

THE BULLETIN

A Brief Blog from the Board of the Mono Mulmur Citizens' Coalition

Issue #5 - NOVEMBER 2021

NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We held our AGM virtually for the second year and the Board was very pleased that thirty people were in the Zoom meeting. Thanks to HCIA (Headwaters Communities in Action) for providing the Zoom Room in which to host the meeting.

We welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with an Indigenous land acknowledgement.

We covered the business of the meeting which is formally documented in the minutes. Some highlights from the Treasurer's report are that we continue to be solvent and grateful for the membership renewals, referrals, and donations. The Board is hopeful we can spend some money in 2022 to host an in-person event to thank and celebrate the loyal members of MC².

Our Environment Committee is always keeping a keen eye on climate change and the efforts needed to help the planet. The Committee is working on determining an information event they can bring to us in 2022. As there are two members retiring from the committee, they are interested in having more members so please reach out to indicate your interest by emailing info@monomulmur.com.

The communications team confirmed they will send The Look Out newsletter twice per year with formal Bulletins every other month. E-blasts will continue to be sent out on an as-needed basis to keep the membership informed.

The confirmed Directors for 2021/2022 are: Del Bernardi, Elaine Capes, Arnold De Graaff, Knut Holmsen, Bob Mitchell,

Felicite Morgan, Rita Reitsma, and Cheryl Russel.

Elaine welcomed and introduced our Guest Presenter. Paraphrasing our MC² incorporated purpose highlights, namely the *"monitoring the governance of the rural environment, heritage and culture of Mono and Mulmur, with an eye to protecting and promoting this, particularly in regard to land use planning and management."* Elaine went on to say, "There is perhaps no better person to talk to this topic than Victor Doyle". She continued with a short bio highlighting that from 1988 to 2017, Victor was at the epicentre of designing and implementing provincial plans in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Best known as "the architect" of the Greenbelt, Victor was also instrumental in developing the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, Growth Plan and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

Elaine then handed the Zoom controls over to Victor Doyle. Victor's presentation

slides are on the MC² website, although the slides themselves do not have the benefit of Victor's voice-over. He presented many informative maps, highlighting the evolution of 50 years in planning by the province under various governments and parties, including the latest targets for 2051 which indicate unprecedented growth for South Central Ontario.

Overall, these intensification plans have an impact on human and other species, habitat health, water, air, and soil. These plans will result in losses of farmland, wetlands, and increased competition for water.

Victor's concerns also included the weakening of the Endangered Species Act, the Environmental Assessment Act, and the impacts of demand on the waterways resulting from treatment plants and stormwater overruns.

THE Q&R SESSION WITH VICTOR DOYLE

Q: The proposed limestone quarry in Melancthon will be extracting below the water table. What are the negative effects on the aquifer?

R: Removing the cover of the aquifer may cause it to become polluted, flow patterns may change, and wells may dry up. Two sites in Ontario have lined the quarries but more time is needed to see if this is a successful way to lessen the negative effects.

Q: How can we push back on the Growth Plan for Ontario?

R: Be involved. In 2022, the County, with input from the municipalities, must tell the province how it will implement the plan. Let your Councillors know if you object to the projections and encourage the County to not accept the targets.

(THE Q&R CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE)

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THE Q&R CONTINUED

Q: What is the proposed sewer loop pipeline?

R: The effluent from new developments in areas of growth (south Simcoe, New Tecumseth, etc.), would be treated locally then piped to Georgian Bay and back. Although diluted, the water

will still contain many contaminants; pharmaceuticals, nitrogen and other toxins will be present.

Q: How can we have influence on concerns like the Melancthon quarry and Highway 413?

R: Be active, join with other groups and engage the youth. Write letters, they are read. The next Ontario general election is only months away and the Liberal and NDP parties have pledged to cancel 413. Let the politicians know that your vote depends on their actions.

NOTES FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF MULMUR

Budget

Your chance to comment, ask questions and present concerns about the 2022 Budget begins at 9:30 am on December 8th during the Budget Public Meeting. The first draft was presented to Council in November and included an overall tax levy increase of \$128,955 or 3.11% (the largest increase since 2018). This works out to \$14.86 for every \$100.000 of assessment. Council members suggested some reductions, but you may have additional sug-

gestions to reduce costs. The final budget will be passed at the January Council Meeting.

Of note, in 2020 we paid \$43,307 principal and interest on our long-term debt. As of the end of 2021, we owe \$50,000 on the administration building (it will be paid off in 2024) and \$346,320 on the bridge (it will be paid off in 2034).

Ad-Hoc Planning Advisory Committee

The open meetings concluded this week with a look at Seniors and Aging in Place.

As expected, the eight sessions were well attended, and the discussions were far ranging. The public committee members will meet with staff and then their findings will be presented to the Council. Everyone came away with a greater understanding of what the Official Plan (OP) is and how it must conform to Provincial legislation as well as the Dufferin County OP.

NOTES FROM THE TOWN OF MONO COUNCIL

- The process to replace the mayor seat and the subsequent vacancies is completed. We have a full council. We welcome our new councillor, Melinda Davie. A quick reminder that the next municipal election will be held on October 24, 2022.
- The decision by LPAT on the proposed Greenwood gravel pit is now available. LPAT ruled in favour of Greenwood.
- The Town of Shelburne expressed a desire to take over the responsibilities of managing both the fire and recreational services currently co-managed by Mono, Amaranth, Melancthon and Shelburne. A presentation was made to Mono Town Council by Shelburne, highlighting several reasons for this proposal. Further meetings between the municipalities will clarify the outcome of this proposal and provide more details.
- It's budget season! We encourage all our members to keep an eye out for next year's budget deliberation as Covid19 has escalated the costs and diminished municipal revenues.
- The Council turned down a proposed development on Highway 9 for a wedding venue. The property owner has served notice that he is appealing the decision to the OLT (Ontario Land Tribunal).
- Complaints by residents have led Council to review the bylaw on truck trailer parking. Council is reviewing this bylaw for potential updating and enforcement in an effort to maintain some compatibility for a rural setting in rural areas.
- The report on the issue of parking (and the cost of enforcement) we experienced during the past summer is in. When all costs are totaled, there is an overrun of \$90,000 (beyond revenue) to enforce the new "No Parking" zones by Mono Cliffs Park. It is interesting to note that Mono had issued zero parking tickets for the past several years prior to Covid19. The report stated that Mono issued 874 parking tickets over the summer.
- Mono has posted signs on our rivers and streams for easier identification and reference. This Council project has been in the works since June of 2000 and it's good to see it completed. Big thanks to Councillor Manktelow for his dedication on this project.
- Please tune in to the Town of Mono Council meetings, broadcasted live, or play it back later if you prefer to keep you informed of these very important developments on and around us.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay connected – at a distance.
ARNOLD, BOB, CHERYL, DEL, ELAINE, FELICITE, KNUT, and RITA