



THE LOOK OUT

WINTER 2017

"AFTER THE ICE STORM AT THE HORSE FARM"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

Looking back over the newsletters of 2016, we can all be proud of the level of the continued involvement MC² has had in our community. We anticipate 2017 being another very active year, with a continuation of in-progress initiatives and the introduction of new opportunities to positively affect outcomes for our community and our environment.

Members of the MC² Board are committed to participating in local municipal government and provincial review processes in order to bring attention to the importance of our unique urban and rural voice. We will continue to participate through listening to

residents when they bring issues forward; attending local, county and provincially organized meetings; writing letters; making presentations; holding information sessions; and when required, requesting party status in local legal proceedings. We believe having a voice at the table contributes to MC² being regarded as a legitimate agent representing our community in the face of ongoing change initiatives, arising at the Provincial and local levels. This work allows us to impact these initiatives by providing feedback and ideas and by supporting residents, citizens and citizen groups, which are raising legitimate concerns. You can find elsewhere in this Newsletter a summary of the many initiatives in which we have

recently been involved.

The MC² Board of Directors meets the first Friday of each month and we welcome your input to assist in directing our work. Please email us at info@monomulmur.com with your thoughts on issues we should be focusing on and how we can involve more members in the work or to join a committee or request a delegation at a Board meeting. Thank you all for participating in being the eyes, ears and voice for Mono and Mulmur and Dufferin County.

Warm Regards,

Elaine Capes

President

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2017

The support of our members in our ongoing efforts makes what we are doing possible. We very much appreciate the commitment our members make annually. Please stay with us for another jam-packed year! Membership renewal forms for 2017 and return envelopes are included with this newsletter. Memberships can also be renewed on our website through Paypal at www.monomulmur.com

MONO MULMUR CITIZENS' COALITION
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FROM DON'S DESK....

CATCHING UP ON MAJOR MONO MULMUR CHALLENGES

As we move into this New Year of 2017, many of the issues we at MC² have addressed in the past still remain on the front burner, while new, increasingly long and complex, challenges continue to crop up.

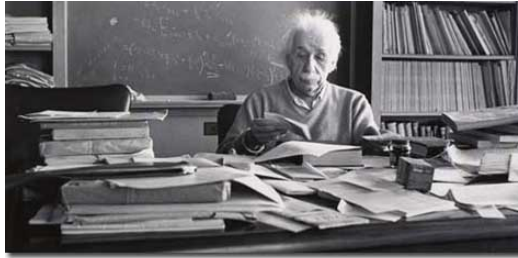
The context for many of the issues we face is being addressed by the Provincial Government, as it continues its review of major land use policies. In late 2016, MC² sent position papers to the appropriate Government Departments and politicians commenting on three critical reviews. The first of these was related to the expansion of territory under the jurisdiction of the Niagara Escarpment Commission (NEC), a proposal which also aimed to change the status of certain lands already under NEC management. While the NEC itself has declined to support the expansion of its jurisdiction, the government has yet to finalize its position. The second major policy review focused on the Aggregate Resources Act (ARA). The final review concerns the structure and procedures on the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB).

MC²'s positions on all of these issues has been expressed in detail. Copies of our submissions can be found on our website. While the consultation periods on these proposals are over, it is likely that when the final positions of the Government are announced there will be a flurry of further discussion and input. We will keep members informed as these discussions move toward final resolution.

Closer to home, we have discovered, in many cases, that the initial reaction to any proposals for development or changes in land use comes from locally impacted citizens. These individuals/groups are usually effective in raising their particular concerns with local councils. MC², in evaluating these proposals and the local citizen response, has tended to look at the broader implications of these issues on the larger communities for whom we

work to speak.

Currently we are looking at two new situations. The first one is the proposal to convert an abandoned quarry site in Mono into a center for water-skiing



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

Albert Einstein

competitions. This situation was initially identified by local citizens, who were concerned with many elements of the proposal (noise, water quality, traffic/safety, etc.). The citizens gained Town of Mono support in objecting to initial conditional approval of the proposal by the Niagara Escarpment Commission, within whose jurisdiction the impacted land is found.

