

Summer 2014

Hello members of the MLPOA:

It was good to see so many of you at your June 21 AGM.

Back in 2010, I ran on a platform that included better financial management and getting tax increases under control. I am pleased to report that the average annual tax increase during this term of Council was 3% (compared to 8% during the previous term). The 2014 tax increase was 2% and the plan is to keep tax increases to the rate of inflation.

Economic Development was another component of the 2010 platform and we continue to make progress in this area. The Canadian Tire store continues to encourage people to stop and shop in Minden. Our downtown has several new and successful stores and some of our long-standing establishments have undergone extensive renovation and expansion. The new Dairy Queen store is about to open and is the first one built by the franchise owners. The River Cone is under new management and continues to be a popular downtown attraction.

Our downtown improvements continue with courtesy crosswalks and 4-way stops designed to improve safety and traffic flow. The new planters and waste bins are in place.

Feedback from waterfront property owners suggests that people are aware of the new noise by-law that prohibits any chronic loud noise 24/7. People are also reporting a significant reduction in the use of fireworks which is a very good thing. Setting off fireworks at the dock is very dangerous because there is little control over where embers fall. Toxic material from fireworks is definitely not good for our lakes.

Everyone is concerned about the proposed OPP billing model which could have significant financial implications for Haliburton County. We met with Minister Yasir Naqvi on July 3rd and presented him with an alternative method which we believe is a more equitable approach. As the new billing model is to be in place on January 1st, 2015, we expect to hear about the new model sometime soon.

Lake health is top-of-mind in Haliburton County thanks to the efforts of the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations (www.cohpoa.org). Check out the Videos & PDF section of their website for all kinds of information on how to care for your septic system (Poop Talk) and the importance of maintaining/restoring natural shorelines (Ribbon of Life).

This is an election year and we've introduced some new voting methods designed to make it easier for all registered voters to actually vote. All property owners (permanent AND seasonal) can vote in Ontario municipal elections provided you are at least 18 years old and a Canadian citizen. You can vote in your home municipality and you can vote in

Minden Hills too. Check voterlookup.ca or call MPAC at 1-866-296-6722 and make sure you get on the voters list.

A ballot will not be mailed to you for this election. Instead, you will be mailed a PIN number which will allow you to vote using either the internet or telephone. Please visit www.mindenhill.ca (Election/Watch Our Instructional Demo) and see how easy it is to use the internet or a telephone to vote. You can vote from 12:01 am on Saturday, October 11th through 8:00 pm on Monday, October 27th. If you are travelling and don't have your PIN number, you can phone the municipality (new toll-free number is 1-844-277-1260) validate your ID and they will cancel your original PIN number and issue you a new one on the phone. You can also vote using a paper ballot on Saturday, October 11th (Thanksgiving weekend) or on election day (October 27). In 2010, voter turnout among permanent residents was 65% and seasonal voter turnout was 35%. Hopefully with more accessible voting methods, we can get the seasonal voter turnout up.

I enjoy my job as Reeve. It certainly has some challenges but it has many more rewards. I would like to serve for another term so we can continue to move Minden Hills forward in a fiscally-responsible way. I hope you will consider supporting me on October 27th.

Regards,

Barb Reid