

Mayor's Report – Thursday March 23, 2023

We have welcomed Spring since our last council meeting – even though the weather does not feel like it quite yet!

At the March 1st COR Council we learned of the name change to our federal electoral district from Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke. It has been renamed to Algonquin-Renfrew-Pembroke and the Township of Greater Madawaska will remain in the district and returned back to its existing boundary.

On March 2nd I attended a RCDHU & Mayor's meeting on Zoom. It was announced that the new, permanent full-time medical officer of Health is Dr. Jason Morgenstern. Dr. Morgenstern grew up in Renfrew County, currently working with the Halton Region Public Health where his portfolio includes health protection, disease surveillance and emergency preparedness. His appointment is effective as of April 3rd. I will be meeting him virtually on April 6th. The Renfrew County mayors have been asked to introduce themselves that day – and perhaps to use our skills to coax the doctor to move to one of our 17 municipalities. I will do my best to lure him to the “far west”!

On March 3rd I attended a Zoom meeting with Warden Peter Emon, CAO Craig Kelley, Community Services Director Laura LaPine, Connie Wilson (CS) and Councillor Anne Giardini. The purpose of our meeting was to discuss the 86 Jury Recommendations of the Culleton, Kuzyk & Warmerdam Inquest (June 28,2022). We had a fulsome discussion of how the COR Community Services supports Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) now and how we can improve our support in the longer term.

On March 8th, International Women's Day(IWD) began with a Heath Committee Mtg at the COR building. We heard good news from the LTC division that both Bonnechere Manor and Miramichi Lodge now have Nurse Practitioners in each home. It is expected that their addition should lessen ED visits. Warden Emon treated the women from this committee, to a luncheon hosted by the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce – it was very much appreciated! To round out IWD day, Councillor Kelly-Chamberlain and I joined our female municipal leaders from neighbouring municipalities at the Deep River Legion for a celebration sponsored by the Deep River & District Community Foundation, hosted by Maven Catering and IWD Organizing Committee.

On March 18th along with many Irish folk and some “wantables” dressed in green, I enjoyed a fun filled St. Patrick's Day party here in the hall. Again, I would like to congratulate the members of the RAC and the numerous people who volunteered to make this event such wonderful success.

On Tuesday of this week, March 21st Councillor Dowser and I were treated to a tour of the Des Joachims Generating Station along with members of council from Laurentian Hills, Temiskaming and Petawawa. We were especially lucky to have a sunny day to enjoy the outdoor portions of the tour, the head pond and tail race!

Mayor Debbi Grills