

Reeve's remarks for May 12/08

1. Good evening everyone; On behalf of your Council, it is humble appreciation that upon receipt of an invitation from MERC, we are assembled here to conduct the regular meeting of your municipal affairs. Each of us at this table thank you for this opportunity to share the Township's business in this fine facility and to the best of my knowledge this maybe a first of its kind in Maitland.
2. The attendance of the media from Prescott Journal and Recorder & times is always welcome and we appreciate their interest.
3. Since our April 14/08 regular meeting of Council in Maynard chambers, a number of issues have come to the forefront and been dealt with including:
 - a) As Chair of the UCLG P.O.A. and Public Works as well as a Counties rep on the Health Unit Board, it gives me the opportunity to express the concerns of Augusta ratepayers and I continue to exercise that right with your guidance and support.
 - b) After several meetings attended by Council with staff and following the auditor's report tonight on the state of Augusta's finances, I expect the passing of the Township 2008 budget. Our CAO Mr. Bennett will outline the highlights and explain the tax levy.
 - c) This evening we are supported by Mr. Brian Huels, the MIS (Municipal Information Systems) manager for UCLG who will make a presentation regarding Broadband initiative encouraged by the Counties.
4. A R.F.P. to explore planning opportunities for our Township resulted in a Committee of Councillor Banning, Planning Administrator Linda Robinson and myself, submitting a recommendation to Council to consider the appointment of a new consulting firm STANTEC from Ottawa. This company will advise the Council and Staff on an Official Plan update and accompanying zoning by-law. The active participation of all residents is very important and I encourage everyone with an interest in the future of our municipality, to be involved in the process. I expect a number of public meetings and consultations will take place through this initiative. An ad-hoc steering committee of community volunteers has been named to assist with public input and you will be kept informed of each step along the way.
5. As the result of the sudden resignation and departure of our Roads Supt. Your Council met to consider our options. I believe we are very fortunate to have been offered the gesture of a neighbour to assist Augusta through this year's construction season. A by-law is being presented tonight securing the services of a part time consultant. Council will evaluate this experience and examine all opportunities available to us as we move forward together. Your patience is important and we will keep you abreast of any new developments.

6. Councillor Pakeman offered to examine the 911 issue and is bringing forth a report tonight on that subject. Thanks Bill for your time and suggestions.
7. Councillor Swan continues to be active on the Boundary 20/20 process particularly as it involves our children and schools. We look forward to her report.
8. On Tuesday April 29, 2008 Augusta Council hosted a training session at the Maynard Council room to discuss the proper procedural apparatus as it relates to "In Camera" sessions, the conduct of Councillors and good governance we also reviewed. This session was conducted under the guidance of Carol Church and Penny Charmon from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Kingston office upon invitation from Augusta Council.
9. Mayor Bill Gooch of North Grenville hosted a 416 Economic Corridor meeting on Friday May 2, 2008. Neighbouring mayors, MP Brown, MMP Runciman and several Provincial ministry officials attended along with yours truly. The end result effectively created a steering committee of area municipal CAO's to pursue as action plan to investigate all possibilities and especially as it relates to a "Green" corridor. This profile is in its infancy; however I believe Augusta should be involved to explore opportunities for our community and our neighbours because it is my belief that working together we can make a difference.
10. Two important meetings are on tap which I intend to participate
 - a) Municipal Drain Saturday May 31, 2008 @ Manotick
 - b) Essential of Municipal Fire Protection June 10, 2008
11. A very important presentation is organized by our Township Eco Dev Committee under our Opportunity Knocks format. This small business seminar takes place at the Maynard office on Wednesday May 28, 2008 from 7 – 9 PM and will discuss Health & Safety. This will be another great opportunity for anyone interested in this subject to attend this free presentation. It is my sincere belief that "Working together we can make a difference"!
12. Since taking office, I have, with one exception and that by error at the end of each regular Council meeting opened the floor for any comments from the gallery. By this approach apparently I have not followed the procedural by-law and I apologize for that. Some members of Council and staff have voiced their concerns, consequently beginning this evening I will discontinue that format. However, I am quick to remind everyone in the public gallery that I and other members of Council are definitely approachable following the meeting. In addition, I would remind everyone of my personal policy of being available in the office every Friday afternoon 1-4 with no appointment necessary as well as 6:30-8:30 on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Should

these hours be unacceptable to anyone from our Township please call the office and I will make every effort to accommodate your appointment. In any emergency I am as close as your phone.