

REEVE'S OPENING REMARKS FOR JULY 14, 2008

1. Subsequent to the rash of road sign thefts in Augusta, our CAO and myself have had an extensive discussion with the Prescott OPP. I am suggesting Council consider the following;
 - a. Offer a \$25.00 reward for Township road signs returned to the municipal office in re-usable condition.
 - b. Offer a \$150.00 reward to anyone supplying information leading to a conviction for theft of a sign in Augusta. The information can be supplied anonymously through Crime Stoppers if the informant so wishes.
 - c. The OPP will be much more vigilant regarding these thefts and I am asking Council to endorse the proposal of requesting legislation in the Province of Ontario to suspend the driver's license of anyone involved in the theft of road signs in this Province.
 - d. Give notice to residents in our area that any family member who comes home with unusual stains on their clothing, should immediately contact the township office because of suspicion that individual may have been involved in the theft of road signs.
 - e. With the intense co-operation of all including youth residents and police, it is my belief that we can curtail this senseless sign stealing before someone is seriously injured or worse.
2. On Thurs., July 3, 2008 at 11:00AM, a number of churches in Augusta participated in the ringing of the bells to acknowledge the 400th Anniversary of Quebec City. This invitation was extended by myself on behalf of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and I personally wish to thank all who joined in in this special event. With the assistance of an area teacher who provided me with a classroom bell used in North Augusta and Algonquin schools; I too was able to take part at our township office by ringing this auspicious bell.
3. As a follow-up of our last Committee of the Whole a resolution has been prepared with the intention of forwarding to ROMA and AMO for circulation regarding fair compensation for land owners who have or maybe impacted by recently passed legislation covering the Species at Risk, Nutrient Management and Clean Water Acts. It is my opinion and I trust that also of Council, that this issue of compensation is a Provincial responsibility and needs to be addressed at that level. On Thursday July 11, 2008 the UCLG Council unanimously supported our position.
4. The Think Tank session held on June 24, 2008 was I believe, a very worthwhile endeavor and it is my observation that subsequent consultation with staff will prove fruitful.

5. A complete reversal of a staff recommendation at the UCLG has resulted in the decision to retain the Land Division Committee which is responsible for the approval of land severances. However, I am quick to point out that a new version of appointments to that Committee is expected to be forthcoming. This entire subject continues to be under review.
6. Noteworthy, discussion at the UCLG is expected to establish a policy of parking alongside County roads.
7. a very important decision was made at the UCLG last Thursday regarding the living of two new persons to conduct the Eco. Div. portfolio for the counties. I see this as a very bold initiative to kick-start a renewal process of economic encouragement in Leeds-Grenville. With the joint support of our township eco-dev committee, I am optimistic of some tangible results for Augusta.
8. The first weekend of July, gave our Dep. Reeve Doug, the opportunity to participate in the 50th Anniversary celebration at South Grenville District High School. I thank you Doug for your active involvement on our behalf.