

REEVE'S OPENING REMARKS FOR NOVEMBER 10, 2008

1. Good evening and welcome to the November regular meeting of Augusta Township Council.
2. We acknowledge and appreciate the attendance of the media thank you gentlemen.
3. Since our October Council Meeting, many meetings have taken the time of your representatives including:
 - a) MPAC presentations @ MERC Hall on Oct 16th and Roebuck Hall on Oct 23, 2008. These informative sessions were considered essential by staff – in an attempt to relay the message of the new property assessments which will come into effect beginning 2009 thru 2012. These new assessments will be phased in over the next 4 yrs. Your municipal council is well aware of the impact on property taxes and will take the challenge of maintaining a Revenue-Neutral position. I would however, emphasize that inflation and any reason for adjustments to the municipal tax rates will be explained thoroughly to the public at Budget time.
 - b) Three Open House sessions regarding the update to the Official Plan for Augusta have now been held. Sept 24th @ township Council Chambers, Oct 23rd @ Roebuck and Oct 30th @ MERC. This has been an opportunity for the public to review current updated Township mapping and discuss your personal concerns with staff from Stantec – the firm of planning consultants engaged by the Township. Besides staff and Council a group of volunteers sit on the ad-hoc committee in support of the Ag and Planning Committee – to review this ongoing process and encourage public input. I would also point out that the Province of Ontario mandates each municipality must update its OP every 5 yrs. Following approval by the Province of our new OP; the next stage of this exercise will be the significant challenge of re-writing a new version of our Zoning By-Law. Since this bylaw must be in accordance with the boundaries of the OP; again public consultation, your Township Council, staff and committees with the guidance of our Planning consultants Stantec – will tackle this onerous task – one step at a time – in order to achieve a document which is precise and as transparent as humanly possible.
 - c) Oct 23rd was a significant evening to recognize the efforts of Dreamers & Doers at Algonquin Library. Mr. Ron Shannon received a plaque to honour his unselfish dedication in the repair of Carpenters Cemetery following the 2007 vandalism. He continues to volunteer his expertise in the restoration of other cemeteries in Augusta. Similarly Glen and Shirley Kirkland were honoured for Glen's 51 years as a Augusta Volunteer Fire Dept and Shirley for her unwavering support. Council, staff and citizens alike congratulate each of you and express our sincere appreciation of your devotion.

- d) From Sunday Oct 26th thru 29th, I represented our Township with the UCLG at London, ON which was a conference for Counties and Single Tier (CRST) municipalities. I will be sharing with Council a copy of that report on the Augusta web-site, a summary of that conference.
4. Saturday November 1st was the commencement exercise at SGDHS and I was extended an invitation to bring forward Augusta's support for the graduates.
 5. This Wednesday November 12th I will be addressing a combined Grade 5 class at Maynard School about the reality of Municipal Government.
 6. On Wednesday November 19th our Augusta Eco Dev Committee is hosting a presentation by the OPP expressing concerns relating to "Identity Theft and Internet Fraud"! Please spread the word – Beware – Anyone who has a credit or debit card or in fact a interact card – this Presentation is very important for you to attend. **SPREAD THE WORD!!**

We anticipate a second presentation in January of 2009 on a different subject matter, so standby for further details.
 7. The 10th of December will be the inaugural meeting of Counties Council. With the encouragement of fellow Counties Councillors and support of my compatriots at Augusta Township Council and encouragement of our staff; I will be seeking the position of Warden for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. This is an election by my peers at UCLG and I will be seeking their endorsement.
 8. Council is encouraged to recommend public solicitation of volunteers to sit on Township committees for 2009 and this request should be publicized. Council's suggestion will be solicited prior to my presentation for endorsement.
 9. Work continues on our roads and brushing contracts and Deputy Barton will report on progress.
 10. In conclusion. It is great to have Councillor Pakeman back in our midst and feeling better.

In summary, on behalf of the residents of Augusta Township, I have forwarded a letter to the President Elect O Bama on his outstanding success in his recent election victory for the Presidency of the USA. As a proud neighbour and friend, I have on your behalf extended an invitation to visit our Township whenever time provides. Reflection on this historic election is a gentleman with oratorical superiority who has engaged the American populous in a voice for Democracy.