



Council News & Notes

From Wednesday, December 14, 2022

Upcoming Meetings

Capital Budget Meeting

January 9th 1 pm

Council Meeting

January 12th 9 am

Regular Council Meeting

Budget Meeting

January 18th 1 pm

Regular Council Meeting

Council Meeting

January 25th 6 pm

Regular Council Meeting

[View Calendar >>](#)

Mayors' Message

It has been a rather hectic three weeks with training and information sessions and festive events. Rest assured that when I talk about how busy it has been, many around this table have attended the same events. You have a community-engaged Council.

I attended the County National Housing Day on November 23rd followed by an Enterprise Facilitation Board Meeting that evening. On the 24th I attended Warden Rick Phillips' Farewell Celebration in Tyendinaga followed by the Belleville General Hospital Foundation Board meeting that evening. On the 25th I participated in the day long AMO Head of Council Training but not before raising our "Wrapped in Courage" flag with fellow Councillors in support of "End Gender Based Violence" on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

On November 29th I attended the Hastings Council Orientation Session with our first County Council meeting held on December 1, where Stirling Mayor Bob Mullin was elected as our new County Warden. A big thank you to Marmora and Lake Mayor Jan O'Neill who also ran for that position. We look forward to working closely with Warden Mullin over these next two years.

I was honoured to attend the opening of Festival of Trees as your Mayor. Local businesses, services groups and residents supported this year's "Deck the Halls" theme with an array of Christmas lights and Christmas bling like none other. It was a spectacle to behold. Council is grateful for all that the Festival does in supporting the youth of our community. They have raised an astounding \$250K over 17 years not including funds raised in 2022.

On Friday evening I attended the Tweed & Area Chamber of Commerce "Snow Flakes & Shopping" event which saw downtown businesses welcoming local residents well into the evening. Drinks, hot dogs and Christmas cheer were in abundance.

On December 3rd we held our annual Santa Clause Parade not without some disconcerting conversations with fellow Councillors and event planners on whether or not

to proceed due to the inclement weather unfolding that day. We unanimously decided to proceed and the weather co-operated as we moved from a soggy start to a clearing sky. Thank you to Rachele and her team for arranging the parade and for all the groups and businesses who participated.

Following the Parade I attended the "More than a Christmas Market" sponsored by the Land O'Lakes Curling Club, the Lion's Club "Christmas Craft Sale" and the Tweed & Area Heritage Center "Artist and Artisan Sale". There were so many activities that day sponsored by local business and community groups. Thank you all for keeping the spirit of Christmas alive and well in our festive Municipality.

On December 6th a number of us attended the OPP Billing information Session. That evening I made my way to Centre Hastings to celebrate the San Damiano Foundation's 25th Anniversary with a lovely turkey dinner. This Foundation is also responsible for our Tweed Youth Center. Following dinner I attended the opening of the Tweed & Company hilarious panto "Cinder-Ellie". On December 7th I was interviewed by Zac McKibbon, Quinte News, about our upcoming Tornado Town Hall.

I was unable to attend our Municipal Christmas Party due to a nasty cold. I heard rave reviews about what a wonderful evening it was. Thank you to the party organizers as well as to Deputy Mayor Jamie DeMarsh for stepping in as the evening's host and awarding plaques of dedication & appreciation to Mayor Jo-anne Albert and Deputy Mayor Brian Treanor for their many years of service. Also thank you to Deputy Mayor DeMarsh for representing the Municipality at the Madoc Sports Shooter Christmas Party held at the White Building. I have heard from a number of attendees of how well you represented our Municipality with your kind words of welcome.

I would also like to thank Councillor Palmateer for attending a Tornado Storm Relief cheque presentation which was at the same time as our Santa Clause Parade. These funds were from a fundraiser put on by the Municipality of Centre Hastings and the Frankford Huskies Hockey Club. The hockey game was to raise money for Tornado relief in the affected municipalities of Madoc, Marmora and Lake, and Tweed.

