

REEVE'S OPENING REMARKS FOR DECEMBER 8, 2008

1. We are always thankful for the press to attend our Council Meetings and to have public in our gallery.
2. On November 12th I had the opportunity to visit Maynard Public School and present a report on local government to a combined grade 5 class. I believe it was a learning experience for both the students and myself. The students and Mr. Delaney had some great questions and were exceptionally keen. Mrs. Deacon, the school principal was also very supportive.
3. Although our scheduled presentation at Maynard School regarding Internet Fraud and Identity Theft had to be cancelled due to the speaker, an OPP detective being called away on other duties, I anticipate that this important presentation will be re-scheduled for early 2009.
4. November 13th marked a significant exercise in Emergency Planning. This mock exercise took place at the Augusta Public Library and was organized by our Emergency Planner, Lindsay Penney. Participants included our township fire chief, deputy, OPP health unit, counties, emergency rep, our CAO, Deputy Treasurer and CBO with support of Councillor Banning. A preparation worthwhile indeed. Thank you all.
5. Meetings at the UCLG continue on a regular schedule. In addition I have the opportunity to be involved in several procedural by-law discussions with the final draft soon to be ready for adoption. It is my contention that the Township by-law needs updated and I understand staff is currently working on this.
6. In view of the current economic uncertainty and in accordance with our responsibility to be frugal with Augusta taxpayer's money, I am recommending a review of mileage compensation for council and employees.
7. It is with pride we officially recognize Augusta Firefighter Penny Byrd-Warner for her dedication and service in a life saving incident. As well Melissa St. John, Marie Riopelle and Tanya deVries from Riopelle's Store in North Augusta for the very observant quick thinking action that resulted in the arrest of two scam artists involved in a fraudulent stamp scheme. All of these individuals were duly recognized in Ottawa at a citation and long service awards ceremony by the OPP and St. Johns Ambulance for their valiant and successful efforts. We thank each of them immensely for their unselfish courage. There were in excess of 400 at their ceremony.

8. As a follow up to comments made in this chambers regarding the playground equipment at Algonquin Public School, in conversation with David Thomas, Director of Education for the UCDSB, a decision has not been finalized as to the future of that property. We will be kept in the loop of any new developments. Further, I will be recommending to Council at our next Admin and Finance meeting a request to the UCDSB related to the disposition of the Maitland Public School property.

9. As the holiday season approaches, I wish to express my sincere wishes to all residents of Augusta for a safe and happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please enjoy the season. I am looking forward to 2009 with vigor and joint co-operation as we move forward during these extraordinary times.