallest municipality in Ontario!

Yesterday, I attended the DRDH Community Partners meeting. Some of the highlights included: ongoing recruitment for a replacement for Dr. Macleod; Nurse Practitioner hours increasing to 2.0 FTE staffing in the interim and the hospital still awaiting this year's 2019 funding from the province with 3 ½ months left to go. I also joined Deputy Mayor Villeneuve to bring greetings from HCM and take part in a ribbon cutting ceremony at the "Be Seen Ya" Active Living Fair at the DR Legion.

Mayor Debbi Grills