



# Council News & Notes

From Tuesday, July 11, 2023

## Upcoming Meetings

**Council Meeting**  
*August 8 9 am*

Regular  
Council Meeting

[View Calendar >>](#)

## Mayors' Message

On June 28<sup>th</sup> I hosted a dinner meeting at my home for the Hastings County Enterprise Facilitation Network Board. Christine McLean, our Small Business Co-ordinator, brought us up to speed on what is happening with regional businesses as well as presenting the new tool kit for small business support. Immediately following the meeting I was off to the Marble Arts Centre to take in the hilarious Tweed & Company Pride Event.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> I participated in the Hastings County Council Meeting and the Tweed Planning Committee Meeting the next day.

On July 1<sup>st</sup> I was joined by Deputy Mayor DeMarsh and Councillors Flieler and Valiquette as we marched in the parade with many revellers and beautiful floats. We all attended a number of wonderful events throughout the day. Special thanks to all those who made this day of celebration happen including: Riley Lindsay for singing O' Canada; the Tweed Music Festival for marshalling the parade; our sponsors - Celebrate Canada Heritage Fund, Hawkins Cheezies, Don Woods Fuels, Palmateer Meats and the Tweed Legion. A very special thank you to all of our volunteers who helped with the festivities and the members of the Tweed Fire Department for everything they do. Thank you to Rachelle and her Team for another amazing event: Lori, Kate and Mitchell.

On July 2<sup>nd</sup> I officially opened the Lions Club Music in the Park for what is sure to be another wonderful season. As Chair of the EFN Board, I attended the Farm Girl business opening in Stirling on the 4<sup>th</sup> and then again as the Chair and Mayor for Samantha Harris's Our Neighbour's Farm in Thomasburg on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Also on July 6<sup>th</sup> I had a conference call with Quan Tan, Q&E Engineering and Charles Collin, point person for the Queensborough Community Hall restoration re:finishing the floors. It was determined that we should proceed with applying the sealant at this time.

On July 7<sup>th</sup> I met with Evan Morton, Curator of the Tweed & Area Heritage Centre. We had a wonderful conversation on the future of the Heritage Center and how the Historical Society and the Municipality could partner together. Council is grateful that Evan has gifted his 50% share of the Heritage Center to the Historical Society. That move has bought us time. As Evan and I discussed, earlier negotiations were rushed and based on emotion. We both want an agreement that is well thought out; one that will stand the test of time and future Councils. We now have time to do our due diligence before we proceed; we have time to investigate other municipal/museum partnerships; we have time to complete a proper asset evaluation to determine the condition of the centre and develop a maintenance plan; time to identify roles and responsibilities as well as the make-up of a governing board; time to prepare an agreement that protects the interests of both governing bodies and the residents of this municipality; time to identify a dispute resolution /mediation process; time to develop operating policies.

We must remember that Council, as policy makers, are not spending our own money, we are purveyors of the public purse, and when it comes to substantial investments, we need to be wise in our deliberations. We need to be prudent. This will be a major commitment and investment by this Municipality. One that I fully support. However, we need to know what we are getting into; why we are doing it; what is in it for the community which will help us sell the investment; how we are going to participate; how much it is going to cost, etc. There are many questions for which we need answers. This could be an amazing partnership.

My last event for the week was attending the hysterical play Murder at Akerton Manor staged by Tweed & Company Theatre at the MAC. Been a long time since I laughed that hard. It now makes its way to the Bancroft Village Playhouse.

In closing I want to thank Council for their support and for believing in this community.

### Sign By-law Update

Council received the staff request to revisit Sign By-law No. 2005-41 and Council authorized staff to prepare an amendment for sign By-law No. 2005-41 to address abandoned signs.

### Tweed Public Library Board Request for Resolution

Council received a request from the Tweed Public Library Board to pass a resolution urging the Province to recognize the contributions of local libraries within their communities and to cease the 26-year budget freeze to local libraries in an acknowledgement to the services they offer to all residents, and that appropriate funding each year going forward align with the rate of inflation. Mayor DeGenova will be writing a letter of support to push this request forward with the Province of Ontario.