

Mayor's Report – November 16, 2023

Since our last Council I had a TEAMS meeting with the DRDH Community Health Partners concerning the new branding of our hospital – now officially Deep River and District Health (also encompasses DRD Family Health Team). I did receive an apology from the chair when I pointed out the omission of our township in the media release.

Crystal and I met with Rosehall Consulting on October 23rd in our hall to discuss Auto-Extrication in HCM. Our meeting is well covered in today's package and yesterday's NRT.

At the October 26th update with the RCD Health Unit Dr. Jason Morgenstern was most concerned about the drug-related deaths and overdose numbers in the county. The Health Unit has reviewed and made the change of vaccinations and flu shot clinics to appointments only for the time being. The respiratory infection numbers are trending up right now.

County Council has been busy – October 25th regular Council November 9th Special Meeting of Council to discuss Asset Management and begin our deliberations for the 2024 and beyond Financial Planning. If you are interested you can view all meetings on YouTube.

Yesterday I attended the COR Health, Renfrew County Housing Corporation and the Community Services Committees. Most of the discussions revolved around the upcoming budget deliberations for the new year.

We had a wonderful turnout on a blustery Remembrance Day in HCM. I want to close my report today with an excerpt from The Globe and Mail (Ontario Edition) on 11 Nov 2023. Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of the day.

"Lest we forget (our duty to cast a vote)

*Canadians could wear a poppy to commemorate Remembrance Day. They could observe two minutes of silence at the 11th hour or the 11th day of the 11th month. Both of those gestures, small as they might be, are welcome enough. But Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew had a much better idea this week as to how the memory and sacrifice of veterans could be honoured: **VOTING!***

...the duty to vote rests with individual Canadians. The decision to cast a ballot is a choice to affirm the voter's connection to a wider community, and to the nation. And it's a choice that honours those who fought, and too often died, to secure our democratic freedom."

Food for thought - in 2022 Ontario's municipal election there was a 36% turnout of registered voters.

Mayor Debbi Grills