

## Mayor's Report, August 20, 2015

### **Latchford Control Dam Project**

- We now have a draft impacts letter prepared by a voluntary consultant for presentation to PWGSC relative to the project as requested by Harpreet. It was hoped to have it available for distribution tonight but the content is under discussion. If needed, this will be shared with all of you electronically.
- The prefeasibility assessment on the CMR power dam project has been completed but remains in draft form at this time. As it is 52 pages long, I encourage distributing it electronically to Council with hard copies available if you need it.
- I will be attending (potentially) a meeting in Huntsville tomorrow with reps from WPG, Bill Touzel, Jeff Barton and CMR reps to review the draft prefeasibility in the hopes of expediting acquisition of the WPG FIT Contract on the dam.
- ( Jaime joined me in a call to the MOE regarding the pumping of muddy water from the coffer dam area directly into the Montreal River. The matter was referred to Environment Canada who was supposed to visit the site early this week but have, not surprisingly, not gotten back to me.
- ( Jaime and I responded to a request from Eric Therrien of Cegerco on Tuesday during which he attempted to, in my opinion, justify some of Stephan Steiner's actions. He proceeded to request access to that additional area of land between the Treatment Plant Driveway and McLeod Avenue for use as a settlement bed as has previously been explained to all of you and it was confirmed to him by email and verbally yesterday that Council was in agreement with conditions and the rental rate was agreed to.
- Jeff Barton and I met with the chief engineer from Cegerco yesterday regarding the lack of cooperation that the Town is getting in our discussions regarding the dam contract. We both came away with the impression they are easier to work with than CDB but time will determine that.
- They appear to have sealed off the leaks in the coffer dam to the degree that they are excavating down to the required elevation so that they can eventually begin construction of the new dam's piers. Every indication is that they are at least one month behind schedule.

### **Debt Retirement Charge**

After further review of the Ombudsman's letter and the Town's agreement of sale, our solicitor has determined there is little opportunity to recover the debt retirement charges paid by Latchford property owners. This despite there being no debt associated with the former Latchford Hydro Electric Commission at the time of its sale to Hydro One.

### **EDF Wind Proposal**

I attended the open house held in Haileybury on August 11 that was hosted by EDF at the Haileybury Legion Br 54. It was very well attended as was the one hosted by WPD in Cobalt. This proposal, if accepted would see considerable access through the Roosevelt Road for its development. I advised both Nathalie and Mark whom had met with Jaime and I back in the spring that cancelling our Community Centre booking should have resulted in a cancellation fee and they are willing to pay that.

### **Ontario Tourism Northeast**

Lise and I met with Bernadette Lindsay of Tourism Northeast on August 06 during which we attempted to determine what type of assistance is available for staffing and equipping our Information Centre. We also provided an outline of how we felt local tourism will benefit with completion of the dam project which will allow all season access across the dam for Sleds and ATV's as well as access for fishing. I will leave it to Lise to explain their intended focus to grow tourism in the northeast.

### **Mineral Exploration Activity**

I had two meetings with representatives of an Aurora based exploration company who have become quite active in the area. They have had two geologists and a field tech stay in Latchford on two different occasions for a week at a time, lodging and eating locally. I advised Harpreet Gill of PWGSC that I would venture they have spent more money locally than employees of the dam project.

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