

THE BULLETIN

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



Issue #12 - March 2024

NEWS FOR MULMUR TOWNSHIP

North Dufferin Community Centre (NDCC)

The renovation strategy was discussed at the March Council meeting. There are two issues that are of immediate concern. The ice surface piping is leaking and must be replaced or the arena will not be operational and the leaking roof over the Norduff room must be replaced before there is further damage. The cost for this is \$1,570,000. The proposal to partially fund these is to use money from four reserves, including \$550,000 from the tax rate stabilization fund. This leaves a shortfall of \$421,023. The only viable way to cover this is to further deplete the reserves. The Treasurer advised in January, that the additional \$50,000 taken from the stabilization reserve to reduce 2024 taxes means an automatic 1% tax increase in 2025. With the arena funding and increasing costs for services, it was suggested that we could be looking at a tax rate increase in 2025 between 7% to 10%.

After much discussion, Council voted to seek input from the Township residents before spending the \$1.5 million. Councillors also asked for a concrete plan detailing how the future needs, totalling around \$7,000,000, will be paid for.

A survey has gone out that is lacking the details we think are necessary for people to make an informed decision.

Primrose Elementary School Boundary Review

The Trustees voted to approve an enrolment cap of 23 classes starting the 2024-25 school year. Current students will not be impacted by the boundary review, and the school board is hoping that this puts a firm control on the enrolment numbers for Primrose.

Following the staffing process each year, board staff will determine if the 23 classroom cap has been breached and will notify the families when their student will be redirected to Centennial Highlands.

Siblings of students already enrolled at Primrose can elect to remain at Primrose or to move to Centennial.

Given the population growth in the area, the school board is continuing to look for a new school site to better serve the needs of Mulmur Township.

Staffing

Roseann Knechtel is now our Clerk, a well deserved promotion, and Tracey Atkinson the Deputy Clerk. A warm welcome to Chris Wolnik who joined the staff this month. Chris is the Director of Infrastructure, a new position for Mulmur.

NEWS FOR THE TOWN OF MONO

Budget took the best part of the council's attention in the late fall of 2023 and the beginning of this year. A maximum tax increase of 6% was accepted by council. The increase was artificially held at this percentage by using reserves to fund the rest of the spending on the budget. We

are concerned that next year the dipping into reserve will not be a viable option and we have some concern over the potential consequences of that.

Council dealt with other several issues, notably the appeal at the OLT (Ontario

Land Tribunal) with the Aragon development project (Hwy 10 and Hockley). To our knowledge the hearing was dismissed by the OLT due to the lack of "probabilities of success" on the part of the developer. The challenge facing the developer is the disposal of sewage. Argon was looking for

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Photo: Tributary of the Nottawasaga

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TOWN OF MONO CONTINUES...

a shared responsibility between the Town and the future condominium owners for the ongoing management costs of the septic system post-construction. It is our understanding that the town refused to assume co-shared responsibility for the septic, and because the OLT requires this contract to be in place prior to approval of the project, the case was dismissed.

We warmly welcome our new CAO, Michael Dunmore, who moved from the position of Manager of Public Works to the Town's Chief Administrator Officer. Best of luck to you Michael!

Several issues have come up and were dealt with at the last few council agendas. Noteworthy is the fact that the current economic patterns have incurred substantial cost increases in Town overhead across the board. Some of these increases were into the double digits and beyond the power of council to rectify. For example, the cost of emergency

services billed to the town has gone up substantially. Also the Conservation Agencies (Nottawasaga, Credit, etc.) having received a substantial cut from the Provincial Government, now have little choice but to dip into municipalities for support. Directly or indirectly there have been several cases of Provincial downloading of costs to municipalities without quid-pro-quo financial supports from the province. This situation cannot be allowed to continue unchallenged.

There is currently a proposal for the development of 349 homes on a property north of Highway 9 on the west side of 2nd Line. The developer has requested to alter the land-use designation from its current zoning to "residential". A committee meeting was held on March 14th to consider the request and MC² was there to highlight our concerns with the project. Doug Thomson presented a measured, and professional opposition piece which can be viewed on YouTube ([https://](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MbktB1DDw)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MbktB1DDw). By scrolling to the 1:11 mark of the video you can hear the concerns for yourself. There is to be an additional meeting at Council on March 26th at 7pm in the Town Hall where this development proposal will be discussed. Your opinion and participation in this important development concerning our town is appreciated.

