

COUNCIL CORNER

By John Hirsch, Councillor Ward 9, South Marysburgh

September was my month to be Acting Mayor if Steve Ferguson was not available for functions. In this position I also chaired both meetings of the Committee of the Whole and one Public Planning meeting. One of the Committee of the whole meetings was fairly exciting as we dealt with the Library Board's request to approve a \$2.7 million bid to complete the planned expansion.

As most will know, council did not approve the bid and sent the Board back to look at alternatives.

My view is that the Carnegie library concept must be continued which means that the additional funding needs to come from donors. The Library board believes they will attract the money they need from donors but without certainty at this point, it would be foolhardy for Council to approve a plan which could end up costing the County if donations cannot be found.

Council Activity

Committee of the Whole (COTW) and Council heard deputations from:

- John Ambrose on how grants from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities could help make the new library carbon neutral at no cost.
- Barry Davidson on plans for trail head improvements for the Millenium trail
- Ken How on progress of the Lovesong project to convert the former school in Bloomfield into affordable seniors housing
- And several more

All deputations can be viewed on the County's live stream or can be read in the agenda package for each meeting on the County website

Council and Committee of the Whole dealt with:

- Site plan approval for the new Sobeys plaza to be located across from No Frills in Picton
- Continuing the young and new farmers grant program
- Termination of the contract for the Ameliasburgh washroom project
- Approving a final 2018 surplus of \$145,900 to go back into reserves and \$2.7 million of cancelled capital projects which frees this money up for other needed projects
- The Farm 911 Emily project signs were approved. They can be obtained for \$55.
- Our search for a new CAO is coming to and end. I hope a decision can be made by Council by the end of October.
- Council completed its priority setting exercise. Results will be published soon for public comments

LOCAL EVENTS

The 2019 edition of the Milford Fall Fair was a huge success on September 14! Over 1200 attendees enjoyed a beautiful day with activities for all. There was even one lady who had attended the first fair in 1946 !!

Proceeds from the Fair helped "Back the Build" the campaign to fund the new hospital in Picton.

IMPORTANT NOTE !

I will be out of the country for the entire month of November on a long-planned trip of a lifetime to New Zealand and Australia. I will have wifi almost everywhere and should generally be able to communicate via email. For any issue that requires personal attention, please contact the Mayor.

I 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:

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Email: info@pecounty.on.ca

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