

Mayor's Report – Thursday October 21, 2021

It has been 4 weeks since our last regular Council meeting and the fall season is truly upon us.

I meet virtually with the DRDH Mayors and the RCDHU Mayors every second week. At the Thursday September 23rd I learned that vaccine clinics have begun at the North Renfrew Family Health Team (NRFHT). There is a walk-in clinic on Thursday evenings welcoming rostered and non rostered individuals. At the afternoon RCDHU meeting, Dr. Cushman sent his thanks to our administration staff for their quick response to the need for internet access and printing for proof of vaccination.

On Thursday October 7th at the DRDH morning meeting, CEO Janna Hotson announced that 100% of hospital staff have been vaccinated. Construction work at the hospital was delayed due to contractors who were not vaccinated. I have offered our municipal hall for another flu clinic this year. The hospital is looking for volunteers to assist with flu clinics this season. There will be an announcement coming soon of the “ground-breaking” this year for the LTC facility being built at the hospital campus - \$1 million will need to be raised. In the afternoon RCDHU meeting it was reported that COR schools were doing a good job since school opening, with only a few cases and no transmissions. Renfrew County has approximately the same vaccination rate as the province.

At the Wednesday September 29th County Council meeting we were presented with two delegations. Mr. Ray Bonenburg, the Chair of the Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) gave an overview of the supports for business in the County. The CFDC works with small businesses to offer financing, as well as business counselling and support for small to medium size enterprises. For more information their website is www.rccfdc.org

The second presentation from Ms. Jodi Bucholtz, the manager of Local Immigration Partnership (LIP) of Renfrew & Lanark Counties was an overview of “Welcoming Communities – No Wrong Door” an initiative to support, build and develop a shared understanding of local immigration needs.

Reeve Peter Emon, the Chair of the 2022 Winter Games reported to council that final decisions on the “go-ahead” for the games will take place at the end of this month. Many venues and services require substantial non-refundable deposits. Transportation, accommodations and security issues are uncertain at this time.

Also, on September 29th in the evening, this Council had a virtual training with Mr. Paul Cassan of WMG on the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. It is interesting to note that a small COR municipality was frontpage news in last week's Eganville Leader on the very same topic!

October's PWAG meeting on October 12th was cancelled due to no quorum...a casualty of the hunting season, I think!

Wednesday October 13th was unstable rural internet day for me! I dropped that day's meetings frequently. However, I did hear at Health Committee that our LTC homes will continue to have staffing challenges going forward. This committee is also part of the COR Emergency Management Group for EM Compliance 2021. At the afternoon Community Services meeting we were reminded that the Federal Assistance CRB/CRSB/CRCB programs will be over at the end of October. The caseworkers are preparing for an anticipated surge in social assistance applications. The ON Works department also reports that the province continues to work toward an Employment Services Transformation (EST). There will be no changes in the delivery of services for COR until April of 2023.

Mayor Debbi Grills