We hosted our Tornado Town Hall. As your Council, it was our desire to provide a forum for those impacted by the tornado to air their heartfelt stories of grief, loss, anguish, anger and fears. It was a remarkable evening. We pledge to use this information in the preparation of our ministerial delegation presentations in our effort to get you the funding you desperately need to assist with the clean-up after this wave of destruction. As a community we stand together.

In closing, your Council wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with much love, happiness, good health and many exciting adventures.

Tweed & Area Arts Council

Margot Collins and Vicki McCulloch, Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Tweed & Area Arts Council, attended the Meeting to provide an update on their new Strategic Plan and direction/activities moving forward following the transfer of the Marble Arts Centre to Tweed & Company Theatre. They also advised that they wished to submit a request for funds from the 2023 municipal budget for coordinated advertising for local arts groups.

Tweed Music Festivals Inc.

Lisa LeSage and other members of Tweed Music Festivals Inc. attended the Meeting to advise Council the Tweed Elvis Festival would not be going forward again. The reasons cited by the group were that the core group responsible for the event had basically run out of steam as it takes over a year to organize. They also advised that as the years have gone by they have experienced a lack of volunteers for the event. Another reason was the increased costs related to

official licensing. They thanked all of the sponsors for the prior events held over the past 12 years. The organization will be planning for smaller music events and more music events throughout the year going forward.

The Mayor and Council Members thanked the organization for their hard work over the years in bringing the Tweed Elvis Festival to residents and visitors and wished them every success in bringing more music events to our Municipality.

Municipal Insurance

Debra Murphy of Intact Public Entities and Ryan Jarrell of McDougall Insurance attended the Meeting to discuss the renewal of the Municipality of Tweed Insurance Program effective December 31, 2022. Proposed increases to various deductibles were discussed aimed at reducing the annual premium. Following discussion it was agreed that there would be no change to the deductibles as presented in the renewal documents.

Tender- Stairway Exits Hungerford Hall & Municipal Office

Council awarded the concrete stair replacements on the Hungerford Hall North Entrance and Administration Building Central South Entrance to Veenstra Contracting at the tendered price of \$54,500. plus HST with a completion date of June 1, 2023.

Quinte Conservation Shoreline Stewardship Program

Council approved the request for \$5,000. to support the Quine Conservation - Shoreline Stewardship Program.

Community Development Strategic Vision and Direction Task Force

Council approved the final [Community Development Strategic Vision and Direction: Assessment, Engagement, & Recommendations Report as presented by 13 Ways, Inc.](#); Council also approved the establishment of a Community Development Strategic Vision & Direction Task Force.

Emergency Management Program and Emergency Response Plan By-law

Council passed [By-law 2022-74](#) to Adopt an Emergency Management Program and Emergency Response Plan and to Meet Other Requirements Under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.

Natural Gas Price Resolution

Council passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the price of natural gas is critical to the day-to-day cost of living for many residents of Ontario;
AND WHEREAS the price of natural gas plays a large role in establishing a competitive business climate;
AND WHEREAS some residents in Ontario consistently experience higher natural gas bills that are a result of transporting fuel and forecasted pricing models;
AND WHEREAS the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) has the authority to regulate natural gas prices;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the Municipality of Tweed hereby petitions the Ontario Energy Board to regulate natural gas bill costs to levels that are affordable and profitable as in jurisdictions within Ontario that have lower costs;
AND FURTHER, that Council directs the Clerk to ensure that a copy of this Resolution be provided to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Energy, all Ontario Municipalities (for support), the Ontario Energy Board, Enbridge Gas Inc., and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
AND FURTHER, that all Resolutions of support received by the Municipality of Tweed be submitted to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) and Enbridge Gas Inc.

Alzheimer Month Proclamation

Council proclaimed January 2023 as National Alzheimer Awareness Month.

Power Boat Races 2023

Council approved the request from The Toronto Outboard Racing Club Inc. to host their season opening race at Tweed Memorial Park from June 9 to 11, 2023.

