



### Election Opportunity - Please Vote!!

For the past several months, there has been a strong sense that in early 2025 there would be elections at both the Federal and Provincial levels. With the major issues surrounding Prime Minister Trudeau the talk about a Spring election was commonplace and with his resignation and the March leadership convention, this is the likely path. On the Provincial level, Premier Ford has been hinting at an early election since last Autumn, and with the emerging tariff problems he has felt that there was a good reason to go to the voters.

For MC2, there is no interest as an organization in taking sides in the election. This has been our long-held position. With that said, we view both of these elections as an excellent opportunity for the citizens of our community to express their views. With the Provincial election campaign underway and the date set, February 27, Ontario voters are being presented with solid information on the platforms of the candidates. There is a wide range of critical issues ranging around health care, education, government spending, environmental threats, the USA threats and many others. The future of our Province will be significantly impacted by the election and by who gets to form the new government.

We have seen in many of our elections the fact that the winning party is mostly determined by turnout. In the most recent election, around 42% to 43% of eligible voters turned out to vote. With several parties in the running the winning party in the last election received less than half of the low number of votes. **We need to do better!**

MC2 is urging voters to inform themselves on the issues and then to get out to vote. There are many activities planned by candidates to meet with and share ideas with voters. **Our recent e-blast to our membership provided the dates and locations of two All Candidates meetings taking place the week of February 16-22 in Orangeville and Shelburne. The e-blast also provided dates and locations for advanced voting prior to February 27.** The sponsorship for the All Candidates meetings is the Dufferin Board of Trade with co-sponsorship from the Orangeville Food Bank, the Dufferin Federation of Agriculture and the Greater Dufferin Builders' Association.

Candidate and full party platforms can be found on the Internet and the website [elections.on.ca](http://elections.on.ca) provides a wide range of information. Most households should have received a flyer with full information on the election process.

On the Federal level the election has not yet been scheduled. There will be ample information on the leadership candidates for the Liberals, while the Conservatives and NDP are putting strong efforts into developing and publicizing their programs. MC2 will keep members informed as election dates are put in place.

Canadians are presently dealing with a series of serious threats from our neighbour to the south, as well as the daunting issues faced domestically. Strong leadership and a committed electorate are our best tools to apply to addressing these challenges. The disinterest witnessed in voter turnout provides an impetus to our neighbour's disruptive plans as well as reducing the sense of urgency needed to address our domestic problems. We urge our members to inform themselves on the issues and to **get out to vote!!**

### Mulmur Council

- The Province has completed a study on Hwy #10 traffic safety. Results, along with recommendations, are expected soon.
- Mayor Janet Horner, in addition to her role in Mulmur, will be Warden for Dufferin County (head of County Council) for a one year term
- Honeywood residents presented Council with speeding concerns in their community. Staff have been instructed to continue to discuss safety issues with Dufferin County, including designating Honeywood a community safety zone and placing concrete barriers along County Road 21 to protect pedestrians.
- There will be a human resources policy change to clarify and assign responsibility to a staff person to close the North Dufferin Community Centre in poor weather incidents. This is important in notifying residents travelling to the arena for games/events, particularly in winter.
- The Township Office will be closed on Monday June 30th to allow staff a 4 day-long weekend. Council granted approval for this year only and will review going forward.
- February 22nd has been proclaimed Human Trafficking Prevention Awareness Day. Orangeville Rotary is building Awareness through the County.
- In December, Council decided not to enter into an agreement with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) in 2025 to deliver a school program to students at Primrose Elementary School. This was a program that was offered within the regular funding of the NVCA until the Province downloaded services to the Conservation Authorities. It is now an added cost to the municipalities. Not wanting the students to miss out, it was decided to ask staff to work with Primrose School to assess interest and potentially develop and deliver an environmental education activity to one class prior to the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

### Mono Council

The January Council meetings were relatively quiet ones with no major policy changes or new initiatives introduced.

- Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs giving the club authorization to operate and maintain OFSC trails on Town roads.
- Council reviewed a bylaw enforcement report from Jan-Dec 2024. During this period, Bylaw Enforcement responded to 219 requests for service. Additionally, there were 21 open files from 2023 for a total of 240 files handled in 2024. This does not include parking enforcement activities. Of the 240 service requests, 212 were resolved and the files closed for a closure rate of 88%. This includes files carried over from 2023.

While no significant developments took place, Council remains engaged in ensuring the smooth operation of town affairs. As always, residents are encouraged to attend future meetings or reach out with any concerns.

### Community Events

MC2 was excited to participate in the fun-filled Mono Winterfest event held at Mono Centre on February 2nd. We donated a very nice item to the ever-popular Snowflake Draw and also had the opportunity to talk to people about our organization and to hand out brochures and our recent News Brief. Great afternoon on a pleasant wintery day!