

Mayor's Report – Thursday February 23, 2023

The COR meeting on January 25th featured the annual County of Renfrew Warden's Community Service Awards for 2022. These awards recognize local contributions of individuals, businesses and not-for-profit groups. The Eganville Leader received the business award for spearheading the Ukrainian fundraiser held last year that raised \$110,000. Darrel O'Shaughnessy was presented the individual award. He was nominated by Arnprior Mayor Lisa McGee for his lifelong volunteerism in the Greater Arnprior area. His many contributions include the Arnprior Dragon Boat Club and the Senior's Active Living Centre to mention only a few. The Ottawa Valley Cycling and Active Transportation Alliance (OVCATA) received the not-for-profit award. OVCATA is the voice for cyclists and all active transportation in the Ottawa Valley. MPP John Yakabuski also joined the ceremony to present his own certificates of recognition.

I attended MOH & RCDHU Area Mayors meeting on February 2nd. Dr. Ian Gemmill is our new acting officer of Health for the County. At the time of this virtual meeting the case load with COVID was up and the main message continuing is – "the vaccine works but we are not out of the woods yet!". In the recovery phase of the pandemic, it is essential that as many as 4000 elementary children's immunizations get caught up to date.

On February 13th I chaired the COR Land Division Committee meeting. Presiding members of this committee included the mayors of the Townships of Madawaska Valley, Mark Willmer and the Township of McNab/Braeside's, Mark Mackenzie. The manager of Planning Services, Bruce Howarth started our day with an hour of training before the individual cases were presented. Eight cases were presented to the committee that day. Our role is to consider all information received and make a decision to grant or refuse consent (or in some cases hold a file in abeyance).

February 15th meetings of the Health Committee, Renfrew County Housing Corporation and Community Services all made budget presentations in preparation for the County's Budget Workshop on February 22nd. More information to come.

It was my pleasure to work on the last 2 Saturdays (February 11th and February 18th) in the Trail Side Café kitchen. The café has been highly popular and very successful – especially on Family Day weekend! I spoke to several visitors from as far away as Smiths' Falls who enjoyed lunch and our beautiful community. Of course, our own residents were very happy to enjoy a delicious lunch out as well. The last café will be held this Saturday the 25th. Many, many thanks to the Recreation Advisory Committee and volunteers for their hard work and dedication in this welcome endeavour!

Mayor Debbi Grills