

REEVE'S OPENING REMARKS April 14/08

1. It's my distinct pleasure this evening to recognize one of our very own employees, Mr. Don Throop who has been a member of our roads crew for some 35yrs. On the recommendation of John Simcock our Roads Supt, the Ontario Goods Roads Association has recognized Don for his service and dedication to the municipality. Although Don didn't make it to Toronto, I managed to pick up his plaque and tonight with the assistance of John we are delighted to make this presentation. Donnie, on behalf of this Council and the residents of Augusta, please accept this Certificate for you to enjoy. Congratulation and God Bless you as working together we can make a difference.
2. I would like to welcome and thank the reps from Prescott Journal, Mr. Blake McKim and Mr. Nick Gardiner of the Recorder and Times for their presence tonight.
3. Secondly it is with honourable appreciation that on behalf of Augusta Council, I welcome the grade 5 classes from Maynard Public School with their teacher, Mrs. Massey and parents. Thank you for coming tonight. Council has a lengthy agenda but we will try not to make the proceedings to boring. As a follow-up of my visit to your school on March 7th, you will now appreciate my emphasis on RESPECT. Enjoy your visit with us as we treasure your presence.
4. As previously referred to at the Committee of the Whole, Council on March 25, 2008, I had the opportunity of attending a workshop on Railroad Safety sponsored by Transport Canada at Rockport on March 18, 2008. since the mainline of CNR and Via travels through Augusta, we have several very busy and potentially dangerous crossings; it is important to keep informed of all safety issues.
5. The UCLG Warden Pickard and myself attended the District 8 Road Supervisor's meeting in Toledo on March 19, 2008.
6. On March 26 Councillor Banning, our CAO Mr. Bennett and myself participated in a Budget discussion with Augusta Fire Dept. officers and brought forth their numbers for our Township budget discussions on March 27.
7. On Friday March 28, 2008 Councillor Banning and myself were present at the Port of Johnstown re: the wood research and development initiative. This was a very informative and optimistic exercise which in my opinion will need multiple participants to reach its potential.
8. Our Eco Dev Committee continues to be very active. This committee has endorsed a slight modification to the new Township logo and will be seeking funding for improvements to our website and promotion materials. When this Committee report comes forward, I will be asking Councillor Pakeman for an update on the "A".

9. Not to be lost in our busy schedules is the hard fought effort on behalf of Augusta Township schools, being waged by Councillor Swan and I'm sure she will update us with her committee report.
10. We all now are aware that the UCLG budget discussions have passed the Committee stage and I expect a approval by-law will be presented to Counties Council on April 17, 2008. at present it is anticipated that the Counties levy will rise by 2%.
11. The next step of Augusta's budget discussions took place on April 9, 2008 with the focus on our audit and the Roads study and opportunities. Following our failure to receive any monies whatsoever on the municipal III infrastructure investment initiative. Monies from the Province (the \$750,000 application for roads support) as of the closing on March 28, 2008. I followed up with several phone calls on March 28, 2008 to both our Provincial and Federal representatives. By that night, we received word that the MTO had approved a 2008 Municipal Road and Bridge Investment program allocating \$519,370.00 to the Township of Augusta, Halleluiah! This is money desperately needed by us and will be well used I can assure you. A By-law is being presented this evening relating to this issue. When these monies are received and applied it is my sincere recommendation to Council that the Province of Ontario, MTO be clearly recognized for their assistance in our projects. Similarly I trust Council will authorize the sign purchase to acknowledge the federal gas tax contribution.
12. Beginning April 8, 2008 the Township Council Chamber was the scene of the OMB hearings relating to the Augusta Zoning By-law amendment as it pertained to the "wheels a churnin" location. An adjournment of these proceedings was granted to re-commence September 22, 2008 here in the Council Chambers. Further deliberations will be need by Council to deal with the OMB's guidelines.
13. Augusta Firefighters held their annual pancake supper at the North Augusta Fire Hall on Saturday April 5 with an excellent turnout and great food.
14. April 10, 2008 North Grenville hosted a "Energy from Waste" presentation to which I was invited and received some very informative knowledge.
15. At our last regular Council meeting, I had added the information re: Addition to the Reeve's office hours to include the addition of one evening per month ie. The 3rd Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Township office. I will be here tomorrow evening April 15, 2008. The door is always open and I welcome your queries. A recent review of the Township contract with the OPP confirmed our municipality has a credit of \$95,000 carried over from 2007's police operations. This sum will be applied to the 2008 contract which incidentally is up for negotiations this year. More information will be forthcoming as negotiations