



# Council News & Notes

From Tuesday, November 22, 2022

## Upcoming Meetings

**Council Meeting**  
December 14  
9 am

Regular  
Council Meeting

[View Calendar >>](#)

## Mayors' Message

I would like to begin by thanking the Manager of Public Works and his team for seeing us through an extreme weather event. With snowfalls from 12-24 inches across the municipality you no doubt were extremely busy. Thank you for keeping us safe.

I met with Michael O'Keeffe as a member of the Moira Place Advisory Committee. They have been struggling to retain nurses and have had to rely heavily on agencies for staffing. Michael also noted that they have a wide variety of positions available and interested parties should contact Moira Place to see if there is an employment opportunity that may be of interest to you.

I attended the sold out performance of Sean McCann at the MAC. We are so fortunate to have a vibrant theatre company in our community. Be sure to secure your ticket for their up-coming family friendly panto of Cinder-Ellie at the MAC from December 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>. I was surprised to hear the other night that this show has only sold 170 tickets in Tweed and over a 1000 in Bancroft. Now come on Tweed we can't let Bancroft outshine us...Also, Tweed & Co are hoping local schools will consider the student matinees. I heard that six schools in the Bancroft area are participating.

The fun starts next week with the Festival of Trees, the Santa Claus Parade, All Dressed for Christmas, the Curling Club Christmas Market, the Lions Christmas Craft Show; and there is more with the Chamber Christmas Light Contest, and the Lions Toy Drive and then How Great Our Joys – The Carols of Christmas at St. Andrews on December 11th and I have probably left out a whack of events. Like I have said before, the Municipality of Tweed puts the Merry in Christmas.

I met with our MPP Ric Bresee who afforded me an hour and a half of his time. We touched upon many subjects including healthcare, new housing development including community and retirement housing, and the devastating aftermath of the July Tornado. I truly believe he is trying to lobby on our behalf but I am afraid at this time the provincial government doesn't want to hear the message. I advised MPP Bresee that the Municipality of Tweed Council and the residents of our community are not going to let this rest and it could get quite nasty. I also reached out to our MP Shelby Kramp Neuman on October 14<sup>th</sup> and received an email on October 19<sup>th</sup> noting that our MP was extremely busy and would a phone call suffice. I am still waiting for an opportunity to touch base with our MP. At some point I would like both to visit Council.

Regarding the Tornado, I am announcing that the Municipality of Tweed will be hosting its first Town Hall on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Tweed Hungerford Agricultural Building. This will be an opportunity to invite those impacted to share their stories, their pictures, their nightmares and for our community as a whole to work on identifying the next steps. This meeting will be streamed and captured as a YouTube video so that it can be shared widely. This will be an information gathering exercise which will help us further formulate our response to the lack of response by both the federal and provincial governments. All members of Council have been

invited but this will not be an official Council meeting so no decisions will be made. Our goal is to be a strong compelling voice in unison with our community and neighbours as we fight the injustices of both the federal and provincial governments as they turn their back on those in desperate need. We will use this information and the stories to assist with the development of our delegations to the various ministries. We will invite the media including TV stations and local newspapers to cover the Town Hall. Invitations will be sent out next week to those who live within the path of the tornado. We will also advertise the Town Hall in our local newspaper, on our social media, and web feeds. We will also invite both our MP and MPP to attend as well as Quinte Conservation and any other body that has a stake in ensuring the peace of mind of our residents.

### Quinte Conservation

Quinte Conservation CAO Brad McNevin made a presentation to Council regarding the 2023 Fee Policy and Fee Schedules. Council asked questions of Mr. McNevin about the user fee structure.

### Committees of Council

Council directed staff to reach out to current members for willingness to continue serving and advertising only for vacancies. A By-law to establish Committees will be considered by Council in early 2023.

### Ministry of Transportation of Ontario - Crosswalk

Council did not approve the Victoria and River St. intersection as a suitable candidate for a pedestrian crossing as it was not recommended as an appropriate location by the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario.

### Vacancy Tax Rebate - Retail Buildings

A Notice of Motion from Deputy Mayor DeMarsh to end the practice of providing tax rebates for vacant or partially vacant retail buildings effective January 1, 2023 was passed by Council. The ability to introduce a vacancy tax will be examined further by staff.

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