

REEVE'S NEWSLETTER

Volume 2020 / Issue 1

GREETINGS!

As promised to many ratepayers that I chatted with on the campaign trail, here it is, a Reeve's Newsletter to the residents and ratepayers of the R.M. of Blucher.

First – a few ground rules:

I will not be discussing anything that was discussed In Camera, which is confidential developmental information or information of a personal and private nature.

Information that I share with you after a meeting will not be official because it will not have been adopted as part of the official meeting minutes, unless otherwise specified.

The opinions expressed will be solely mine and not those of the entire Council or Administration, unless otherwise specified.

I am mentioning this because in the event I say something you are not happy with, please take it up with me.

Q: How often will there be a Reeve's Newsletter?

A: It will depend on what is going on in the municipality. Sometimes they may be monthly or more often, other times they may not be monthly. This is because, quite frankly, sometimes we have a lot going on and sometimes not so much. Sometimes what is going on is quite boring and mostly just regular housekeeping.

Q: Why are you doing a newsletter?

A: I am undertaking this newsletter for 2 main reasons.

1 - because I believe that nothing is more important to the democratic process than a well-informed electorate. (yes, I stole that line from an episode of the Newsroom)

2 - a few of you have expressed a concern about the lag time between Council meetings

and the posting of the adopted minutes. I will endeavor to give you general and pertinent information, and my opinion on Council's direction and intent on matters that I am free to discuss. I will try to do this shortly after the regular Council meetings.

Q: How can I speak at a Council meeting?

A: Remember that all regular Council meetings are open for the public to attend. If you would like to address Council call the office to get yourself on the agenda. The agenda is finalized on the Friday prior to the Council meeting.

“Thank you for coming out to vote. There is nothing like an election to stimulate interest in municipal affairs.”

THANK YOU:

Ok, enough of that. I want to thank all the people who made the effort to come out and vote. The advance poll had a good turnout, it was on November 2nd and had great weather! But we all know what started two days before election day on November 9th. Many people worked very hard to get polls opened and get the roads to those polls opened for voter access. Thanks to our Returning Officer, Doran Scott, who I dare say had to manage the most challenging election in the recent history of the R.M. I would've liked to see more voters turn out, but as usual, mother nature is the boss. I also want to thank all the candidates who let their name stand for election. There is nothing like an election to stimulate interest in municipal affairs.

In case you didn't already know this was the first election for Reeve since 1979. My late father, Joe Cummins was elected in the fall of 1979, and was unopposed until he retired in 2000. Dan Greschuk was elected by acclamation in 2000 and was unopposed. He retired this fall.

I want to personally thank Reeve Greschuk for his forty years (20 as Division 4 Councillor) of dedicated service to the ratepayers and residents of the R.M. of Blucher. His leadership and knowledge will be missed.

UPDATE

You are probably here to find out what happened at our November meeting. Financially the R.M. is in good shape with perhaps a small budget surplus. As mentioned earlier, sometimes there is a lot of housekeeping stuff to deal with and the meeting after an

election is when most of it happens. We purchased a John Deere grader, a Kubota tractor, and a side dump gravel trailer. We approved gave third and final readings to two residential rezoning bylaws and subdivision applications, approved three discretionary use applications and first reading to one residential rezoning bylaw. The ratepayers in the affected areas will soon be receiving notifications of these applications.

Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure (MHI) representatives attended the meeting to discuss the Highway 5 project. Phase 1 completion date has been pushed back to July 31, 2021 due to unforeseen construction difficulties. Phase 2 has been split into two projects. Commencing in 2022 construction will go from Highway 2 approximately 15 km west This means that once Phase 1 is complete no construction will happen within the RM of Blucher on Highway 5 until 2022. I believe we will still get considerable detour traffic for at least the next 3 years. We are pushing MHI hard for adequate dust control for the affected RM residents. We will be doing a traffic count over the winter to establish a baseline for traffic flows.

A pat on the back to our foreman Scott McDonald and his crew for removing snow from all RM winter roads in two days following the big dump on November 7 and 8. Great job! We have four graders available for snow removal this winter.

I would also like to thank RCAF Member Dusty Wiklun for organizing a small outdoor Remembrance Day ceremony in Bradwell. He did this because of the cancellation of the ceremony at Sasktel Place as well as for several other reasons. Reeve Greschuk presented a wreath on behalf of the people of the R.M. of Blucher.

That's all I've got for now.

Reeve Blair Cummins