

Mayor's Report – Thursday October 15, 2020

I hope that members of Council and staff had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration this past weekend. Our celebrations may have been smaller than past years but it still remains a time of gratitude for us all.

Over the 4 weeks since our last Council meeting, I have attended 2 Public Works Advisory Committee Meetings with a road tour in Stonecliffe and Mackey on September 18th and a regular meeting on October 13th. At this week's meeting, Deputy Mayor Villeneuve led a discussion of findings from the road tours and an update on the municipal truck purchase tender. Committee member Jim Gibson also presented a discussion paper on the Township gravel pit.

The County of Renfrew regular Council Meeting on September 30 began with a delegation from the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) on the Cell Gap Project in Renfrew County.

The Cell Gap Project Goals are:

- Achieve 99% coverage in the eastern Ontario region where people live, work and travel so that they can make and receive cell phone calls.
- Achieve 95% coverage in the eastern Ontario region where people live, work and travel with standard definition service level which can support email, web browsing and social media services.
- Achieve 85% coverage in the eastern Ontario region where people live, work and travel with high definition service level which can support video conferencing, movie streaming and other more data intensive applications.

I would be happy to provide Council with the entire Power Point update presented by CAO Jim Pine, Communications Director Lisa Severson and Director of Technology Paula Preston.

I received an invitation from Ontario's Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell to participate in a Zoom Conversation with Women Mayors of Ontario on October 2nd. This conversation was co-hosted by the economist Armine Yalnizyan, MPP Jill Dunlop and MP Maryam Monsef and attendees from throughout the province. From the inspiring conversation about the impacts of COVID-19 on our communities came three important themes:

- The challenges and barriers of being a working parent or caregiver during the pandemic.
- Mental health within the community, particularly as we face the winter months ahead.
- Access to women's shelters and the rise of violence against women.

As we know here in HCM it is Service Delivery Review season in Ontario. I attended the October 7th Special Closed Meeting to receive the COR Service Delivery Review (Phase 3) from Strategy Corp. Once this review is completed and presented in Open session, I will be pleased to share at our next Council meeting. It is my hope that we can continue to work closely with the County to realize efficiencies, savings and shared services.

At the October 8th Deep River & District Hospital Mayors' Meeting I was pleased to hear that we will be hosting a flu vaccine clinic in our Municipal Hall in mid November. Our hall is very suitable, as it offers an in and out flow. The team from DRDH is in the process of formalizing plans for the travelling clinic and will contact our Clerk-Treasurer with the details ASAP.

I attended the Renfrew County Housing Corporation, as well as the COR Health and Social Services Committees virtual meetings yesterday, October 14th. The Emergency Services Department's COVID-19

testing “continues to be at the front and centre of our response to the global pandemic”. The COR paramedic service mobilized two teams to facilitate testing five days a week at two sites simultaneously, funded by Ontario Health East and the Arnprior Hospital. Testing capacity is currently around 2500 tests per week with a 4 to 8-day result. Presently testing is offered to the public by means of a drive thru model that allows residents to remain in their cars. As time goes on, with the return to school and childcare, flu season and the predicted second wave, the model for testing is evolving based on predicted needs of the community.

Please check the Renfrew County District Health Unit website at www.rcdhu.com for an up to date COVID-19 TESTING schedule. **Call RC VTAC to schedule your testing time 1-844-727-6404.**

Mayor Debbi Grills