MC² certainly has supported the citizen concerns, but our primary issues related to this proposal have had to do with the question of what is an appropriate recreational use of land in our community. Further, the question of jurisdiction is important. The Town of Mono has a by-law structure which aims to manage such proposals, focusing on noise, traffic and other impacts on the community. We want to ensure that the NEC takes full account of the local laws, ensuring that any project fully complies with laws designed to protect citizen interests. MC² will be participating in the second round of hearings, slated to start on February 13, 2017.

The second issue emerging is related to the major grape growing operation being developed on 3rd Line East in Mono. For an extended period, as grapes ripen in the late summer and autumn, the vineyard operator has been using a system of noise producing cannons, firing at regular intervals, to frighten the birds that are eating their grapes. This noise has been

highly disruptive to the local neighbours, some of whom own equestrian operations. The local citizens have raised the issue with the Town of Mono Council, which is currently attempting to mediate the conflict.

MC²'s Board is reviewing this situation, with the hope that mediation will resolve the problem. Our interest, again, goes well beyond this particular case. When a new operation is placed into an already existing community, where citizens have been living, and in some cases operating

businesses, many for a long time, what degree of disruption is permissible? This question will be raised more and more often as development pressures grow. How many more vineyards will there be? What about new hotels and other large scale recreational facilities? Or solar installations? Or major landfill dumps? For example, if I have had an existing operation for many years, what right do I have to be protected from a development, which makes my operation untenable for several weeks every summer. Who should regulate these developments? This type of issue will become ever more critical going forward.

We should note that significant leadership in the cases we have mentioned has come from the Town of Mono. The Council and staff have put considerable energy and financial resources into addressing these issues, working to protect their by-laws and the residents these laws are meant to protect. Our experience has been that when a vigorous defense is not put in place, not only are the specific cases lost, but also the precedent of weakness becomes an incentive for additional challenges to municipal control. In the end it is the citizens of the community who have to decide whether this demanding and expensive work should be continued, but on our part, we appreciate the Town's leadership and commitment.

On the aggregate front the battles never

... Continued on Pg. 3

DON'S DESK CONTINUES.....

end. After about fifteen years of working to stop the proposed Arbour Farms pit of Airport Road in Mulmur, CORE (Conserve Our Rural Environment) and the Airport Road Group negotiated a settlement with the proponent which addressed many of the most serious concerns, primarily related to traffic levels and safety on Airport Road and the main cross-Mulmur routes that would be potentially used by trucks exiting the Arbour site. Mulmur Township had agreed to the settlement, but Simcoe County has raised issues about increased traffic on their roads. This settlement will be adjudicated in upcoming hearings of the OMB.

Greenwood Construction has officially applied for an aggregate mining permit of its site on Sideroad 30 in Mono. PROTECT MONO, the citizens' group established to oppose this proposal

has held several information, letter writing and fund raising meetings. This issue will continue to be adjudicated with the OMB, and, finally, with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry which will make the final decision. PROTECT MONO has done an excellent job of raising consciousness about this proposal. Their website www.protectmono.com will continue to announce events and action plans.

Finally, the group that has been formed to oppose a large below water table aggregate pit in Adjala-Tosorontio Township, near the border with Mulmur, has continued to be very active. CONCERNED CITIZENS in ADJALA TOSORONTIO (CCAT) faces the usual complex issues of dealing with aggregate proposals, plus the added problem of a Council which has generally not supported their battle. Again, they have put together high quality information on this proposal, an operation which will not only have major environmental impact but also will

create the usual traffic and other safety issues. You can find a great deal of well-prepared information at www.nogravelpit.com.

MC² has fully supported the work of the three groups working the aggregate issues in our community. They all need our help as these cases are expensive and complex to manage. In each of these cases we continue to appreciate the hard work and the quality of the efforts of each of these groups and of their leaders.

The work of protecting our rural environment goes on and on and on. Dufferin County will continue to be a target as we have significant open land, lots of aggregate, and limited political clout. MC², the other partner organizations we have mentioned here, and many other individuals and groups, will continue the work of mobilizing the community to protect what we have.



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

The Disintegrative Effects of Capitalism". The book is available for sale at Booklore in Orangeville. Congratulations Arnold! ...

