

## REEVE'S OPENING REMARKS FOR JULY 13, 2009

1. As always it is Council's pleasure to have representatives of our local media at our Council meetings. In addition I would recognize members of the public gallery.
2. The NO. 1 item on my mind and I'm sure of fellow Council members is the local economic news and how will it effect our municipality? The Invista downsizing announced a few months ago, followed by the recent disclosure that Dyno Nobel will be curtailing production and scaling back staff as a direct result of the Invista decision. Our UCLG Economic Development staff have offered to assist in any way possible and hope to meet with Dyno Nobel management in the near future to discuss what opportunities are out there and how we may jointly work together to assist the company and the employees including their families in these challenging times. As more details become available, relating to these decisions involving our Industrial base in Augusta and we clearly understand the implications on our residents and other businesses, I will be asking Council and staff how we may strategically confront these challenges. On a positive note, I am confident, collectively, we are up to the task. It will not be easy, nor simple, but we have to face reality and take the necessary steps to find a balance. Doing nothing is not an option, we will need to work even more diligently to promote our assets and encourage investment in Augusta.
3. The UCLG duties continue to absorb a considerable amount of time including the Economic Summit in Kemptonville on June 12, 2009, discussions concerning the future of the Brockville Mental Health Centre and joining our neighbours from Prescott and Edwardsburgh-Cardinal at Grenville Park to bring greetings to participants in the Niagara-Quebec bicycle trail ride. On July 6<sup>th</sup> the Counties CAO Steve Silver and myself attended Athens Township Council meeting to promote and explain the UCLG budget and operations. We will continue these presentations with our next scheduled visit to Edwardsburgh-Cardinal on August 4, 2009.
4. Council and staff in conjunction with the Official Plan Ad Hoc Committee continues to meet and review the O.P amendments as well as receiving a copy of the new draft zoning bylaw. Discussions and dialogue will continue with our township planner Stantec on needs and concerns in Augusta, then a number of open Public meetings will be scheduled for our public participation and input. These meetings will be well advertised in advance.
5. This Thursday coming, July 16/09 at 7:00PM an open public meeting is scheduled for the North Augusta Community Hall to address the renovations and additions to the Fire Hall in North Augusta and I am looking forward to a good attendance.
6. The recent removal of playground equipment from Algonquin Public School away from that hamlet also concerns me, especially happening following my letter of inquiry regarding its status.