

Mayor's Report – Thursday May 18, 2023

Since our last meeting on April 20th, we have welcomed a new employee to the HCM team, Mr. Kasey Elliot. I had the pleasure of meeting Kasey last week and I am sure he will be well received by Council and our residents. He certainly has big shoes to fill.

At the COR Council meeting on April 26th, the retiring Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Robert Cushman and the president and Executive Director, Arnprior Family Health Team Ms. Leah Levesque were presented with the Chief's Commendation and Plaque for their contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic and the development of the Renfrew County Virtual and Assessment Centre (RCVTAC). Our new Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Jason Morgenstern was also introduced to Council. Dr. Morgenstern will be touring the 17 municipalities with the Board of Health's Chair Ann Aikens. I am expecting them to visit HCM on June 20th.

On April 27, I attended Asset Management training in Eganville's Eagle Nest with our Municipal Administrator Crystal Fischer, Councillors LeClerc, Richer and Kelly-Chamberlain. This training was sponsored by AMO and our presenter was a former Mayor from BC. Just a few "takeaways" that could be very useful for us during our Strategic Planning phase:

- Service level discussions with residents are essential!
- Services #1 need and want VS #2 willing and able to pay for?
- What are we spending to maintain our services?
- Long term plan for taking care of our assets?
- Remember climate change implications on assets!
- "Anti-Tax is Anti-Services"

On May 3rd I attended Community Economic Development 101 with Councillors Richer and LeClerc at the Cobden Legion. The best eye opener for me was the discussions we had with 2 people who have travelled through and in our municipality. The consensus was that our 60 km had an "identity crisis". As the advertising world would say – we need branding!

At the May 4th, RCDHU Mayor's Zoom meeting many of us had difficulties with very poor internet connections in several rural locations. It was a reality check for our new Medical Officer who is used to the connectivity of an urban setting. Updates from the Health Unit will be biweekly from now on. The Health Unit wants to be sure that all Municipalities have sufficient water bottles for testing. I would like to advertise the RCDHU COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Schedule on our website and Facebook page to assist people like me who need a booster shot.

During the week of May 7th, the Paramedic Service was pleased to welcome a group of Paramedics from Bavaria, Germany. In April 2022, the first Bavaria-wide Community Paramedic response unit in Regensburg was launched, modelled after the County of Renfrew Community Paramedicine Program. Included in the delegation were Andreas Bauer, Chief ACP, Education, Community Paramedic Response Unit Coordinator, Sebastian Gerosch, Chief of EMS Department, Johannes Gottschalk, Chief of Red Cross Paramedic School/Manager, Red Cross Foundation, Felix Premm, and Patrick Schwarz, an ACP Preceptor. The visitors took part in briefings, ride along with crews, meetings with partner agencies, ride outs with commanders and Community Paramedics. The ultimate intention of this visit was to develop an exchange program that would see our Paramedics visit Regensburg at a future time in the interest of collaboration.

At yesterday's meeting of Health Committee Community Paramedicine Program, we met the above-mentioned Chief "Andy" Bauer from Germany as he outlined how his relationship with the COR Paramedic Service began as business that has turned to friendship. This friendship has become an exchange of "best practices". Plans for an exchange program between Bavaria and COR are in the works for 2023. They have modelled the COR Paramedic Program but we have much to learn from them!

Mayor Debbi Grills