

## REEVE'S OPENING REMARKS FOR MARCH 9, 2009

1. As always, it is a pleasure to welcome our media reps and public alike in our gallery.
2. It is with pride and excitement that this evening Augusta Township is officially announcing the launch of Augusta's new website, logo and slogan. Council is very appreciative of the vision and energy that our CAO Economic Development Officer, Mr. Bennett in co-operation with the ED Committee and our staff, in the promotion of this new and bold vision to guide Augusta's future recognition as a Community of Opportunity. I personally with the recognition of Council wish to thank all of those involved in this enormous effort. I will now suspend my remarks and ask Mr. Bennett to roll out the good news.
3. Since our February Council meeting, reps from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, attended a joint meeting here with our staff and members of Edwardsburgh-Cardinal Council. MMAH personnel covered many topics including procedure, governance and in camera. We always learn and refresh our minds on municipal responsibilities.
4. Economic Development continues to be challenged with the current world situation; however our Township Committee and staff are dedicated to encouraging potential interested parties to share in our Township.
5. On Feb 17 Township Council and staff met with our Augusta Library Board and Librarian to discuss improvements in our joint communications and to gain a better understanding of library operations and Municipal responsibilities. We anticipate a yearly Township-Library meeting to review mutual interests.
6. Feb 19/09 was the beginning of our Township Budget exercise and further meetings will take place shortly and will be posted on our website.
7. Feb 22 – 25 inclusive, I had the opportunity to attend OGRA/ROMA in Toronto. There were some excellent papers presented – ranging from waste diversion, municipal drains, broadband incentives, etc. As warden of UCLG, I was privileged to attend several Caucus meetings re MPAC appeals, affordable housing, East Ontario Development Funding, OPP costing, regional broadband and the Prov – Municipal Roads – Bridges review which I personally had the pleasure of presenting at the all ministers forum.

Augusta was also represented by our CAO, Councillors Banning and Pakeman. Should any Council member, public or staff wish to review the EOWC presentation, I am most willing to make a report available.

8. The UCLG CAO Mr. Silver and I presented a paper on the new proposed Information and Communications Standards in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. This legislation has the potential of huge logistic and financial ramifications for small rural municipalities in the UCLG such as Augusta. Some of these regulations seem to be beyond our means and probably unnecessary. Any new provincial directions on this issue will be shared with Council, staff and the public.
  
9. I would be remiss if I did not point out the significant dedication of the Augusta Ball organization and recognize the sacrifices the executive of that group in the many hours they have devoted to the success of the Augusta Ball. Of particular notice is the fact that for 2009 all the Committee reps who govern Augusta Ball, have voluntarily offered their services without any remuneration this year and we thank them immensely for that unselfish gesture.