

# F Y I

By Barb Proctor  
Councillor for South Marysburgh

Well done to all of you, managing to dodge those ruts and bumps—most of the time anyway! Aging sewers and culverts have demanded most available dollars in this year's roads budget, allowing only filling and patching to be done.

The new year is fast approaching and Commissioner of Public Works, Robert McAuley, is developing an affordable long range plan to effectively put our tax dollars, gas tax revenues and possible grants to work.

Small rural municipalities such as ours suffer from a significant gap in funding for maintenance of their bridges, culverts and aging infrastructure. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus continually advocate for increased federal and provincial gap funding. Our Public Works Dept. is conducting a preliminary in-house roads assessment and 5 of our roads will be priorities for next year but that is not yet confirmed. A perfect road system is more than our present tax levy can sustain.

The proposed seasonal closures of 5 landfill sites will be reduced to closures on Wednesdays only and they will remain open on Saturdays. Thank you for all your input on this subject. One suggestion was to equitably rotate the closures. Municipal staff felt this would cause confusion for users and attendants and would have no significant impact on savings. Disposal of construction waste was another consideration. The proposed budget savings for full seasonal closures was \$30,000. The devil was in the details and the majority of council did not concur that those savings justified the closures.

A motion was put to council on September 27<sup>th</sup> *"that staff be directed to issue an RFP to obtain an independent facilitator to conduct a public consultation process to review the size of council and develop conclusions and recommendations including the possibility of changing, dividing or dissolving ward boundaries."* The motion was debated at length and was lost. Changing the structure of council will not be a priority at this particular time.

Council has recently supported two proposals *"in principle"*. A group of citizens is requesting that

the Federal Government develop a National Marine and Heritage Park on the south shores of Athol and South Marysburgh. The other is a proposal for Hospice Prince Edward for development of a 3 or 4 bed Hospice in Benson Hall. 'In principle' infers that there are no objections to the facts and information currently presented to council. These proposals are now open to appropriate examination and investigation by all stakeholders, ministries, agencies, organizations and taxpayers.

A successor for Richard Shannon has been hired: Merlin Dewing will be Chief Administrative Officer for Prince Edward County. Mr. Dewing has extensive municipal administrative background, and our selection committee has carefully considered the value of his experience and skills for our municipality. He will begin his work on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

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