

# THE LOOK OUT



AUTUMN 2016

## OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016, MC<sup>2</sup> held its Annual General Meeting at the Community Hall in the Hockley Village with about 50 of our members in attendance. One of the main items of business was the election of a new Board of Directors for the 2016-2017 operating year. Outgoing President, Don Macfarlane, chaired the meeting.

Retiring Board member, Cathy Noonan, was recognized for her contribution as a critical participant in the development of MC<sup>2</sup> since 2005. She will continue to manage our membership program and our quarterly Newsletter. Also recognized was David Warren, who has served on the Board since 2009 and has brought wide

experience in the not-for-profit organization world to bear on our operations. David will continue to attend as a non-voting member until he and his wife Cheri move out of our community in the New Year.

Don thanked all the Board members for their efforts on behalf of our members.

The proposed slate of Directors for the Board was unanimously elected by the members.

Elaine Capes – President

Rita Reitsma – Secretary

Don Mac Farlane – Treasurer

Lewis Baker

Arnold deGraaff

Ed Kroeker

Bob Mitchell

Ernest Rovet

Cheryl Russel

## NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honoured to have been elected as the President for MC<sup>2</sup> for the upcoming term. I had been a member of the Board previous to being on Council for the 2010/ 2014 term, and re-joined the Board in January of 2015. The organization continues to

receive great respect and credibility within our Mono Mulumur Municipalities and beyond, with such groups as the Ontario Soil Regulation Task Force (OSRTF) and several Ministries of the Provincial Government, as a result

of the recent challenges faced with potential fill dumping, and appropriate uses for NEC designated Protected lands. We have positioned our organization well to participate in the conversations and, in some cases, legal hearings, where we feel there

... Continued on Pg. 4

MONO MULMUR CITIZENS' COALITION  
P.O. BOX 686 STN MAIN  
SHELBURNE, ONTARIO L9V 3M1

## FROM DON'S DESK....

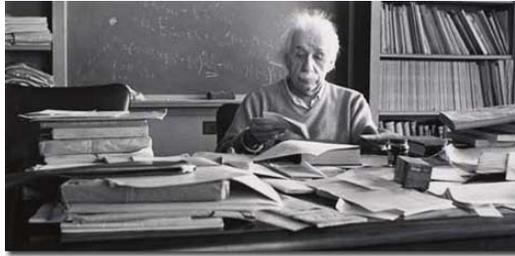
As your outgoing President, it was my honour to chair our Annual General Meeting again this year and, as always, enjoyed the experience of getting together with our members.

Some highlights:

MC<sup>2</sup> was incorporated in 2006, with a detailed set of By Laws which have served us well for the past ten years. Following best practices for good governance the Board initiated a review, assigning two of its members to review and revise the By Laws where necessary. They were reviewed with consideration for our experience and current operating practices, as well as to simplify and remove redundant language. A draft was presented to the Board for its input and final approval, with the plan to bring the final document to the AGM for final approval. What emerged from

our By Law review process was a simplified set of rules. Key changes included: limiting Board terms to a maximum of six years; adding a paragraph to allow delegation requests

define membership. Language that had no relationship to what we are doing was eliminated. The revised By Laws were accepted by a unanimous vote and can be found on our website.



If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, then what are we to think of an empty desk?

Albert Einstein

Our committees play a critical role in the work we do. Our most active committee is focused on environmental issues. Led by Arnold de Graaff, and energized by a highly committed group of members, the Environment Committee presents

two public meetings a year. Topics are highly relevant, dealing with challenges that we see in our community and elsewhere.

Over the past several months we have seen the regeneration of our Land Use Committee, led by Robin Clayton.

... Continued on Pg. 3

## THE FEEDBACK SESSION WITH MEMBERS

The Board received excellent input from members about where they think we should be going. Some of these ideas reinforced discussions that have been held at the Board, while others were new, and very helpful. I won't list all of the issues raised, focusing on the ones with more than a single person raising the point. The total list is on our website.

- 1) Hold more open meetings, BBQs, fundraisers, social events. Builds membership involvement and integrates new members. (6 votes)
- 2) Review where our tax dollars are spent. Evaluate fiscal impacts versus technical aspects of problems. (5 votes)
- 3) More meetings in Mulmur. Legitimize Mulmur people – different venues. (3 votes)
- 4) Seminars on pertinent issues with guest speakers, long discussions of issues (3 votes)
- 5) Link to other citizens' groups to cross-pollinate and coordinate citizen action. (3 votes)
- 6) Take mediator role in disputes, such as the Cox case. Prevent tribunals. (3 votes)
- 7) Take a position opposing water taking.... Nestle. (3 votes).
- 8) Be prepared to react to new issues. (2 votes)
- 9) Noise issues. (2 votes)
- 10) Increase membership - attract youth. (2 votes)
- 11) Develop relationships with local political figures. Not just at election times. All levels of government. (2 votes)

Many of these issues have come up for discussion at the Board and some are being worked on. The input is very helpful in putting together priorities for the next year and beyond. It is unlikely that we will be able to address all of this, but the list leads us in two important directions: first in setting priorities; and second in identifying the need for more help from our members.

## DON'S DESK CONTINUES.....

The group has been working to set an agenda of topics, which combine urgency and an opportunity for citizen impact. During the meeting, we discussed the need for more members to work in this critical area, and at least two additional members signed up.

I touched on the need to expand the role of the Advisory Committee and to consider whether we should put more resources into organizing public town hall meetings on important community issues.

