

REEVE'S OPENING REMARKS FOR NOVEMBER 9, 2009

1. As always, it is a pleasure to welcome members of the media representing the Prescott Journal and Recorder & Times. The public is likewise welcome in these Council chambers and we encourage your interest.
2. On Oct 25/09 I had the opportunity to visit TISS for 2 presentations on local government. Lesley Todd, the UCLG clerk accompanied me and Mayor Dave Henderson of Brockville joined us in the second class.
3. It was my pleasure to welcome and host the Warden's banquet in the fabulous Roebuck Hall on Oct 24th. That facility is a genuine gem in our Township, so well maintained and decorated. Of course, the meal was exceptional and naturally prepared by our very own Roebuck Women's Institute and the Order of the Eastern Star. My honour included Augusta Council and staff and I thank you for your support, especially this year as Counties Warden.
4. On Oct 29/09 our CAO Mr. Bennett, Councillor Banning and myself travelled to Kemptville to listen to a presentation presented by Intelivote. This company participated in 2006 Augusta elections by conducting the E (electronic) vote element. A recent declaration by the Government of Ontario suggests the Government intention is to move the Municipal elections earlier to Oct 25/10 and attach new guidelines outlining expenses and declarations. Although it seems early, Council will need to decide on the method or combination thereof on how to best accommodate our residents, the opportunity to vote and encourage their participation.
5. Last Monday, November 2nd, Council in co-operation with MERC, held an information meeting @ MERC Hall to learn about some options for the future use of the former Maitland School property. One proposition for consideration is a senior's complex. Other ideas may surface when we are able to analyze the questionnaires which were circulated that evening. We fully intend to release the results to the public and continue their involvement in the process of moving forward with a plan for that school property. The community input is crucial to the future interest in that site.
6. The recent announcement by the Province of Ontario in the recognition of a very worthy Augusta resident, in the name of Mr. Ron Shannon, as receiving an Ontario Seniors Achievement Award for his countless hours of unselfish dedication to the restoration of the vandalized Carpenters Cemetery and the more recent cleaning and refurbishing of Reads

Cemetery, both incidentally located in Augusta. Thanks Ron for your diligence and energy. An award so well deserved.

7. I would remind our citizens that Augusta Council minutes are found on our augusta.ca township website, as are my monthly remarks. Another reminder is that I continue to hold office hours every Friday afternoon and am also available at other times by appointment thru our Township Office, to discuss municipal business.
8. On Oct 13/09 in my remarks, I made reference to our reality check. Specifically in the anticipated challenges we face in view of the significant lay-offs in our Township, added to the insulting loss of provincial funding under the OMPF program. In order to address the shortfalls in anticipated revenues, Council has given notice of layoffs in our municipality and will be serving notice in all departments to control spending. Likewise, Council needs to be a leader and accept its fair share of the pain. Our CAO Mr. Bennett has suggested preliminary budget discussions should take place as early as November 2009 here in the Council chambers. I am forecasting another challenging year for Council and staff as we try to balance income expenses, while maintaining the high level of services which are expected and deserved by our taxpayers. Collectively, we must put our nose to the grindstone and preserve.