

COUNCIL CORNER



John Hirsch
Councillor, Ward 9
South Marysburgh



Season's Greetings!

December – a month of preparation for the new term

In late November and early December, our new Council engaged in a comprehensive training and orientation process led by County staff.

The CAO, Marcia Wallace, ensured that we received a solid grounding in what our

legislative responsibilities are and what our limitations are as well.

We were briefed by all department heads about the functioning of their departments and what they see as issues both short and longer term going forward.

We were primed on a major decision regarding governance structure – looking at establishing Standing committees rather than all issues coming to Committee of the Whole as well as reduced/amalgamated advisory committees. These decisions will be taken at the December 20 meeting – too late to report in this article.

We had a very frank session about growth (the County is on the cusp of unprecedented population growth and building of new housing) and the needs coming out of that growth – as well as the implications from a financial standpoint, including debt.

We toured the entire County for a very full day, seeing firsthand many of the issues facing this Council.

All in all, it has been an illuminating five full days and has prepared us well for a jam-packed agenda in the new year.

Council News

- At our first real meeting on December 14, we waived the procedural bylaw to consider ending the experimental implementation of speed humps in Cherry Valley as a matter of emergency. As reported in the popular media, we voted to remove the humps immediately as most of Council was convinced they caused a hazard to farm equipment and were encouraging reckless behaviour, driving on the sidewalk, etc. I was not in favour of such immediate action as the item was not on the published agenda and the other side was not able to convey their side of the story. Government by online petition is not a good thing in my view and I hope we don't repeat this process.
- At the December 14 meeting, Council received the CAO's third quarter report which is an excellent summary of all the work Council and the administration have done. I urge you read this to be fully up to date on all current projects and

issues. It is attached to the agenda for the Council meeting which can be found on the County's document center online and I will attached it to my email as well.

- Following Council's decisions on committee structure and membership on December 20, all Council committees and boards will be up for membership nominations in January. Please watch for postings in the papers and my email and consider how you might contribute to your community.
- Coming to our meeting on January 10 will be presentations by two companies which propose to install large lithium ion battery electricity storage facilities in the County (BESS). They will need Council support if they hope to move forward. Keep an eye out for that agenda. I would like to know your thoughts. There is a Facebook group called PEC BESS Community Information Group where you can keep up to date.

Other

I am continuing my five-days-a-week community email, so if you are not already subscribed, just send me your email address and I will add you to the list of nearly 300 families.

I can be reached by phone, text and email.

jhirsch@pecounty.on.ca, 613-846-0046

And don't forget, for immediate service the County help line is available: 613-476-2148 ext. 1023, email:

info@pecounty.on.ca or submit a request using the online form on the County website: www.thecounty.ca

Bylaw complaints: bylaw@pecounty.on.ca

For weekend or 24 hour situations go to the who to contact page: www.thecounty.ca/summer-hub/who-to-call/

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