

THE LOOK OUT

A Newsletter Created by the Mono Mulmur Citizens' Coalition



SUMMER 2020

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The beauty of our natural environment is in full bloom and a welcomed aspect of life here in Mono and Mulmur as we continue to navigate the negative impact on our world and our local communities resulting from the pandemic. We'd like to start with a wish to everyone in our community for good health as we ride through this difficult time. We'd

like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for the sacrifices of our health care workers and the work of many organizations in our community who remain focused on helping our more vulnerable residents. Thank you to the volunteers supporting Food Bank operations, making food deliveries and making daily check-in calls.

These volunteers exhibit dedication that has been exemplary. We also appreciate the unsung heroes who make possible the availability of essential services to all of us. There are many, many organizations and individuals who have been working at capacity to ensure the safety and health of the people who live in Dufferin County. We thank them all!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members!

Thank you for renewing your MC² membership this year! We've had a great response so far and we appreciate your recommendation to others to join. We've welcomed several new members so far this year. For those who have not renewed as yet, you can do that anytime by sending a cheque in the mail or by an e-transfer to: info@monomulmur.com.

Please note that after many years of accepting cheques made out to "MC²", the TD Bank has decided that cheques must be made out to "Mono Mulmur Citizens' Coalition" instead.

MC² prides itself on working positively and collaboratively with our municipalities to bring the citizen voice to issues and concerns and to help shape solutions to the ever-

increasing complexity of municipal planning and management. We celebrate our MC² committees and the opportunities they bring to residents to hear and learn about specific issues. We look forward to the future when we can do this once again. As always, a big thank you to the team who makes this newsletter informative and engaging.

It is my pleasure to introduce Michael Penny, welcomed onto the Board at the June Board meeting by unanimous vote. Michael is a "retired" businessman with interests still in the Peel area. He grew up on a small farm in the Agincourt area.

He is married with two children and two wonderful grandkids. Michael moved to Mono 26 years ago.

With more time on his hands he says he's able to give back to the community that has been so good to him. He has followed MC² for some time and said, "When invited to participate, I jumped at the opportunity to work with a great Board and organisation". We welcome Michael to the Board and appreciate his breadth of experience and commitment to give back to the community.

Warm Regards,

Elaine



MONO UPDATES

The Gooseville tavern continues to attract the attention of the neighbouring property owners. It appears that more development is taking place according to some general observation of the construction traffic in and out of

this property. The neighbours have formed a "Mono Residents' Association Inc" where they hope to coordinate their actions by sharing information. They also collected evidence in favour of their case to potentially stop or reduce



MONO UPDATES CONTINUED

the burden of the negative activities this property seems to continue to generate in their area.

The Town has served notice of removal of imported soil from a property on the Fourth Line. As stated, the objective of the owner was to import approximately two thousand tandem truckloads of soil to construct a private horse racetrack. The importation was not in conformity with the current bylaw and the Town issued a removal order. As the winter and the pandemic was in full swing, the order was delayed for obvious practical reasons. We understand that the property owner did a test of the soil and there were some concerns with the results. At the Council meeting that took place on May 26, there was

an “in camera” session, which we assume was to deal with this specific issue. MC² will continue to monitor this situation closely. We will hold our position that this soil must be removed post haste.

Currently active before council is the issue of off-road vehicles using public roads for recreational purposes. In our last Newsletter we stated that Mono had passed a by law prohibiting recreational use of ATVs (All-Terrain Vehicles) on their roads. This was an error. They had discussed the issue with MC² Board members but didn't act. The provincial government has empowered each municipality to allow or prohibit ATV use of public roads. We are encouraged by the fact that most if not all council members

seem to be against this. We are in a geographical area where this type of activity could produce excessive noise and dangerous use of these vehicles by mostly non-residents. At the May 26 Council meeting staff was instructed to develop a bylaw to reflect their position on this subject. Farm and other essential uses of this type of vehicle would be permitted regardless.

As you may have noticed on the agendas, Council adopted our suggestion to keep a list of ongoing issues that have not been completed and are in need of a follow up. Council also amended their procedural by-law to review this list on an ongoing basis.



