

## **Mayor's Report, June 25, 2015**

### **Latchford Control Dam Project**

Perry, Jaime, Jeff Barton and I have been participating in the bi-weekly construction meetings at the dam. It has not been an easy undertaking to acquire agreements that represent the best interests of the Town or our business community. The most recent offer from CDB will have to be discussed in-camera at the conclusion of this meeting. We were advised at today's meeting that there will be no night shift work for the foreseeable future and they are behind a few days of their forecasted schedule. They have committed to providing us with a list of subcontractors that we can share with the businesses. They continue to state that we will see a significant increase in the number of workers once they dewater the coffer dam area (July) and begin actual reconstruction of the dam (August).

Jeff Barton is coordinating a July 09<sup>th</sup> visit by Harpreet Gill whereby Bill Touzel and Sebastian Vetticog will share the results of their prefeasibility study on behalf of the Communities of the Montreal River. It is further hoped to have this evolve into an open house whereby CDB could provide a project overview to the Councils and residents of both Latchford and Coleman Township at the Community Centre.

The sod turning event at the dam site on June 12<sup>th</sup> proved rather embarrassing for me if no one else. The contractor had not been advised that this was going to happen and presumed that the Town had arranged this so confronted me. I had to once again prove I am quite good at defending Latchford's interests.

### **Debt Retirement Charge**

We have finally received our long awaited answer from the Ombudsman's office regarding our contention that Latchford residents should not be paying the debt retirement charge to Hydro One. While the detail in the 3 page answer is quite impressive, I wish to discuss our next potential step when that is presented.

### **MPAC conference call of June 19**

Jeff Barton, who sits as a member of an advisory board that is working with MPAC to develop a "Service Level Agreement" between them and the municipalities they serve coordinated a conference call on June 19. Participating were municipal representatives from Elk Lake, Kirkland Lake, Thunder Bay, Baldwin Township, Kapuskasing and Latchford together with 9 MPAC representatives. The latter tended to dominate the conversation but Jeff ensured the municipal reps all had opportunity to speak.

While MPAC chanted their mantra about accuracy, I countered with the need for equity in values as well and stated that provincially owned properties be they ONR or OPG have to reflect the same values as privately owned waterfront property.

### **Improved Internet Service**

A recent announcement by MP Jay Aspin that something in the range of \$5M was to be dedicated to improving broadband internet services in this area was rather confusing to say the least. The funding is to be to Explornet for this upgraded service but anyone currently using that service are no more satisfied than users of our present Ontera service. With Jay's announcement, it almost appears that RFP that was requested by NEOnet has been awarded to Explornet?

### **Alternate Services Delivery Meeting**

I attended a meeting regarding this in Temiskaming Shores where we received a presentation from Bryan Searle, MMAH outlining some options that could be available. Our next meeting is scheduled for September at which time we can further review these for presentation to the membership of the TMA and TeMAG.

### **WPD Wind Proposal**

I attended a meeting at the TFN New Liskeard office with representatives of the WPD Wind Energy firm who have entered into an agreement with the TFN to do an estimated 150 Mw, 40 tower wind farm in Lorrain Valley pending approval from IESO. They are holding an open house in Cobalt on July 15<sup>th</sup> for anyone interested in becoming better informed.

### **EDO Position for CoCoLa**

While we advertised this position and had a number of applicants, we were unable to come to an agreement on who to retain. A meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss our next steps.

### **Tourism Northeast Meeting**

I had a meeting with Bernadette Lindsay of Tourism Ontario Northeast in New Liskeard on June 17<sup>th</sup>. I expressed the Town's need to have assistance provided to our Information Centre but find that the association is primarily interested in selling partnerships to municipalities and memberships to businesses. The privilege of having a partnership is that we are allowed to use their logo in our publications and web page.

### **Meeting with OCWA**

We have yet to receive the cost/benefit analysis that had been committed to Jaime and I at our meeting with OCWA last month.

GLL