

Mayor's Opening Remarks

January 12, 2015

1. A belated Happy New Year to Council, Staff and Residents. I hope Christmas was good for everyone and that you enjoyed your break. A number of Levees hosted by neighbouring municipalities, the Legions and M.P. Gord Brown were held during the break and I was pleased that some Council members were able to attend these and to network with old and new acquaintances. At these events, M.P. Gord Brown and M.P.P. Steve Clark generally reiterated their commitment to assist Municipalities wherever they can and heads of Councils generally reiterated the need for Municipalities in the area to act in support of each other and the region. Councils are now installed and operating and I look with confidence to the New Year, 2015.
2. Counties Council Committee of the Whole (COW) and Joint Services Committee met respectively on January 6 and 7, 2015 and a couple of motions of direct interest to Augusta Township were received. One such motion was passed by the COW Committee on January 6th. Meeting to accept the 2014 Roadside Spraying Report. As a reminder, in 2014, roadside herbicide spraying was completed on a trial basis along the County roads in Augusta and Edwardsburg Cardinal Townships between May 30th and June 6th, 2014. A mechanism was in place for the public to acquire a "No Spray" sign if they did not want the ditches adjacent to their property to be sprayed. According to the Report the spraying was very successful at controlling Wild Parsnip and other broadleaf weeds with minimal negative effect on grass and other vegetation. The Report recommended that Program be expanded this year beginning in the spring. Counties officials will be providing the Township with information on the planned program and the Report notes that the program could be expanded to include wild parsnip infested Township roads.
3. At the Joint Services Meeting held on January 7, 2015, Council received a report from the Alison Tutak, Director of Human Services. The report stated that the Counties had received notice in September 2014 from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing that the Human Resources Division would be receiving additional funds under the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative for the 2014-2015 year in the amount of \$509,333.00. The recommendation adopted by Counties Council was that \$263,400.00 and \$195,000.00 of the \$509,333.00 will be used respectively for Homelessness Prevention Benefit and the Homelessness Prevention Response Team. The remainder will go to Administration.

4. Locally, a joint Augusta Township, Prescott and Edwardsburgh Cardinal meeting was held on Thursday, January 8, 2015 to plan for joint Business Fair 2015. Councillor Bill Buckler, Chair of the Committee, will report to Council later during the Committee of the Whole portion of the meeting.
5. Finally, I will be working with the CAO to finalize Committees and get them operational as soon as possible.

Doug Malanka
Mayor of Augusta Township