

Mayor's Report – Tuesday March 22, 2022

At last, we can say hello to Spring and celebrate warmer sunny days on the horizon! It has been 5 weeks since our last regular Council meeting.

At the Wednesday February 23rd COR Council meeting we were treated to some “good news” stories. Provincial funding for RC VTAC will continue until March 2023. Our County has been twinned with Renfrewshire, Scotland. We had a virtual meeting with Scottish Provost Lorraine Cameron along with a great video showing the attributes of both of our beautiful counties. When sharing the video with this Council, I learned that our very own Councillor Kelly-Chamberlain was born in Scotland! At the same meeting, a resolution was passed that the County Council supports the CNL application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to amend its existing site license in order to construct a Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF). The COR has authorized the approval of an agreement between the Paramedic Service and Arnprior Regional Health to place paramedics in the Emergency Department. This will help to alleviate the situation of ambulances kept out of service while waiting to off load patients.

On Thursday February 24th I attended a virtual Land Division Committee meeting in the morning. These meetings are held to adjudicate a severance that has an objector. Of note for our township, the Haines severance in HCM was deferred for a second time. At the RCDHU Mayors meeting in the afternoon, Dr. Cushman was still advocating for the cautious approach to reopening. This month on March 15th, he also sent out a memo to the Health Unit staff to continue to maintain all current protocols in the office until further reassessment in the middle of April.

On the morning of February 28th, I had the pleasure of bringing greetings from our township to the opening day of the virtual Upper Ottawa Valley Senior Friendship Club's Active Living Fair. I attended a fascinating presentation from Lianne Harris on The History of Hygiene (the title “Undressed” was what caught my eye!). All of the week's presentations are now posted on their website.

At the March 9th Health Committee meeting, Emergency Services reported that the Point of Care Ultrasound Service (aka POCUS) program has been extended for Community Care support. Each ultrasound unit is approximately \$5000. Community Care Paramedics have also delivered 500 home vaccinations to date. Thanks to these ground-breaking initiatives patients can stay safely in their homes for required treatments. It is also important to remember that presently 25,000 people in Renfrew County are without a family doctor.

At the virtual DRDH & Mayors meeting on March 10th we were missing Mayors Reinwald and Sweet. I shared the news of our ongoing renovations in the Library and Municipal Hall. Mayor D'Eon noted that the mask mandate was an issue of concern for some in Deep River. CEO Janna Hotson reported that January and February at the DRDH was all about OMICRON. This month hospital programs and in-person services are resuming. Screening at the entrance is still in force with some “push back” from visitors. The new LTC facility funding agreement with the province and plans for community fundraising activities are in the works now.

Mayor Debbi Grills