



Office of the Mayor

December 10, 2020

Dear Residents,

We are now halfway through this Council's term in Office, Council and I would like to bring you up-to-date on what we have accomplished during this term so far. A point form list follows.

I will continue to provide monthly updates after each Council meeting. I will discuss items on the agenda, and decisions that came out of them, as well as other points of interest. This will be posted on the Township website under "Mayor's Updates". Current council voted against proceeding with the old township newsletter.

Some of the Initiatives Council is working on and has achieved:

- We changed our regular Council Meeting date to the second Wednesday of the month, beginning at 6pm. This gives staff and Council more time to create and review reports.
- Branding: This project was initiated in the previous term as part of an Economic Development grant from the County of Simcoe. Current Council approved a new logo and tag line that was selected by the majority of residents who replied to the survey. Another \$50,000 grant for Economic Development from the County of Simcoe was spent on new hamlet signs which will soon be placed around the Township, and a new electronic sign for the Municipal grounds.
- Council kept to its election promise and will refund the 20% non-residential surcharge for recreational activities or programs offered in bordering Townships.
- OPA 15 – Council has kept to its election promise to cancel the past Council's planned growth of OPA-15 in Everett. This plan was opposed by the County of Simcoe and the Provincial Government. The new OPA-15 only has the clauses that promote the existing growth of Farsight Homes and to ensure it is done in a sustainable manner. These changes were made in consultation with the County of Simcoe who supported Council all through the process. This new plan will maintain the rural culture of Everett. Once County Council approves the new plan, we will inform LPAT that the Township would like to drop all legal proceedings against the County of Simcoe started by past Councils and save legal fees. Please note: OPA-15 is the old Walton lands on the west of County road 13. Farsight Homes is not part of the original OPA-15 which was approved for development many years ago.
- In May of 2019 Council renegotiated the development agreement with Nelson Aggregates regarding the Everett Pit. Among other things, we secured an additional \$300,000, decreased hours of operation, and arranged for them to pay for paving the haul route to the Township standards.
- There have been a number of speed limit reductions and new traffic signs in the Township. Ballycroy Road has been designated for local traffic only and the speed limit reduced to 40km/hr. Concession Rd 2 between Sideroads 5 and 10 reduced to 60km/hr. Concession Rd 5 between County Rd 1 and Sideroad 20 reduced to 60km/hr, Concession Rd 6 north of Hwy 89 reduced to 60km/hr, and the subdivisions of Everett, Woodland Heights, and Pine River Estates have been designated as 40km/hr Speed Zones with Gateway speed signs installed. Gateway speed limits will only be posted at entrances to the subdivisions, but encompass the entire subdivisions. Children at play signs have been installed at parks in Everett. County installed a new 4 way stop at the intersection of County Road 13 and Main Street Everett after residents petitioned the Township Council and Simcoe County.

- New website and social media platforms: Residents can now use debit or **credit cards** to pay their taxes and other bills online. Bylaw complaints and public works requests can also be made online. The new computerized system generates a work order to keep track of costs and progress.
- We have been rewriting our by-laws to bring them up to date, have reviewed and updated the township fees and charges, and have updated many employment contracts.
- Specified Audit: A specified audit was completed on certain questionable payments made in the past. A review of how \$500,000, that was transferred to infrastructure in 2018, was spent has revealed only invoices for \$200,000-300,000. The balance could not be traced. The audit revealed lack of proper documentation and policies for lieu time, Credit card use, Procurement, employee expenses etc. The auditor recommended that tighter policies needed to be put in place. Council agreed to follow the recommendations of the auditor and put tighter policies in place.
- Staff has been successful in recovering over \$300,000 in debt that was owed to the Township from developers over the past few years and was previously written off as bad debts.
- By-laws – There have been numerous complaints from residents of bylaws not being followed. To enforce our bylaws, we are working on implementing fines for residents who refuse to abide by the township bylaws. If the property owner refuses to comply after the initial notice, fines will be imposed on the property owner. These fines, if not paid, will be added to their tax bill. These fines will increase on each visit the bylaw officer has to make to the property to bring it into compliance. Council asks residents to abide by bylaws put in place to protect the residents. These fines will help recoup the cost of bylaw enforcement.
- Cell tower agreements renegotiated: Council renegotiated better financial agreements with the companies to generate more revenue for the township. Council approved a new, higher tower to replace the old one at the South Works Yard, this will improve service in the area. A new tower was also installed in Glencairn to expand service in that area.
- High speed Internet / Fibre Optic - We have been working with internet service providers to increase internet coverage in the township with fibre optic. As announcements are made, the information and maps will be posted on the township website.
- Previn Court – Council is in the process of negotiating a new recreational pavilion at the Municipal Office to be paid 100% by the developer Previn Court. The Township has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This was negotiated as the developer wanted access to our Township road (30th Sideroad, Adjala). This is a big win for our Township as the developer, at their cost, will lower the 30th Sideroad between 7th Concession and Industrial Parkway. This will also make it safer for vehicles and snow plowing. The developer agreed to build a recreation pavilion in exchange for use of our road and the fill he will obtain from cutting the road.

Roads, Infrastructure, and Asset Management

- In 2020, as legislated, the Township retained a consultant to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the Township's roads which involved detailed data gathering and condition ratings of every road. Based on this Roads Needs Study, a model was developed to determine how the Township can optimize its investments. The study found that the Township requires an annual investment of \$3.25 M to sustain its roads and bridges. Council may need to look at strategies to increase revenues besides taxation. Staff are working diligently to do more with less and maintain the Township's 613 lane kilometre network and 74 bridge structures.

