



# Council News & Notes

From Tuesday, June 11, 2024

## Upcoming Meetings

**Council Meeting**  
June 25

6 pm

Regular  
Council Meeting

**Council Meeting**  
July 9, 2024

9 am

Regular Council  
Meeting

[View Calendar >>](#)

## Mayors' Message

Today I begin by thanking our residents and community groups for their amazing generosity and support for our Memorial Park tree planting program. Fifty-five trees planted. Council also congratulates Kate Lessard who now takes on the role of our Deputy Treasurer & Fire Administration Assistant. Well done Kate and we look forward to working with you.

On May 30<sup>th</sup> I attended Hastings County Council. On May 31<sup>st</sup> we had a Teeny Tiny Summit panel planning session. On June 1<sup>st</sup> I was joined by Councillors Flieler and Valiquette and my husband Chuck Mustard, as we raised the Rainbow Flag in celebration of June as Pride Month. Councillor Valiquette and I then made our way to the arena for the line dancing Participaction kickoff event organized by Rachelle Hardesty and Cindy Chow. Shortly thereafter, Councillors Flieler and Valiquette, Rachelle Hardesty and I made our way to the Riverside Campground for their friends and family BQ. And then it was back Tweed and the Curling Club where we all celebrated the Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> I had a Zoom meeting with Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party. We delved further into the lack of financial support from the provincial government to help address our looming infrastructure deficit. We talked about the immediate need for funding to help save seven bridges which we will be forced to close if the government does not take our financial needs seriously. And this does not include the Queensborough bridge which I will talk about later.

For dinner that evening I hosted the Teeny Tiny Summit guest speaker, Peter Kenyon, and OMAFRA summit organizers, Karen Fischer and Carolyn Puterbough. It was a wonderful opportunity to have a one on one with an inspirational man exuding positivity and the belief that small rural communities are hubs of creativity.

On June 5<sup>th</sup> the Municipality of Tweed hosted over 90 guests at our Pavilion for the Teeny Tiny Summit – “Creating Wealth and Well Being in Teeny Tiny Places”. More on the Summit later. That evening we attended the uplifting musical “Dear Rita”. Thank you Tweed & Company Theatre for staging yet another stellar production. The harmonies were angelic. Also, congratulations on that amazing new stage which can now accommodate larger productions.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> I attended a Kiwanis Executive meeting followed by our regular club meeting. Thank you Councillor Valiquette for representing Council at the Legion’s D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Memorial Anniversary celebration that same day. On the 7<sup>th</sup> I attended a four hour virtual symposium on “Building for Growth: Housing and Infrastructure for an Expanding Nation”.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> Chuck and I walked in the Belleville Pride Parade proudly carrying the Municipality of Tweed banner. We were also joined by TJ Best and Hastings County supporters Christine

McLean, Andrew Redden and Jordon White. There were well over 200 in the parade. It was a wonderful day. That evening we enjoyed the Lions Club pork dinner.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> I was honoured to represent the Municipality at the 385 Hastings & Prince Edward Regiment Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ceremonial Inspection. I am grateful for all that our Legion does to support these cadets and for all that those cadets do for our community.

On June 6<sup>th</sup> our aging infrastructure dealt us another blow. The Queensborough bridge is deteriorating faster than we hoped. I shared the following statement with Katherine Sedgwick who posted it on the Queensborough Facebook page: "We share your concern on the impact that this bridge announcement has on the residents of Queensborough and the surrounding area. The various concerns that you site form the basis of our continuous yet fruitless lobbying of both the federal and provincial governments for funds to assist with repairs/replacement of our crumbling infrastructure. I am grateful that our Public Works Manager was visiting the bridge for a second time in an effort to do some maintenance when the crew noticed that the bridge was deteriorating faster than we had hoped. He immediately brought in an engineer for a review of the bridge's structural integrity. Their report instructed us to immediately lower the tonnage capacity. Our immediate concern is to ensure the safety of the residents. We will be looking at all options in our concerted effort to find a solution This particular bridge was number 5 on our list of main bridges that required attention. It has now moved to number one. Thank you for your patience in this regard." We will be discussing the matter further during the Public Works Manager's report.

Yesterday I was advised that someone cut down and stole our pride flag. I am hoping that this was done by someone passing through our community not from within our community, especially in light of my comments at the summit where I shared how accepting this Municipality has been of Chuck and me as a gay couple. Happy to report that an older pride flag has been raised as we await a new more inclusive version.

Back to the Teeny Tiny Summit. I was honoured to open the summit with greetings from the Municipality of Tweed which provided me with an opportunity to highlight all that this community has to offer to young and old alike. Later that morning I participated on a panel titled "Fostering Belonging in Teeny Tiny Places". Joining me were Samantha Harris, owner of Our Neighbour's Farm and Coordinator for Harvest Hastings, and Judith Burfoot, founder of All Welcome Here from PEC. We shared our stories and perspectives as to how our communities can support the creation of nurturing and inclusive environments where all are welcome. I thank Councillors Valiquette and Flieler for attending the Summit. I also want to extend a huge thank you to Rachelle Hardesty and Cindy Chow for their efforts to promote and stage this event. You each can add another feather to your cap!

Now to the guest speaker, Peter Kenyon, who came all the way from Australia to share "What it takes to Build Great Communities". Peter spoke to: building proactive and shared leadership; building a positive community mindset; cultivating a healthy community and implementing initiatives that support a healthy and enterprising local economy including local economic ownership. Peter's presentation was absolutely stimulating, stirring the creative genius of all in attendance. His positive mindset and illuminating examples of what can be done in small rural communities was beyond inspiring. Peter is a firm believer that the entire community must rally together because the only way we can survive is by being champions of our own destiny. We can no longer rely on higher levels of government for assistance. Their focus in on the larger urban centers where the majority of voters live. This has been our own experience as well. As of today we focus on what will make our municipality great and how do we get there. This will require that we all pull together looking at creative solutions to some colossal challenges. I will continue to challenge the provincial and federal governments for our share of the financial pie. However, I will no longer let their lack of support consume me with unbridled negativity. From here on in I will embrace a positive attitude as I, this Council, staff and residents become change agents creating a community that is prosperous, inclusive, vibrant and engaged. This would be my greatest learning from Peter Kenyon.

As Margaret Mead once said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has." We embark on a journey that is fraught with peril but with perseverance and commitment, and all of us rowing in the same direction, we will reach a destination that will be the envy of small rural Ontario.

### **Notice of Motion - Proposed Zoning By-law Amendment**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council updates the current zoning to allow and specify the use of mobile homes as a primary or secondary residence with the RU and RR zones; AND FURTHER THAT said usage will be in compliance with the Ontario Building Code.**

- This is not yet passed and will be considered by Council later this year -

**Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance 25th Anniversary**

**E.O.T.A. General Manager Cindy Cassidy was presented a certificate recognizing the 25th Anniversary of the Eastern Ontario Trails Alliance.**

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