

Mayor's Blog - December 2016

December 10

Guilty! I have neglected this blog and can only plea business. I don't remember a month with more meetings and events to attend than this last one. Walker hosted two meetings recently. As always I heard many criticisms about material presented but I learned a few things - not necessarily from the presentations but from answers to questions asked and comments made. Sometimes I think people are so bent on finding fault that they miss the opportunity to find the knowledge that can be gained. I have had several bad experiences lately in connection with our fight against the landfill. People are deliberately using quotes completely out of context in order to promote their views at the expense of someone else's reputation. Certainly I am learning to just listen to discussions rather than joining into them....but that has to be a loss in this very complicated and difficult fight.

The announcement about the Maple Leaf (Cold Springs) closure came as a surprise early one morning. My first thoughts were for the employees and the emotions they must be feeling. Interestingly there have been calls from companies looking for employees and many others offering many kinds of assistance. We are most fortunate to have Bernia Wheaton as our Economic Development staff person. She was working in Perth County when Campbell's closed in Listowel so has much experience with a very similar incident and is already well into a plan to not only help the workers being let go but even to begin contacting potential new businesses to consider locating here. It is not all bad news and I am hoping we can make some positive announcements in the near future.

Budget deliberations are ongoing at the Township and County as well as meetings of EARTH Corporation. Every year we face the same problem of so many potential projects but so little money. I look for you for ideas as to what things you value most and where you think money could be saved.

Emergency Management continues to grow in importance. Several Staff and Council members attended a day long training event in Norwich recently. Trainers go to a great deal of trouble planning these events and they are usually very worthwhile.

Many of you will be pleased to learn that Clerk Karen Martin has returned to Zorra. We are very pleased to have her back and hope things do not get too stressful. She is particularly conscientious and gives Council great confidence that things are getting done and "everything is under control". Welcome back, Karen.