

Council Notes

MERRICKVILLE - WOLFORD

Council Contemplates Council Members Act as Mayor

Council is contemplating a change to the current system of a "Deputy Mayor" and is discussing changing the current process to allow all Council members the opportunity to be "Acting Mayor" should the need arise.

Under the present system, the Deputy Mayor is elected by Council from the Ward not represented by the Mayor to act as Mayor when the Mayor is absent or unable to attend events etc. There are no other duties assigned to the Deputy Mayor.

Currently, the Mayor is from the Merrickville ward therefore the Deputy Mayor is from the Wolford ward. If a Mayor is elected from the Wolford ward, the Deputy is from the Merrickville Ward. The deputy is elected at the first meeting of Council following the municipal election.

Council is exploring the option of doing away with the current process and replacing it with a monthly roster of council members who would act as Mayor should the need arise.

This would allow all members of council the opportunity to learn some of the Mayoral duties including conducting Council meetings.

Council is interested in feedback from the ratepayers regarding this topic and they invite your comments in writing to be reviewed at a future Council meeting.

The success of feedback from the community regarding comments about clear garbage bags has prompted council to request feedback on this matter. Comments may be emailed to comments@merrickville-wolford.ca or may be dropped at the office.

Summer/Fall Work Schedule for Roads, Bridges and Streets

Culvert replacement on Carley's Corners Road is scheduled to be completed Friday July 12.

Church St construction has a proposed start date of August 26.

Barber Road Bridge work is on hold due to high water levels.

Roses Bridge estimated construction is mid-August.

Taxation and Services in the Rural/Urban Ward

The municipal office quite often receives questions about the services provided in each ward of the municipality and whether they are 'equal'. Services for the urban area are quite different than the services required in the rural area, however the costs of providing both types of services are very similar.

Urban ward: paved streets, sidewalks, storm sewers, street lights, garbage/recycling pick-up, Rural ward: many gravel roads, bridges/culverts, farm tax program (formally farm tax rebate), tile drain program, wild life damage compensation program (when predators kill livestock), beaver control.

Gravel roads are twice as costly to maintain as they require calcium and grading. Also the large number of roads in the rural ward means they are more costly for snow removal.

For further information, please attend one of our budget information sessions held in the spring of each year.

Public Information Session—Centennial Hall Renovations
July 17, 2013 5:00—7:00 p.m. Centennial Hall

Concept Drawings will be available for viewing, staff will be available to answer questions and record comments or suggestions. Input will be provided to Council on July 22, 2013. Copies are available on the municipal web site at www.merrickville-wolford.ca or at the municipal office. Comments, based on the drawings below can also be e-mailed to Jill Eagle, CAO/Clerk at cao@merrickville-wolford.ca

