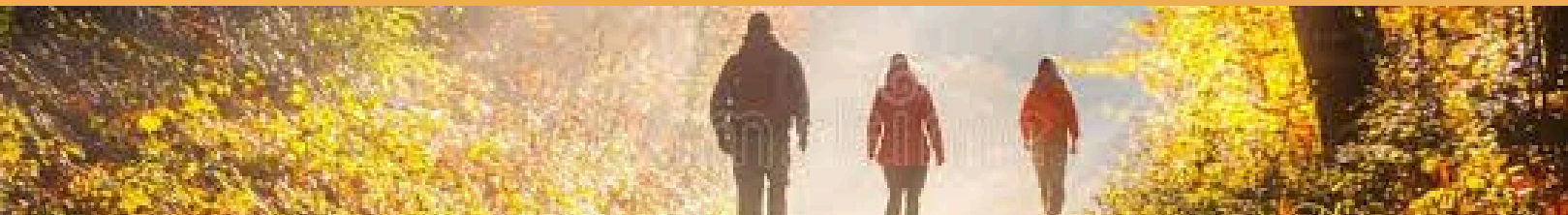


MC2 NEWS BRIEF

October 2026



VOTE TIME, MEMBERS!!

Looking out at a colourful autumn landscape today, I'm reminded that in a world of devastating climate situations, here in Dufferin County, the summer has been very enjoyable. Quite a bit of rain and not too many blastingly hot days. And now, moving into fall and the thoughts of impending winter... never perfect, but we live in a privileged place!

That good fortune was reinforced over the past couple of weeks as the municipal election cycle is peaking. The roadsides are blanketed with candidate signs. Many of us are receiving visits from candidates for our various positions. The local press is well engaged. As part of this important process (MC)2 recently hosted **All Candidates meetings in Mono and Mulmur**. These meetings allowed citizens to hear from and to question the people who will be forming our Councils for the next four years. The citizen response to these meetings was excellent with each meeting location filled by around eighty people, a good sign about citizen engagement.

I had several takeaways from these assemblies. The first one was **how challenging is the role of our representatives in these rural constituencies**. The major areas of concern - financial management (ie taxes), security and safety (OPP, fire fighting and prevention), planning, road quality, recreation and others - are accompanied by a long list of high profile, but less publicized, challenges such as noise management, event approvals, attending a long list of meetings, overseeing County responsibilities and more. In the end, in both Mono and Mulmur, the transcendent responsibility is the protection of our rural environment, a complex task in this era of climate change, aggregate mining proposals, and continued Provincial strategies of downloading expensive activities to rural communities. In all, we ask a great amount from our representatives and their staffs, and any councillor will tell you that I'm missing a lot here. These are complex and demanding roles.

My second takeaway was that the **quality of our candidates is strong**. They are working hard to be well informed, to meeting the public, to taking public stands on complex issues, and much more. I was impressed with the general sense of commitment from these fellow citizens. Their enthusiasm for doing these hard jobs, and doing work that is certainly not overly compensated, was contagious.

My third thought was the **openness of the candidates to the public**. They were patient with questions, and willing to do the work of listening. They came early to the meetings and stayed after to engage with attendees. This is a key priority and over the upcoming four years of their term, we will expect that attitude to continue.

All of this is the reminder that **voting is starting (October 16th-26th)**. Both Mono and Mulmur have put in place voting systems that will allow citizens to use Internet or telephones to vote. Good information on these systems is provided on their websites. We are in all of our communities regularly disappointed by the low turnout that has delivered governments of questionable quality. In Mono and Mulmur we have been fortunate in recent years that low turnout has delivered solid governance. But the low level of voting, related to all the hard work of candidates, delivers mandates that are often questioned.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE ALL FIND A WAY TO VOTE!

... DON

MEETING OUR CANDIDATES!



The Latest From Your ELO Committee ...

- **Recycled Aggregates:** Earlier this year, (MC)2 raised a question about status of Recycled Aggregate use in Mulmur. A this time, two pilot projects are underway that will test the utility of recycled material. Success with these pilots could result in a reduction in the requirement for virgin aggregates, extending the life span for the Mulmur pit and reducing our carbon footprint.
- **Dangers Inherent in Blast Quarries:** The recent Provincial Government rejection of the Caledon Official Plan has made it clear that the inclusion of community protections, that are stronger than the provincial (minimum) requirements, will not be accepted. The government has also taken the aggressive step of stripping Caledon of its delegated authority to approve aggregate policies entirely. As a counter strategy, Caledon Town Council has unanimously passed a motion directing municipal staff to draft a comprehensive, town-wide air quality by-law. The proposed by-law targets health protection, specifically monitoring and limiting fine particulate matter PM2.5 and dust emissions. Supporting data is now being collected from local air quality monitoring stations deployed by the town. (MC)2 supports the Caledon initiative and we will continue to monitor the progress.
- **CORE Burlington and the Nelson Quarry:** In August we reported on the OLT decision to approve the Nelson Mount Nemo Blasting Quarry expansion. The quarry was declared to be "in the public interest", despite strong evidence of significant risks to drinking water and air quality and insufficient protection from flyrock. On September 15, the City of Burlington announced it is pursuing two parallel legal tracks - a request for review submitted to the OLT Chair, and an application for judicial review filed with the Divisional Court. There are striking and disturbing similarities between the Nelson and Strada quarry applications. We continue to follow this closely.



