

# COUNCIL CORNER

By John Hirsch, Councillor Ward 9, South Marysburgh

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Whoever said being on Council is a part-time job??

I am so glad that I can commit full-time to this important job. Since November 27, your new Council has had six full days of training including a full-day tour of the County focusing on all the County owned infrastructure, a marvelous inauguration ceremony at the Regent Theatre on December 4, a Planning meeting and a full Council meeting.

In January, we have meetings on 11 days. Some days have two meetings.

And of course, the Mayor's Levee was at Macaulay Heritage Church on January 6 – everyone was welcome and many attended!!

We have an enthusiastic Council with 9 out of 14 councillors around the Shire Hall horseshoe for the first time.

**BUDGET:** Our biggest focus in January will be on the budget – five full days scheduled to go over priorities and carefully allocate spending of your tax dollars.

**CANNABIS:** We will also have two special meetings about the cannabis retail sales question, January 9 at the Picton Community Centre, culminating on January 15 with a special Council session to decide whether PEC will “opt in” or “opt out” of having cannabis stores in the County.

There is still time to advise me of your views or discuss this important issue.

**PROVINCIAL REGULATION:** The province is acting fast in a number of areas affecting PEC – changes to the Planning Act, Electricity Act and the new Open for Business Act. As Council we will have to keep abreast of these emerging issues, provide comments as appropriate and enact our own bylaws as necessary.

I have already heard from some of you regarding road conditions and snowplowing issues. Concerns are passed on to our engineering and operations staff for action and advice. I hope to have more information about the 2019 road surfacing/repair program after our budget deliberations.

In addition to this regular column in *The Mirror*, I will be reporting in a blog on my website and can be reached by phone, text and email.

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And don't forget, for immediate service the County help line is available:

613-476-2148 ext. 1023

Email: [info@pecounty.on.ca](mailto:info@pecounty.on.ca)

Or submit a request using the online form on the County website: [www.thecounty.ca](http://www.thecounty.ca)



(R) New Year's Day Levee: odd and not so odd couples...