

THE LOOK OUT



OCTOBER 2015

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On September 19, 2015, we held our Annual General meeting at the Hockley Village Community Hall, and were pleased to host about 50 members. The meeting featured a combination of the normal legal procedures that are required for incorporated organizations, (Board Election, Treasurer's Report and others) and a full update of our activities over the past year and for the future. Our very thorough Secretary, Rita Reitsma, did a fine job on the meeting Minutes, which you can find on our website. This will provide all our members, in some detail, with what was covered at the meeting.

I would like to highlight a couple of key issues that we discussed. We elected our Board, a group of talented and energetic individuals who keep the organization moving ahead. We

reviewed the important role played by our volunteers. Starting with our Board and our Committees, our work fully depends on the support of our members. Our very active Environment Committee has been doing a fine job of raising issues that are of critical importance. On another front, our work on objecting to the dramatic influx of potentially contaminated landfill into our rural communities has been driven by highly committed volunteers, members of the Board and from our members at large.

We are currently assessing how many issues we can deal with in a meaningful and professional way. As you will see from our Minutes, we are doing a lot at present. We have a Board sub-committee looking at what else we should be doing, and what we can practically deal with.

This review is discussed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

In the end, MC² is thriving because of all our members. Our membership of 300 to 400 citizens helps us in many ways, starting with paying their \$30 per year per family membership fees, making donations (well over \$1000 in 2015), and in many cases volunteering. The AGM is the one opportunity, each year, to gather a significant group of our members, to talk about our activities, and then to share some social time together. For the Board, this event is a re-energizing opportunity to connect with the people who support our work and provide us with very helpful input on what we are doing. For those of you who could not attend, please feel free at any time to communicate with us through our email - info@monomulmur.com.

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FROM DON'S DESK....

As another year draws to an end it is time to take another look at what is happening in our community. While an organization like MC² tends, appropriately, to look at the many challenges we face, we need to remember the many positive aspects of life here in Mono and Mulmur, the things that have drawn people here for the past nearly two hundred years. At times, because we see so many threats to our community, we don't emphasize enough the good things.

And, while it all starts with the beauty of our area, there is much more. For me it starts with the community itself, the ever-dynamic mix of newer arrivals with the people who have lived here for many generations. We came here drawn by the beauty, but we stay because of our friends and neighbours. The cultural richness of a community filled with artists and their organizations, by the rich plethora of wonderful gardens, themselves works of art. The many galleries selling fine art work and handicrafts. The live films of operas and plays showing at the Galaxy. The Dufferin Arts Council lunches. The many book clubs. Lots of fine restaurants. The fairs and festivals. The wide range of available services. And much more. To top it all off, the huge urban area to our south, in some ways the bane of existence here, adds a whole other layers of cultural and economic diversity.

I need at times to run down this list (and I realize I have missed many of the elements that appeal to us all) because I spend a lot of time (maybe too much) thinking and worrying about the challenges we face. It's good to remember what we are working to protect, but at the

same time to maintain a positive perspective.

Over the past year, MC² has been working on a wide range of issues, on



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

Albert Einstein

which we have been reporting at regular intervals.

The threat of a major influx of landfill from the city has been a major concern. We are working closely with the Town of Mono and the citizens group led by Elaine Kehoe to present the wide range of concerns to the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board. We have recently joined the Ontario Soil Restoration Task Force, a Province-wide body that is working at a high level on this issue.

The environmental risks to our community from the wide range of chemicals and genetically modified materials used in agriculture, as well as the threat of natural disasters, are being addressed by our Environment Committee.

We are addressing the need for increased transparency by our local Councils.

We have continued our support for groups working on a range of issues which threaten our community, including Protect Mono and CORE on the issue of the uncontrolled expansion of aggregate mining,

NDACT/Food and Water First, and the Community Safety and Business Protection Board (CSBPB) working on the road safety and liability risks. We are now meeting with these groups to evaluate where we can combine activities and expand mutual support, while not interfering with any group's independence.

We continue to present information to the community through our Town Hall meetings, most

recently in the form of All Candidates meetings for local elections.

We have started to work with our Councils to address the problem of motorcycle noise on our roads, an issue which will require a stronger effort.

Along with these priorities, we do the day to day work of running our organization. Our website is up and running, and is getting to the point where it is meeting our members' needs. We put out 3-4 Newsletters a year. The Board meets monthly and committees are active, and we write regular letters to politicians and the local press.

Having said all of this, we debate regularly whether we are doing enough, and whether we could be doing more to play a part in protecting all the good aspects of life in our community. We are doing a great deal, but are we missing important issues? And on the issues we address, are we doing so in the most effective way? We have set up a sub-committee of our Board to look into these issues. The question of

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DON'S DESK CONTINUES.....

how best to use our resources, to have the most positive impact, will be addressed. As part of this work, we will be asking our members for input.