Mono Council - September 22nd



- Council approved a funding request from the Mono Climate Action Committee for \$1150 for expenses related to hosting Green Fest on October 18th. Expenses include advertising, food, an essay award, the facility rental, etc. Any net proceeds from Green Fest will go back to the climate change/environment reserve contribution.
- Voting begins at 10:00 AM on October 16th and ends on October 26th at 8:00 PM. Voter Instruction Letters are being mailed out to residents.

Mulmur Council - October 7th



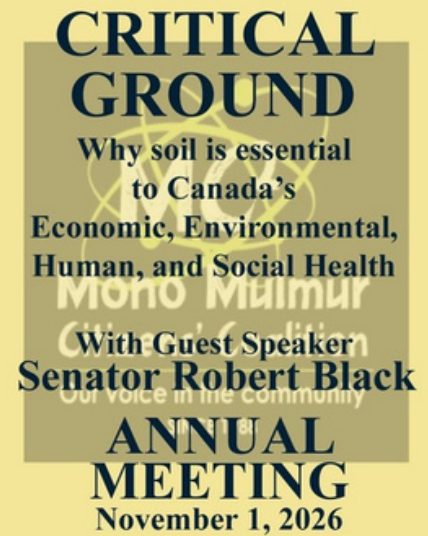
- Sara MacRae and Megan Myles presented an overview of the Tri-County Green Development Program. The program is a joint initiative between Dufferin, Grey and Wellington Counties to create unified, sustainable building and design guidelines. The program encourages developers to build higher-performing, more climate-resilient and environmentally responsible communities than the minimum required by regulation. It is a good program and supports a shift in building philosophy that is much needed. However, it is important to note that the program is entirely voluntary. From the (MC)2 perspective, this is a result of a broader provincial policy shift toward limiting municipal regulatory requirements on developers, a shift that has received strong support from the development industry.
- Chris Wolnik, Director of Infrastructure, presented a report seeking Council's approval of a new Site Alteration and Fill Management By-law. The changes bring Mulmur's bylaw in-line with the new provincial requirements. This appears to be a rare [and welcome] case of the province requiring stronger environmental protections, including inspection, testing, reporting and tracking requirements. However, it is also worth noting that the province also removed some of the regulatory barriers associated with moving clean or appropriately characterized soil. Certain "low-risk activities" can proceed without waste-related environmental approvals.
- Shelburne Council is unilaterally dissolving the historic arrangement whereby a Mulmur Councillor sits on the Shelburne Library Board. This is being replaced by process in which any Mulmur resident, who wishes to serve on the board, must apply to the Shelburne Council. The council, at their discretion, may accept or reject the applicant. If they choose to reject, the council may appoint a non-Mulmur resident to the position. The revised process also ensures that Shelburne always has an absolute majority of the board seats. Council has instructed staff to draft a letter objecting to this arrangement.



Dufferin County Council - September 24th

- Council approved the scope and framework for a **broad review of how County Council works**. Included are Council composition, weighted voting, directly elected County Councillor and Warden options, meeting structure, the consent agenda and public participation. Up to \$100,000 will be considered through the 2027 budget but the actual cost and outside support required are still to be determined.
- **Orangeville and Grand Valley Food Banks** recorded 25,535 visits last year. The Food Banks say need has risen 84% since 2022, donated food fell 11%, one third of users are children and 32% of visitors are working.
- Council approved a 2.44% **cost of living adjustment (COLA)** for non-union employees, effective January 1st, 2027. Staff estimated the annualized budget impact at approximately \$600,000 (Dufferin County Council Digest: Sept 24, 2026)

... AND WHAT'S COMING UP?



Please join us for our Annual Meeting on
**Sunday, November 1st at the Mono
Centre Community Hall
from 2:00-4:00 pm**



We are delighted to present our guest speaker, prominent Canadian **Senator Rob Black**. Rob has represented Ontario as senator since 2018 with a mandate from the Prime Minister to bring his background in agriculture, rural community development and leadership development to the senate.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

Follow Us
on Instagram & Facebook
@monomulmur