MULMUR UPDATES

Generally, the Mulmur Council has been functioning well. It did take a number of months at the beginning of their term for the three new Councilors to understand the ins and outs of running the municipality, but they now appear comfortable in their new roles. Council members come to meetings well prepared to discuss the issues. Debate is lively, with good questions and thoughtful input. There is a positive atmosphere, with no one-upmanship and none of the personal attacks that we can remember from recent history. Their jobs are more difficult now with online meetings, but the Council continues to get things done.

We have long campaigned to have more openness and transparency in how the Council operates and this

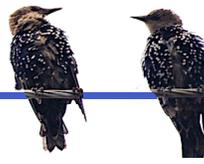
was a core issue with all the candidates during the election. Generally, this Council does well on that front. The Mayor allows public input when requested; town hall meetings are a regular event, although curtailed by the virus. There is a new monthly newsletter from the mayor and a communication committee is being struck. We would like to see Council minutes include a more detailed summary of what is happening, and although regular delegations are encouraged, they need to be kept to fifteen minutes

Additionally, we have a couple of administrative suggestions which should help the Council in managing its work. In recent years the CAO held a management review every month where there was an update on tasks assigned to the staff by

Council, ongoing issues were updated and staff performance appraisals were noted. These meetings allowed a full review of issues and progress and the subsequent report was available in the next month's agenda package. We feel there would be great value in reinstating this practice. Another important step is to ensure that all official documents be accurately written and clear of grammatical and spelling errors.

As in Mono, one issue is emerging as a priority: the need to decide on whether ATVs and UTVs (Utility Terrain Vehicles) will have expanded access to our roads. Mono is now acting to block recreational ATV use, and we are hoping that Mulmur will move quickly in the same direction, and will keep citizens

MULMUR UPDATES CONTINUED



informed as this issue is discussed. A final important concern is the fact that the Clerk position has been the subject of the resignations of three incumbents in less than one year. This position is critical in providing the detailed understanding of the Municipal Act, other government requirements, and Township precedents, the County Council input and many other critical areas of expertise. The Clerk role was recently filled by an applicant hired for an eleven-month period. She has resigned, accepting a full-time job in another municipality. The Council has a

dual responsibility: they need to gain a full understanding as to why this position has experienced such turnover and how to fix whatever has been happening; and they need to ensure that the person hired to fill this function permanently has the needed experience and skills to manage this complex role.

We have listed some challenges Council faces but this should not create the impression that there is a problem here. These are hard jobs, demanding in the range of issues covered, with much of the work being focused on committees, as well as on Council meetings.

They are open to the public and professional in their work. The virus certainly adds a layer of complexity to their work at this time. That said, the challenges don't go away and MC² will continue to work with the Councils to provide community input and commentary.

Del Bernardi
Don MacFarlane
Cheryl Russel

A NOTE FROM OUR NEW TREASURER

As your new Treasurer, I want you to know how much I appreciate working with such a generous membership as we have in MC². In the winter newsletter, I told you that your organization was pretty well funded with a bank account of approximately \$5,000. That said, I suggested that your Board would be more comfortable if our bank account was more in the vicinity of \$10,000, which it has traditionally been. As Treasurer, I suggested that maybe, with just a small request, we could encourage our members to dig a little deeper and donate enough to build our bank account to a little healthier position.

Well, your Board is now feeling much more comfortable as our bank account broke back into

the \$10,000 comfort zone. I can only say, "THANK YOU, THANK YOU and THANK YOU!!!" to those who met the challenge with some very generous donations.

Don MacFarlane has often said that if we need funds, he was pretty sure all we had to do was ask, and he was right on the money. It is great to volunteer for an organization that appreciates the work we do for our community and is willing to financially support that effort. Again, my personal thanks for your continued support and time to get back to our watchdog business.

Bob Mitchell

THE LOOK OUT

Your comments on this issue are welcomed at info@monomulmur.com.

The Executive of MC² : Elaine Capes, President - Rita Reitsma, Secretary - Bob Mitchell, Treasurer.
Members-At-Large: Del Bernardi, Susan Brown, Arnold DeGraaff, Knut Holmsen, Michael Penny, Cheryl Russel.
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