

Mayor's Report – Thursday June 15, 2023

Thank goodness we have been blessed with some wonderful rainy weather for a change! Just in time to water the planter boxes around the Municipal building. Many thanks to June Vaughan and Councillor Dowser for spearheading this initiative. Thanks also go out to the volunteer planters: Diane Foreman, Jim Gibson, John Beesley, Sue Giroux and Councillor Fran Kelly-Chamberlain!

On May 30th our municipality celebrated Bill Donnelly's well-deserved retirement. It was an honour to celebrate his years of dedication to HCM! He will certainly be missed at our disposal sites; however, he will be watching out for us in his new retirement chair as we pass by his home.

The COR Council meeting May 31st began with three delegations. The COR staff presented a cheque for \$2000 to the United Way – proceeds from the staff's donations on Jeans Day Fridays. The Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation outlined their organization that supports local business with financing and counselling. They now have offices in Pembroke and Renfrew. The last delegation was from the RC District School Board highlighting their post-pandemic reset to education, programs, and partnerships.

CAO Craig Kelley announced the upcoming retirement of the Deputy Clerk - Rose Gruntz has submitted her letter of retirement. Mr. Kelley noted that Rose has been the glue that has held this corporation together for 25 years. The August session will be her last meeting.

On June 1st at the MOH & RCDHU Mayors mtg on Zoom, Chairperson Ann Aikens announced that she would not be seeking another term on the Board of Health and this would be her last Zoom meeting. Despite her upcoming retirement, she will be introducing the new Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Jason Morgenstern to the 17 municipalities in person. By travelling to all, he will certainly get a clear picture of our rural distances and far-flung county.

On June 2nd, Councillor LeClerc and I joined other community leaders from across Renfrew and the Pontiac Counties for a day at the Chalk River Laboratories campus (AECL and CNL). We saw the continued revitalization of the campus and got an update on the key projects in clean energy, health sciences and environmental remediation. CNL's future plans and projects were also shared. The day was a great mix of walking tours and presentations. Highlights of the tour were meeting "Robot Rover" and learning about targeted alpha therapy, a new weapon in the fight against cancer.

Saturday June 3rd brought another successful June Jazaar to HCM. Many thanks for hard work of the Library Board volunteers. More details to follow in our summer newsletter. It was a great day for me to meet and greet the attendees. I was pleased to distribute more pumpkin seeds to the children who accepted the Mayor's Challenge to grow their own Jack-o-Lantern for Halloween. I look forward to reporting on their successes in our Fall newsletter. I must also acknowledge the generosity of many visitors to my table who donated to the North Renfrew Family Services.

The County of Renfrew has made 2 announcements in the last few weeks that will have a positive effect on our municipality. On May 31, 2023 a resolution was passed to approve a contract to erect new barriers on the overpass over Highway 17 on the Algonquin Trail at Menet Lake Road in our township. The resolution that has been shared with Council and our Municipal Administrator.

At the meeting of the Development and Property Committee on June 13th, a letter (enclosed) from our MPP John Yakabuski announced a Provincial Parks Investment of \$3,386,00 to revitalize infrastructure in our important neighbour to the south, Algonquin Park. Closer to us, Driftwood Park will be receiving \$1.5 million to upgrade its water treatment plant.



May 27th Hazardous Waste Day in HCM and last day of work for Bill!
Many thanks Bill - from all of us!

Mayor Debbi Grills