



Greetings to our Members!

Welcome to the summer months and the inaugural edition of our NEWS BRIEF! We are currently reviewing our approach to communicating with our members. We will be revising our website, while providing a regular update on what is happening in our community, as well as on the activities and plans of our organization. As we work through these revisions we are starting immediately with a regularly distributed brief newsletter to keep members informed.

At our recent public meeting held at Monora Park on April 28th, our Environment Committee presented a talk by **Dr. Andrew Judge PhD (Mkomose)**, an Anishinaabe Scholar and Land Restoration Specialist. Dr. Judge was enthusiastically received by an audience of approximately 85 people. His presentation was both very informative and challenging. He emphasized several key points including the complexity of societies before colonization and the value of understanding a radically different worldview that has now been replaced by the dominant perspective of our time, primarily focused on profit and consumption in practicing industrial and chemical agriculture. Dr. Judge emphasized the critical importance of thinking generations ahead in how we work with the land and how critical this knowledge is for our survival in this time of climate emergency. He urged us to take action to create a more sustainable, livable and healthy environment. More detail on Dr. Judge and his work can be found on his website (mkomose.ca)

David Warren, a long time member, who served very effectively on our Board for several years, died recently after a short illness. David was an experienced board member, having worked for many years on the Nature Conservancy Board and as a President of the Canadian Hearing Services Board. Our organization benefitted greatly from his business and board experiences. His work in the community will be much missed.

Mono Council

- The main issue of concern for citizens of Mono is the current review of the Noise Bylaw. Our experience has been that noise is always a major concern of our citizens. The existing law provided significant protection against loud noise in our communities, with special event exemptions allowed with Council approval. Currently Mono Council is circulating a questionnaire requesting citizen input before finalizing decisions on the noise bylaw. **The survey is available on the Mono website (townofmono.com) and must be returned by July 31.** Citizens are urged to provide this input, giving Council the widest possible access to citizen views.

Mulmur Council

- Council has been dealing with a couple of important items. The first is the North Dufferin Community Center (aka the Honeywood Arena). Council voted in April to amend the budget to include all costs associated with repairing the ice surface and the roof at the Center to a maximum cost of \$1,630,000. The cost for the repairs has increased by \$60,000 since we reported to you in March. This will be funded through reserves and donations. We will continue to monitor this situation. One important concern is that our financial reserves are under significant pressure, which will make future budgeting very challenging.
- A second item is that council voted in Closed Session to hire an additional support person for the CAO, Planning & Clerk departments. The new position was requested after staff reviewed overtime and staff stress over the last few months and looking at future projects including, among issues, NDCC fundraising and events.

Volunteers

We have traditionally focused on what is happening in Mono and Mulmur, reporting on Council meetings and issues, as well as items of broader interest. We have been instrumental in initiating safeguards against water taking, limiting gravel pit expansion and pushing back against contaminated fill being dumped within our borders. We regularly lobby governments on important issues impacting our community. Additionally, we have presented community public meetings on important topics relating to the environment and land use. We can carry out this work because we have volunteers who make things happen. Our main volunteer group is our hard working Board, but in order to continue our wide range of activities we need more help, and are asking for volunteers to help with our important work. This work doesn't entail long hours, and instead requires a passion for helping the community. There is much more work still to be done. We are thankful for and very appreciative of our members who have renewed their membership for 2024 already. We hope that all of our readers will add your voice to ours by renewing or joining our membership and supporting our non-profit volunteer organization. Please take a moment to visit our website www.monomulmur.com for more details on what we do and how you can join us!