

REEVE'S OPENING REMARKS FOR DECEMBER 14, 2009

1. It is always a pleasure to recognize members of the media with us this evening. Our gallery is likewise the pulse of the community and I wish to welcome each of you here.
2. Tonight Mr. Steve Silver, the UCLG CAO and I will be presenting a report on the Counties activities. I personally wish to express my appreciation of Mr. Silver in his direction of the Counties operations as well as his personal guidance to myself during my 2009 term as Counties Warden.
3. Mr. Ray Edwards, Chair of Augusta Township Police Services Board, accompanied by board member Keith Robinson and supported by Insp. Paul Bedard OPP commander Grenville Detachment are here to present the OPP contract proposal for Augusta Township. Council is looking forward to their comments and recommendations.
4. Since our Last Council meeting, this Council and Staff have successfully completed the training legislated by the Province of Ontario to educate each of us and point out our individual and collective responsibility under AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act). We also completed the annual Township Emergency Plan exercise.
5. Marilyn and I were extremely pleased to be invited to the Royal Canadian Cadets 661 Squadron, annual Mess Dinner at the Prescott Legion on November 17, 2009. It was a great evening of good food, hospitality and the showcase of what Cadet training is all about plus the significant recognition achieved by these young men and women as they progress through the early stages of life. Their instructors volunteer many hours which instill acceptable behaviour and assist in creating career opportunities for the youth.
6. The UCLG Economic Development continues to host panel series on economic opportunities within the Counties. The latest forum on Tourism was held December 4/09 in Lansdowne, very well attended, with excellent speakers.
7. Last Wed, December 9/09 I relinquished my position as 2009 Counties Warden to Mayor Bill Thake, a legend in municipal politics for the past 48 successive years. I have expressed my steadfast support to his position and will continue to assist in anyway he so chooses. At this time, it gives me great pride to acknowledge the unwavering fortitude that members of Augusta Council and staff have afforded me during my term as Warden. Thank you all so very much.

8. The UCLG is spearheading a public housing re-generation development within Leeds and Grenville and this evening a presentation was made to Prescott where some very interesting proposals were made to their Council.
9. The refurbishing and expansion of the North Augusta Fire Hall are continuing on schedule. Council will need to decide the opportunity for a solar power project in conjunction with the Fire Hall renovations.
10. Earlier this evening I was privileged to accept on behalf of the Augusta Township, a very generous donation from Ontario Hydro towards improvements at the Maynard tennis courts and ball park site and we sincerely thank Hydro for their recognition of Augusta.
11. On Wed December 16/09, I will be presenting a brief to the UCDSB relating to the proposed Trustee Boundary changes and what Council perceives as significant challenges.
12. Our annual Augusta Council and Library Board meeting took place here on November 30/09. A number of items of mutual concerns were addressed including budget implications. As our Township budget deliberations continue we will endeavour to keep the library board abreast of significant concerns.
13. I want to take this opportunity to thank our Augusta Fire Department for their fine service over the past year and to point out to the residence living in the North Augusta area within 8km & 12km of the Fire Hall, which varies with insurance companies, that our teams of firefighters have successfully passed the accreditation for shuttle tanker certification which should entitle those residents to a reduced fire insurance premium and I would encourage everyone in that zone to approach their insurers for a lower rate. This is a very significant achievement.
14. Discussions at our pre-budget meeting entered around revenues and cost control. Council will decide by resolution on how it will confront the anticipated shortfalls and exactly what measures Council will impose on itself to curtail expenses.
15. Thank you. It is my honour on behalf of Augusta Council and staff to wish one and all a Very Merry Christmas and Happy, Prosperous 2010. We are looking forward to serving you even better in 2010.