How best to do this, whether through a survey, or group meetings, or through getting input from our Advisory Committee, will be determined. Please let us know if you have ideas about this review. For me personally, the work of MC², playing a role in this fine community

which is our home, has been an effective and strong organization over the years. To maintain this positive role, we continually need to question and challenge ourselves. As we do this evaluation, we will need the input of our members.



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

feature Mulmur. If you have a great winter photo of Mulmur you love and would like to feature in that newsletter, please email it to us (with location details) any time at

info@monomulmur.com It doesn't have to be winter scenery necessarily, could be a Mulmur community winter event or winter pastime for instance or a special-to-you place somewhere in Mulmur (house, farm, other buildings, etc.) covered in snow. Something like that ...

- On **September 12th**, MC² participated in the semi-annual community event, **Mono's Big Day Out** at Mono Centre. Members of our Environment Committee enjoyed speaking with residents about MC² and, particularly, about the upcoming Environment Committee event on November 7th.
- On **Saturday, November 7th**, be sure to attend the Environment Committee's free-to-all community presentation entitled "**GMOs: What Have We Gained and Lost**" at the Monora Park Pavilion (lower level) from 9:30-12:30. See the flyer on page 3 for details.
- The **fine photography** headlining the front pages of the last three editions of our newsletter is the work of our own talented members. Thank you to Felicite Morgan (February 2015), Carl Tafel (June 2015) and Susan Parker (October 2015) for generously sharing your photos with us. We have alternated between pictures of Mono and Mulmur. Our next regular edition in the winter of 2016 will
- We continued to be active on the **Fill Dumping issue**. On **July 20th**, Board Directors Don MacFarlane and Ernie Rovet attended the Pre-Hearing of the Normal Farm Practices Protection Board and gained recognition of MC² as a Party to the hearing. We also attended a meeting of the parties opposed to the Cox application, where we attempted to coordinate and align strategies and witnesses.
- MC² also continued to address the **Road Noise issue**, particularly in Mulmur, where we addressed Council on ideas to deal with this problem. Little progress has been made to reduce motorcycle noise, and this problem will need to be readdressed more aggressively over the next few months. The key problem appears to be that we can't find ways to
- engage the OPP in policing speeding and related noise on our paved roads. With the number of serious accidents we see on roads, such as River Road in Mulmur, this needs to be driven as a stronger priority for the Councils and police. We will inform members as we work to find solutions to this problem and we would be happy to receive any suggestions and help in dealing with road noise.
- Board director Bob Mitchell (acting as a private citizen) brought David Suzuki's **Blue Dot Campaign** to the attention of Mono Council recently. The campaign is "looking to put more pressure on federal and municipal governments to increase their environmental responsibility by asking local municipalities to sign a declaration noting the environmental rights of their citizens" (Orangeville Citizen October 15). These rights include breathing fresh air, drinking clean water and eating healthy food according to Dr. Suzuki. Mono Council had a few concerns about liability issues, if they were to join the campaign. They agreed to create a sub-committee to evaluate the campaign and subsequent responsibilities that would come from joining and make recommendations to Council.

THE LAST WORD IS OURS.... (Feel free to write us and make it yours next issue!)

"The continued success of our organization is dependent on the willingness of our members to contribute their time." When was the last time you heard that "motherhood" statement for the hundredth time and maybe felt "guilted" into signing up for something?

My family and I moved into the Town of Mono in 1995 and for the next 15 years we lived on our property, met and socialized with a few of our immediate neighbours but that was pretty much the extent of involvement in our community. Our "volunteer" time was mostly spent outside of the town. That changed about five years ago when I volunteered to sit on one of our town council advisory committees. This led to a second position on a Dufferin County advisory committee and most recently I have volunteered to assist as a board member with MC².

This "transition" five years ago came with unexpected rewards. Firstly, I (we) made numerous new friends and established new social circles. Secondly, I now have a real appreciation of just how diverse and

talented our citizenry is in this community and I benefit from every meeting I attend as collective wisdom and experiences are shared. Most importantly, I feel I now have a valuable investment in my community that goes well beyond just the land we own and occupy. I now have emotional ties to my community which never existed previously.

Time is our most valuable personal commodity. In fact, we trade our time for money. I have learned that the volunteering of time in my community has brought unique rewards of limitless value.

Board Director Ed Kroeker



A Free Community Presentation

JOIN US AT OUR NEXT EVENT!

GMOs?

What have we gained and lost?

Saturday November 7, 2015 ● 9:30 am to 12:30 pm ●

Monora Park (500 Monora Park Drive, Mono)

Speakers:
Ralph Manktelow, "An Update on the Condition of the Bees"
Arnold DeGraaf, "A Perspective on the Science of Genetic Engineering"
Gerald Poechman, "A Discussion of GMO's and Presentation of His Farming Experience"

www.monomulmur.com

Sponsored by the Environment Committee of MC².

MC²
Mono Mulmur
Citizens' Coalition
Our voice in the community
SINCE 1988

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: We've featured roads and trails, it was time to show off a garden.
Fabulous fall colours at the Parkers,
- 25 Side Road, Mono.
Credit to Susan Parker.

Don MacFarlane
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