The Bruce Trail Conservancy asked the Town for a waiver of cash in lieu of parkland they will be providing. It is a complicated issue with a tension between the existing laws and the public service the BTC provides with the trails. Council directed staff to bring back suggestions for changes in the municipal legislation that might work in this situation. Of concern is whether this opens up problems with other non-profits, resulting in a loss of revenue to the Town.

NOTES FROM DUFFERIN COUNTY

Since our last Board meeting, the County of Dufferin decided entry-level positions will have 15 days of paid vacation, while senior staff with 25 years' employment (or more) will have 35 days of paid vacation. When pressed about the generous offer, the County responded that employers are having to entice talent, and that generous vacation options are one of the ways that Dufferin County can secure good people to choose to remain in Dufferin and work here. Many are shaking their heads in disbelief at this news, so if you are too, then you're not alone.

The County will also be hosting an Information Session on Green Development Standards on March 26. It is a joint effort between Grey, Dufferin and Wellington Counties.

Dufferin County invites residents to share their insights on Tri-County Green Development Standards at a Community Information Session on Tuesday, March 26th in Shelburne.

The Tri-County Green Development Standards (GDS) project is a joint effort among Grey, Dufferin, and Wellington Counties to create unified Green Development Standards that are informed by best practices, existing building credentials programs and input from stakeholder consultation. Green Development Standards are measures for developers and builders to create thoughtful and innovative developments using sustainable design.

They are a critical policy tool for municipalities to achieve their greenhouse

gas (GHG) reduction targets, official plan goals and goals for sustainability, and support climate adaptation by ensuring buildings and infrastructure are constructed to be more resilient to disruptions from extreme weather events.

The March 26th Community Information Session will take place from 7 p.m. to 9 pm at the Mel Lloyd Centre (New Horizons Room) located at 67 Centre Street, Shelburne.

The session will begin with a brief presentation on the GDS project, followed by an interactive workshop. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, share their thoughts and actively contribute to shaping the green development standards. Residents can register for at www.eventbrite.ca. The Tri-County Green

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UPCOMING ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Mark your calendars for April 28th! We have an amazing afternoon planned with a fascinating speaker. Many of us are interested in learning about proactive ways we can make changes on our own properties and in our communities which will benefit our ecosphere.

Dr. Andrew Judge is coordinator of Indigenous Studies at Conestoga College, a sessional Lecturer at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University in South Western Ontario, and visiting professor at the Center for Engaged Learning Abroad in Cayo District, Belize. He specializes in traditional Indigenous knowledge, ethno-medicine, and land based learning.

Not So Hollow Farm, based in Mulmur, will be participating by illustrating the native plants which feed us (available for purchase later in the season). There will be a display about seed choices, seed-keeping, and the importance of heritage, non-GMO seeds. Our independent bookstore (Booklore) will have a wide-ranging display of interesting books with a discount offered on those items when purchased at Booklore. There will be a table devoted to foraging for local plants. Information will be available on activities to do at home and with kids. While the speaker will be on at 2pm, between 4 and 5 p.m. there will be additional outdoor activities on the grounds of Monora Park for attendees to enjoy, including a planting session and a guided walk focused on medicinal and edible plants.

Sunday, April 28
2pm to 4pm
Doors open at 1:30

Indigenous Land Based Practices
Braiding together Health, Environment and Community

Featuring Anishinaabe Scholar and Land Restoration Specialist
Mkomose (Andrew Judge), PhD

Practical ideas for improving biodiversity and health in our communities

A Free Community Presentation
Sponsored by the Environment Committee of MC²
Refreshments will be served, parking is free.
Monora Park Pavilion
(500 Monora Park Drive)

DUFFERIN COUNTY CONTINUES

Development Standards will establish a consistent framework across the counties of Grey, Dufferin and Wellington, making it easier for the development industry to understand and implement in their projects.

The document will incorporate standards and guidelines that can be applied through all phases of development planning applications right through to construction.

A BRIEF APOLOGY

No doubt our membership has noticed that our communications were somewhat MIA for the first two months of 2024, and for that we apologize. Sometimes life throws us curveballs, and unfortunately a member of our team had a family member who was in the final weeks of their life during the month of January, before passing away in February. Our heartfelt condolences go out to her and her family.