- Sidewalk improvement was completed at County Road 13 and Main Street Everett in conjunction with Simcoe County. The work included sidewalk and culvert replacement and enhancement. The sidewalk was widened for wheelchair use among other things.
- Numerous sections of paved roads were repaired and resurfaced throughout the township to extend their lifespan.
- The Township hard-topped 3.4 km of gravel roads. This includes Concession Road 4 from Nottawasaga River Road to 25 Sideroad Adjala, and 5 Sideroad Adjala from Concession Road 2 to the Mono Adjala Townline.
- Maintenance and rehabilitation of various bridges and large culverts was carried out to extend the life of the Township's assets, this avoids the need for costly replacements.
- Many roadside drainage projects including ditching and culvert replacements or additions have been completed. Some examples include replacement of Catherine Street in Loretto and Concession Road 3 over Tosorontio Creek. This will help reduce flooding and damage to our roads. Council has approved an ongoing annual budget to fix the ditching concerns.
- Extensive road reconstruction involving 2 bridge replacements, culvert renewals, and paving on Concession Road 5 in the Sheldon Creek Valley just north of 25 Sideroad Adjala, will deliver improved flood resilience. The work will be wrapped up shortly, the contractor will return in May to complete the project. This project was largely grant funded.
- the Township has carried out maintenance and replacement of various roadside protection systems (guide rails) all throughout the Township, including Concession Road 4 south of County Road 1 and Adj-Tec Townline north of 5 Sideroad.
- Working with the County of Simcoe, replacement of the County bridge on Sideroad 10 just east of Concession Rd 4 (Adjala) has been approved and will commence soon with the necessary studies for a new bridge at this location.
- Public works – A new T-10 plow truck and a new backhoe have been purchased as the old plow truck and backhoe reached its life end and needed to be replaced.
- Hot Box: Township purchased a hot box to increase the repair of potholes throughout the Township on a regular basis, this makes repairs to potholes time and cost effective.
- New LED lighting has been installed at the Fire Stations, North and South Public Works Yards and the Township offices, to save money in the future.
- A new roof had been approved for the Loretto Fire Station as the old roof was leaking and causing water damage and mold. The old municipal office at the Loretto Fire Hall is being converted to a training facility for our township fire fighters. This will enable our firefighters from Everett and Loretto to practice their skills at the fire station. A new pumper truck has been ordered and new breathing apparatus is on order for our firefighters as well. The old Jim Wales Room at the Everett Fire Station has been converted to a gym for the firefighters of Everett.
- Council passed a Resolution RES-151-2020 dated April 15, 2020 that existing residents on Wastewater will not be forced to hook up to any future Municipal Wastewater systems.

Economic Development, Parks, Recreation and Culture

- New accessible playground equipment fully grant funded (\$50,000) was installed in Rosemont. Other parks in Lisle (Princess Drive), Everett, and Loretto are in the works.
- In June 2019, CCAT Inc (Concerned Citizens of Adj-Tos) donated to the Township 19 beautifully framed photographs of local barns taken by resident Tina Machado. Each photo comes with a snippet of history. The photographs will remain on permanent display in the Public Room. This display helps retain the history of our township.
- To promote arts and culture in our Township, the Recreation Committee initiated a partnership with The South Simcoe Arts Council to bring their satellite program, “Arts in our Community” to the AdjTos Township Office. The artwork is displayed on the walls of

the west foyer, on an 8-week rotating basis. Work from local schools and other local artists will be displayed in two cabinets in the east foyer.

- The pilot project of the AdjTos Farmers' Market took place this summer at the Township grounds. It was organized and run by 4 members of the Economic Development Committee, with the help of staff and local volunteers. It was a great success. Hundreds of people came out to every Market to support our local farmers and small businesses. A Committee will be put together soon to organize and run the Market in the future.

- The Township has partnered with YLM (Your Local Marketplace) to collect and maintain all our business listings within one directory. This links us to other local directories, County of Simcoe and neighbouring municipalities. It is free for Township businesses to register. This promotes our Township businesses and helps residents looking for services on our website.

- The Economic Development Committee and the Recreation Committee have been amalgamated into the Community Development Committee. This will reduce costs.

- COVID-19 pandemic: Council deferred the March 31st Tax instalment, dog tag fees, etc. Although the office was closed to residents for a period, the Township and staff continued to work throughout that time and provided all services. There have been unavoidable delays in appointments and permits from the township. However, please keep in mind that staff have to consult with other levels of government before moving any applications forward. What used to be accomplished in a few days by other levels of government now can take weeks. Please be patient and respectful to staff, we are all in this together.

In closing, Council would like to thank our Staff at the Township Office and Public Works Crews for all that they do to move our Township forward. Thanks to our new Fire Chief and both District Chiefs for helping with ordering new equipment, writing SOG's, etc. Also, thanks to our Volunteer Firefighters who give their time in so many ways, including to help build the new training facility at the Loretto Fire Station, the new fitness room at Everett, and maintaining both stations.

I would like to thank Council for working with me and supporting me to move the Township in a positive manner. We have a lot more to accomplish in the new year; bring our debt under control, fix our failing infrastructure and equipment, etc. I believe we are up to the challenge.

On behalf of all Staff and Council, I wish all residents a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Floyd Pinto
Mayor
Township of Adjala Tosorontio.