

## MAYORS REPORT

February 14, 2007

The recreation committee has done an excellent job of putting together LATCHFORD'S FROSTY FROLIC for the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. There is lots going on so let's see everyone out to at least something.

Centennial preparations are going well and a plan is slowly coming together. The letterhead has been chosen and letters will go out to former residents shortly.

None of this would have been possible without the numerous hours dedicated by Latchford volunteers. It does not matter whether it is the Rec Committee, the Volunteer Fire Department, the Library Board the Heritage board or any of the many other jobs that are completed with volunteer help. Our volunteers are our sole and we all depend on them. Our Town can not function without them.

That is why I was particularly distressed this week when I learned that our volunteer editor of the Moose Call, Diane Remillard had been sued for libel along with the Moose Call by the Board of the Co-Op. Yet again, two new lawsuits to add to the list. If this was not enough it was followed by an anonymous mailing to everyone's mailbox in Latchford challenging the Town to sue the Board if they could not back up the content of the flyer.

My name was mentioned several times in the flyer although I noted that none of the Board members names were. The contents of the flyer are untrue, utter nonsense. However the Town is more mature and does not conduct its operations, or live its life, by litigation.

The Suite against Diane Remillard is also complete nonsense. The thought of hard earned and scare Co-Op dollars being used to attack a woman that has not only devoted thousands of volunteer hours to the town but also to the Co-Op sickens me to my stomach. What is wrong with these people, she did not write the article.

I wrote the article with the history attached in an attempt to resolve the issues once and for all. If they had taken the time to read the article they would see that this was clearly stated. In the Flyer written by the anonymous Board they refer to me as a coward well as they will see I am not conversely who are THEY? I am proud that I attempt to resolve longstanding problems within our town. You cannot solve a problem by throwing lawsuits every time there is an effort to solve a problem.

On a lighter note I, along with many council members and some community minded residents attended a meeting of the Ratepayers association. There is a \$5.00 charge to join and for that they will keep you updated on what goes on at council meeting or bring your concerns to council. It seems to me the best way to accurately find out what council does is to attend council meetings. They are free. If you cannot attend ask one of the twenty or so residents that do attend, that also is free. Failing that phone one of your six councilors or me – also free. And finally you could pick up a copy of the minutes at the town office or download them from our website over the Internet also at no cost.

Ratepayers Associations can be an asset to a community. I personally was a little disappointed we were told at the meeting that they wanted members and they definitely wanted issues. To be credible the association must operate under elected board not self appointees, it must operate according to its own constitution and it must address all issues brought forward not just selected ones. I fail to see how this will benefit Latchford. I will continue to attend to represent the Town of Latchford.