

### **Mayor's Report – August 26, 2023**

Since our last council, I have attended the following meetings representing HCM:

On the morning of June 20<sup>th</sup>, I met with the Renfrew County District Health Unit (RCDHU) former Chair Ann Aikens and newly appointed Medical Officer of Health Dr. Jason Morgenstern here in our municipality. I gave them a quick tour of our facilities, including the helipad and especially our municipal hall as a perfect site for vaccination and wellness clinics. Unfortunately, it was also the day of the tragic helicopter crash at Petawawa. Dr. Morgenstern was called to monitor the water quality of the Petawawa water system. Thanks to our staff, he was setup in our office to support the emergency from here.

I was unable to attend the monthly County of Renfrew meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>, however you have an excellent summary of that meeting in today's correspondence.

Municipal Administrator Fischer and I met with the representatives from the Upper Ottawa Valley Seniors Friendship Club (UOVFSFC) on June 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the possibility of applying for a Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC) grant from Ontario's Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility and included our neighbouring municipalities. SALC programs promote wellness, social interaction, inclusion and education to help seniors stay active, independent and engaged. Both Ms. Fischer and I were open to continuing the discussion. On July 6<sup>th</sup>, a follow-up meeting at Laurentian Hills municipal office included the 3 mayors; Carmen Goold (ON Ministry of Seniors & Accessibility) Regional Development Advisor for Eastern Region; administrative staff from Deep River and Laurentian Hills and representatives from the UOVFSFC. After several days, much conversation and deliberation from all parties involved the UOVFSFC decided not to attempt the grant application at this time – with hopes to pursue at another time.

On July 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, I attended virtual Wildfire Situational Awareness Briefings with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). The 20<sup>th</sup> was the last briefing for that time and further briefings would continue in the future as required. Information on forest fires in Ontario can be monitored at the Ministry website – Forest Fire Info Map.

On July 26<sup>th</sup>, Mayors D'Eon, Giardini and I met with the County of Renfrew (COR) Director of Community Services and representatives from Serco Canada, the new service system manager for our catchment area (Kingston/Pembroke). The new service system impacts the delivery of the Ontario Works program. The service delivery under the new Employment Ontario will roll out on October 1, 2023. Managing Director, Jodi O'Gorman and Senior Employment Services Manager, Katy Michell recognize that our area is underserved and wanted to discuss ways to better serve residents. Transportation and distance from supports were top of the discussion.

On August 16<sup>th</sup> I spent the day at the County building for Health; Renfrew County Housing Corporation and Community Services Committee meetings. Recruitment of staff continues to challenge Bonnechere Manor LTC. An agreement has been signed to employ up to 20 international PSW's with an anticipated start in September. Incentives are also being offered to new recruits.

Renfrew County Housing Corporation received an update on housing capital projects and the Annual General Meeting Report for 2022. A Community Watch Zone program has begun at a housing property on Elizabeth St. in Pembroke.

At the Community Services Committee a resolution recommended that the County of Renfrew endorse the following 5 recommendations:

- set up a She C.A.N fund utilizing the Homeless Prevention Program \$ (to be reviewed annually);
- staff training (IPV);
- routine screening for applicants experiencing IPV;
- Community Services management participate in committees that focus on IPV
- a Community Services in-house committee staff review of IPV focussed approach

On that committee day there was a lot of “buzz” around the upcoming (now past) AMO Conference in London Ontario this past week. There were delegations from each of these committees to speak to ministers or their deputies – more to follow.

Mayor Debbi Grills