

COUNCIL CORNER

John Hirsch
Councillor, Ward 9
South Marysburgh



April - The Province continues to interfere in municipal affairs

Much as the Province did with Bill 23 last fall, they have now suddenly released a proposed complete rewrite to the Provincial Policy Statement (now to be called the Provincial Planning Statement).

This document is the high-level direction which guides all municipal Official Plans. The proposals go against a number of provisions in our new Official Plan and would allow things like multi-lot rural subdivisions and residential lot severances off prime ag lands which we had effectively banned in the Official Plan. The chapter concerning natural heritage system rules (wetlands, etc.) has not yet been released for comment as it will have to align with the weakened environmental provisions of Bill 23. Natural Core Areas may be at risk.

I will be leading a Council resolution in May to strongly oppose this interference with the direction we agreed to just two years ago.

Council News

- Council approved a new Grass and Weeds Bylaw which allows for and encourages naturalized lawns and yards. This has been a major initiative of the Environmental Advisory Committee.
- Council approved offering eight parcels of environmentally protected surplus County lands to conservation organizations for permanent protection.
- Council approved additional expenditure to extend evening ambulance service to better service the County.
- Council approved the re-creation and staffing of the Natural Cover Working Group of the EAC (the tree people).
- Council supported Wellington Rotary's efforts to get a nurse practitioner clinic established in the County.
- Council asked staff to bring forward a report with analysis and recommendations regarding large vehicles and commercial use of the Millennium trail.
- Council approved disbursement of the long-awaited funds from the WPD wind project to repair roads and plant trees. Royal Road and Bond Road will be reconstructed next year.
- Council approved hiring a pound keeper to deal with a large feral cattle situation in Sophiasburgh.
- Council approved creation of a Heritage Designation working group to deal with the County's list of possible heritage properties in the context of Bill 23.
- Council approved a new four-year employment agreement

with our CAO Marcia Wallace.

- Council approved a project to seek a friendship municipality relationship with a community in Ukraine.
- Council approved the tender for Main St. West road, water and sewer construction - \$11M.

Coming Up

- Councillor Roberts' motion to have staff report on a proposed way to save 10% on the 2024 Operating budget - options to be considered focus on technological modernization, process improvements and other forms of creative solutions that minimize impact to current service delivery.
- Presentation by Quinte Waste on Blue box program extension.
- Resolution by yours truly objecting to the province's proposed changes to the Provincial Policy Statement

Other

There is a number of ongoing public consultations going on. They can be found on the Have Your Say website or in County Notices found on the County website home page:

- Parks and Rec Master Plan
- Comprehensive zoning bylaw review
- Development of community 10 year plan

I am continuing my five-days-a-week community email. It has been modified to focus on Covid only in the Saturday edition. The rest of the week it includes timely notices, community events, etc. So if you are not already subscribed, just send me your email address and I will add you to the list of over 300 families.

IF you have not been receiving my email, please look in your junk mail or spam folder as there have been some issues with the County email system.

I can be reached by phone, text and email.

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613-846-0046

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

613-476-2148 ext. 1023

For complaints, pothole requests, etc. 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/