- A number of Mono residents welcomed in the New Year at the **Mayor's Levee** held at the Town Offices on January 1st. It was also the kick-off to Canada's 150th birthday celebrations. Check out the photos of this event at the Town of Mono's website www.townofmono.com ...

- On January 24th Booklore sponsored a launch for **Board Director Arnold De Graaff's** new book entitled "**The Gods In Whom They Trusted:**

In response to recommendations from their own Mono Research Advisory Committee (MRAC), Mono Council will hold their **second Town Hall Meeting** on Saturday, March 25th (9:30 AM to 12:30 PM) at the Community Hall in Mono Centre ...

- Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 1** from 9:30 AM to 12:00PM for our **Environment Committee's presentation on Lyme disease**. Presenters on the science/biology, the medical diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease and what we need to know to protect our pets will be

featured. The second half will be a panel discussion with the presenters, survivors and those struggling with the disease. This is a growing concern in our area. Join us and become informed! More details to follow shortly ...

- Mono Council is working on an update of their Fill By-Law. While this work is being done, an emerging problem with fill dumping is related to **aggregate pit rehabilitation**. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) controls this issue. An example is a pit rehabilitation on Hwy 89 in Mulmur which has seen a tremendous amount of fill from urban areas being transported and dumped quite close to the Boyne River. Neither Mulmur nor Dufferin County has any input or control on this side of the soil dumping issue. With dozens of inactive pits in the County, this could evolve into a major problem ...

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT IN MONO

Written by Bob Mitchell

In May of 2015, MC² made a presentation to Mono Council on the need to improve citizen engagement and transparency in the Town. A number of recommendations were presented along with some overall strategies for improving involvement by the residents of Mono. While the Town felt they were doing a pretty good job of communicating and involving their citizens, they did agree to review our submission for further action. The report was received and at a subsequent council meeting the decision was made to ask the Mono Research Advisory Committee (MRAC) to review our report and make recommendations back to Council. MRAC was ready to begin making specific recommendations by the fall, but the retirement of Keith McNenly (CAO) and recruitment and replacement took about six months and the recommendations were put on hold.

The first recommendation that came forward was to make better use of an automatic e mail communication feature that was incorporated in the last town website update that allowed citizens to register and be sent a summary of the highlights of each council meeting every

month. This system was implemented and has been improved upon continuously. If you haven't registered to get these updates, you should visit the town website at <http://townofmono.com/council-highlights>. The town will also use this automatic email system to update citizens on important things happening in the town, like road closures and construction, ice storm updates, social events etc. MRAC also recommended that Mono hold town hall meetings several times a year. Council responded by holding their first meeting on Saturday November 12th. About 50 to 60 citizens attended a 2 1/2 hour meeting at the community centre in Monora Park. Council invited two representatives from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) to discuss recent changes to some of the MPAC's policies and generally answered residents' questions on how the market value assessment process works. Based upon the number of questions, the subject was very much appreciated by the audience. The Mayor then threw the meeting open to the residents to ask any questions they might have. There were a myriad of questions asked, but a lot centred on the

Greenwood sand and gravel pending application in the north section of Mono. Council attempted to answer as many questions as possible and those they didn't answer, they made a record of and posted these on the website for further clarification.

<http://www.townofmono.com/content/town-hall-meetings>

I think Council enjoyed seeing and hearing from their residents and did come to the realization that these meetings are an important ingredient when looking at the citizen engagement process. The Town has announced its second town hall meeting for early spring this year.

In December, MRAC made a delegation to Council to present a Citizen Engagement Charter and a guide for how citizens should approach Council. This was a comprehensive document on policies and recommendations for the Town. It was received and the new CAO, Mark Early will use this document as he prepares more changes to strengthen Citizen Engagement within Mono.

MC² is pleased that the Town has seen fit to respond to our original report and recommendations and we look forward to more change in the Town's communication and processes to better involve and inform our residents.

YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS
ISSUE OR ANY OTHER ARE WELCOMED.
EMAIL US AT: INFO@MONOMULMUR.COM.

THE LOOKOUT

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY
THE MONO MULMUR CITIZENS' COALITION



Cover Photo:

"After the Ice Storm at the Horse Farm"
Credit to Jesse Burns.

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