I presented my final President's Report at the end of the formal meeting, starting by thanking our volunteers, mentioning particularly the Board members, and all the committee

workers. Some individuals came in for special recognition - the Bates family, Paul Teresa and Leslie, who for many years have been tremendous supporters on many fronts and who are moving out of the community. They will be missed. Also recognized were Felicite Morgan, our website coordinator, and Flora Nadafi, a new member who has joined committees and done work on many fronts. Finally, I thanked Rita Reitsma, who not only does excellent work as our Secretary, but also, with her team of helpers, organized the AGM. Our volunteers are the critical ingredient in moving the organization ahead.

I finished the meeting by saying that MC<sup>2</sup> is healthy and well supported by its members. We continue to discuss how to expand membership, but with our solid core of between 125 and 150

member families, we can continue to play an important role in the community. I expressed my appreciation to Elaine Capes and thanked her for taking over as President, and ended by thanking all the members for their support and involvement during my years as President. The formal part of the meeting ended with a nice speech from Elaine about my role and with the presentation of a lovely gift.

After a busy and productive morning, it was our pleasure to treat our members to an excellent luncheon provided by the Rosemont General Store with fantastic desserts from the kitchens of Rita and Felicite. As always, the social aspect of our meetings is very much enjoyed by our members, a reminder that we should be doing more of this!



## SO.... WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON LATELY?

- **Sustainable Electricity Practices** was the topic at the 5<sup>th</sup> community presentation put on by MC<sup>2</sup>'s **Environment Committee** at Monora Park on Saturday Nov 19<sup>th</sup>. The event was very well attended by an engaged audience who had lots of questions for our speakers. Bob Dickie, a home inspector and energy auditor provided lots of great suggestions for making a home more efficient. Michael Dunmore, director of Public Works for the Town of Mono outlined all the

initiatives the Town has taken to conserve energy in its buildings and other structures and to provide leadership in this area to Mono residents because "it's the right thing to do". Mike's presentation is available at [www.townofmono.com](http://www.townofmono.com). Lyle Jorie of A.C.E.S discussed the benefits of radiant flooring and Mono residents and homeowners John Wilson and Gary Murakami entertained the audience with their experiences in solar powering their homes. Check our website [www.monomulmur.com](http://www.monomulmur.com) for more information about this event and the presentations.

- Two of our partner organizations have arrived at critical junctures in their work. **CORE** has worked diligently to

negotiate a settlement proposal with **Arbour Farms** regarding the proposed aggregate operation on Airport Road. The draft addresses many of the concerns raised about this proposal, particularly on the safety front. While not defeating this proposal, the settlement provides many protections and should be seen as a major accomplishment by CORE. The settlement must be approved by the OMB and modifications may yet be made. See the draft settlement at our website.

[www.monomulmur.com](http://www.monomulmur.com)

Also on the aggregate front, **Protect Mono**, organized to fight the proposed aggregate mine on Mono's 30 Sideroad, noted that the proponent, **Greenwood Companies of Orangeville**, has submitted a formal application for the required permits. Protect Mono is organizing a

## WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON? (Continued from page 3)

full defence and needs the support of all of us. See [www.protectmono.com](http://www.protectmono.com) for details.

- MC<sup>2</sup> is **striking a committee** to look into how Citizen Groups in rural communities can lobby for better policy outcomes at

Queen's Park. In matters such as aggregate extraction, alternate energy initiatives and infrastructure, rural communities are of little or no concern to the provincial government while our local governments have other priorities

when dealing with the province or developers. If you are interested in this issue and would like to join the committee please contact Ernest Rovet, 519 925-9021 or at: [ernestrovet@gmail.com](mailto:ernestrovet@gmail.com).

## NEW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

could be potential for expanded inappropriate use of land that could bring a detrimental impact on our environment and valued way of life.

In our work to preserve our rural environment and support effective local government, MC<sup>2</sup> strives to provide our members, and the community at large, with information about what is happening in Mono and Mulmur and within the County. MC<sup>2</sup> strives to activate member action for support on issues being tackled by other local like-minded community groups through being involved in

addressing concerns that impact our ratepayers and municipalities.

We are thankful for a great membership of people who care about the place we all call home and for the input and feedback contributed on a regular basis. At the AGM in September we received some very valuable feedback for issues MC<sup>2</sup> should be involved in and for how we need to connect with our members. Over the next year we will work diligently to connect with the membership to a greater extent, and to involve those who want to be involved more. We have two very

productive committees, our Environment Committee and our Land Use Committee; please contact the chair of any committee if you'd like to join. Also, our new bylaws added a section for inviting delegations to the Board; if you have an idea for a committee or an issue we should be addressing we are interested in hearing from you; please contact me directly to book you on the agenda.

I look forward to us continuing with the great work that has been characteristic of MC<sup>2</sup> since 1988. Twenty eight years and thriving!

YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE OR ANY OTHER ARE WELCOMED.

EMAIL US AT: [INFO@MONOMULMUR.COM](mailto:INFO@MONOMULMUR.COM) .

# THE LOOKOUT

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY  
THE MONO MULMUR CITIZENS' COALITION



Cover Photo:

Chaucer (Doodle) and Darcy (Border Collie) romping together in Mono.

Photo credit to Felicite Morgan

Elaine Capes  
President

Rita Reitsma  
Secretary

Don MacFarlane  
Treasurer

Members-At-Large

Arnold de Graaff  
Ed Kroeker  
Bob Mitchell  
Ernie Rovet  
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