



MC² NEWS BRIEF

April 2025



Re-Connecting!!!

One of the important lessons we learn from time to time is that while we have many issues of concern facing our country and community, challenges are brought into perspective when we have to deal with a local crisis. At the end of March, Mulmur and Mono faced a devastating ice storm. One prominent feature of this storm was the unevenness of the damage. There were widespread power outages, phone lines went down and internet was cut off. The Honeywood area of Mulmur saw around 140 power poles fall. Some neighbourhoods saw dramatic damage to trees and property, while others escaped with little problem. Some services have not yet been fully restored. What we did see was the Mono/Mulmur community rallying around those who needed help. Mulmur Township distributed emergency supplies. Water was available at the Town Hall to residents in Mono. A remarkable development in Mulmur was a visit to many households by a Search and Rescue team dropping by to ensure that residents were safe and not in need of assistance. The local government teams saw to clearing roads, although some were closed for several days. While the restoration of electricity was hugely difficult, with some places out for nearly two weeks, the local Hydro teams, with a lot of support from neighbouring community Hydro workers and equipment, had most homes and businesses back on line more quickly than might have been expected, given the remarkable damage in some areas. But it has been a slow process. All in all, a big lesson about how vulnerable things can be in our local world, and how much support can be provided by local governments and by our neighbours.

In other news, the Federal election campaign has been in full swing through April. As with many other aspects of our lives, the campaign has been deeply influenced by Canada's relationship with our southern neighbours. After disturbingly low turnout in recent elections, it would send a powerful message that Canadians are concerned with many of today's issues if turnout was significantly improved this time around.

Elsewhere in this Brief, our readers will find information about the upcoming Townhall meeting being presented on May 10th by (MC)2 in partnership with the Township of Mono.

The first part of the meeting will be a discussion of Canada's housing crisis, with a talk by Franz Hartmann, a leader of the Alliance for a Liveable Ontario. Hartmann is a well-known speaker who has been working with the Alliance team to develop, and to have accepted, solutions to this problem. His talk will be followed by a Q&A. Given the seriousness of our current housing situation, it has been of concern that not enough time has been given to this issue during the current campaigns of our political leaders. This presentation will give us a good perspective to carry forward in addressing the housing challenges, one of Canada's most serious problems. During the second part of the Townhall meeting, the Q&A session, citizens can raise issues of interest and concern with Council members. (MC)2, has for many years, encouraged openness and transparency in local governments, and progress has been made. We are hoping that a good turnout at this meeting will reinforce the importance of this type of session, and will encourage more such activities. **We hope to see you there on Saturday May 10th at the Mono Town Hall!**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS YOU WOULD LIKE US TO ASK THE COUNCIL AT THE MEETING, PLEASE SEND THEM TO info@monomulmur.com PRIOR TO MAY 10th.

Our Treasurer's Report

Last month, we sent out our annual reminder of membership renewal in the mail with our March News Brief. We are ever hopeful that all of our 2024 members will want to renew and continue to support the work we do in the community. Many thanks to those who have already renewed this year, and to those who included an extra donation! For the record, our membership is valid from January 1st to December 31st of every year. As Don has mentioned, we were invited by the Town of Mono to plan a Town Hall meeting on their behalf. While our bank account is currently reasonably solid, we will likely incur some minor expenses to host this event and the others we are planning to present on our own this year. (MC)2 depends entirely on membership fees and donations to fund all of our community activities, undertakings and office expenses. We value & appreciate your continuing support!



Mulmur Council

- Hockeyville results are in and while not the ultimate winner of the competition, Mulmur now has \$25,000 in cash and \$10,000 in hockey equipment for the Honeywood Arena. Congratulations!!
- Mulmur had to declare a state of emergency in the aftermath of the icestorm with approximately 140 hydro poles down in Honeywood alone. The storm devastated forests, personal property and created significant safety concerns. Sections of the Bruce Trail remain closed and hikers should reference the website for updates.
- Mulmur has requested the County not transfer County Road 19 to the Township until after the completion of the Shelburne Bypass. Reduced speed limits outside of Shelburne have significantly increased traffic onto County Road 19.

Mono Council

- Continuing a trend in 2025, the two March Mono Council meetings were relatively quiet ones with no major policy changes or new initiatives introduced. Council members discussed routine administrative matters, including budget updates, infrastructure maintenance and upcoming community events.
- In response to a resident's question, Council confirmed that the developer is still responsible for the Fieldstone subdivision water treatment system and it still requires work prior to the Town's assumption. There has been some confusion about the water and wastewater rates. Even when the Town assumes the subdivision inclusive of the wastewater treatment plant, user charges will still be applied. Those charges apply to the operating cost of the plant and reserves for future repairs and and maintenance to the system.
- Council reviewed a draft of the Rules of Procedure to govern the Town's Committee of Adjustment. The CoA is unique as it has jurisdiction to make decisions on consent (severance) applications and minor variances to the Town of Mono Zoning Bylaw 78-1. As such, the Committee serves as a quasi-judicial body. Given the Committee's authority and responsibility, the proposed rules aim to provide clarity to the duties of the chair, members and secretary-treasurer. With the Committee having the authority to establish its own rules, the next step will be for the Committee to review and adopt or make changes to the rules.
- Council was presented with a proposed bylaw to allow backyard chickens. This proposal was the result of a single request. After considerable discussion as to whether 2 or 3 or 4 hens be allowed per backyard, Council approved a motion to entertain public comment on the draft bylaw

Join your Mayor and Councillors for a
Townhall Meeting On
Saturday, May 10th
9:30am-12 noon

Mono Town Hall, 347209 Mono Centre Road

"Five Ways to Make Housing Affordable and Trump Proof"

Hosted by
the Mono Mulmur Citizens' Coalition (MC)2
& the Town of Mono

With special guest Speaker:
Franz Hartmann,
Alliance for a Liveable Ontario

The Alliance for a Liveable Ontario is an alliance of people and groups representing hundreds of thousands of Ontarians from many different sectors. The ALO wants to build a liveable Ontario and stop the Provincial Government policies that falsely claim they will solve the housing issues facing us, while harming our communities and undermining the protection of our farmland, natural areas, and democratic institutions.

Franz Hartmann is the Coordinator of the Alliance for a Liveable Ontario and has a long history of building alliances and community engagement. Franz served as Chair of the Ontario Greenbelt Alliance (2014-2018) and Coordinator (2019-2024) and helped the Alliance build vast community support for the Greenbelt. Franz was the Executive Director of the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) for eleven years. He was also the Environmental Advisor to City Councillor Jack Layton from 1998 to 2002. Franz has a PhD in Political Science from York University.

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