

More info:

I post regularly on my Facebook page which is open to everyone. You can also see many of my posts on my website.



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Open Houses:

As I pledged during my campaign, I will be hosting regular open houses. These monthly open house events will start in 2020. A full schedule will be posted on my website and in an upcoming newsletter.

Councillor Grants:

As pledged during my 2018 campaign and as I did during my 2010-2014 term on Council, I am donating up to half of my councillor salary to our local non-profit organizations and groups.

During 2019 I have donated over \$7,300 of my salary to local groups. Full details and application procedures are on my website.

A Very Busy Year!



Courtesy: Brock Voice

Firsly, let me apologize for the delay in getting my newsletter out. During the 2018 campaign I pledged to keep people informed and one way was via a regular newsletter. Its been an incredibly busy year and the newsletter was delayed. So let's get right to it..

Budget Zero

I was proud that this new Council managed to finally bring in a township budget with a zero percent increase. It's been long overdue. While the budget came in at a zero percent increase The Township will not starve for cash. Housing developments and increasing assessments

have brought hundreds of thousands in additional tax revenues. Those funds are being used for increased services on roadways, sidewalks, and bridge construction. Some of these projects had tenders that came in over budget but this is largely a result of a budget and planning system which has not kept up with increasing costs. I successfully passed motions to improve the way we do our long term planning and budgeting so these increasing costs are better managed. While not everyone on Council was in favour of a zero percent increase I think we managed it in a responsible way. I fully recognize the concerns expressed by Regional Councillor Smith regarding adequately saving for future expenditures but it is my opinion that our reserves are quite well funded (more on this later).

Council Live Streaming

I'm very pleased that Council is now live streamed! I've advocated for this since I was on Council during the 2010-2014 term. You may watch open sessions of Council live via the township website on the day of the meeting. Missed a meeting.... video of past meetings is also available on the township website in the same section as the minutes of the meetings.

Development Charges

Development Charges (DCs) are special charges levied on new construction and some expansions. There are separate DCs for Brock, The Region of Durham, and School Boards. The DCs must be evaluated every four years. Brock DCs underwent a review this year through consultants hired by the township. Brock DCs for residential construction have increased this year substantially. One of the driving forces behind the increase was the large amount included to help fund a possible expansion of the Sunderland Arena. Approximately \$7 Million was added to the calculations for the project in the DC study. While the Sunderland Arena project was the driving force behind the large DC increase the name of the project has been changed from the Sunderland

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Council Compensation Review Committee

I was pleased when the rest of Council supported my motion to form a Council Compensation Review Committee. How and what members of Council are paid is always a contentious issue. An issue which came up again last term when Council-of-the-day voted to increase their pay package following changes in how some of the remuneration was taxed.



I pledged during my campaign to have such a committee formed. The committee will be comprised of members of the public and Council whose job will be to review the entire compensation package and make recommendations on changes before the next municipal election. Many municipalities have such committees and it's an excellent way for the people who "pay the bill" to be involved in determining what the bill will be.

Check out the township website if you are interested in taking part.

All The Best During The Holiday Season:

I want to wish everyone in Ward 3 and Brock Township a very happy holiday season and a pleasant new year. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Pancha Ganapati, Festivus, or nothing at all please take this time to enjoy friends and family.

If you can please consider helping our local foodbanks provide much needed services to our less fortunate neighbours.



To Our Local Non-Profit Groups

Feel free to let me know what's going on with your group or organization and I'll try my best to promote it on my social media page, website, and newsletter

Also, don't forget that you can submit posters and information to The Township to be included in the electronic monitors which were installed at the municipal building in Cannington. Thanks to the Cannington Lions Club for donating the monitors.

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Arena project to simply Recreation Facilities. This large increase in DCs will likely cause a sharp increase in the cost of new homes in Brock since many developers simply pass these charges on to the homebuyer. I did not support this large increase to DCs. As I stated to Council, for years Brock has been practically begging developers to come here and build in Brock. Now that they have started building we are penalizing them and the homebuyers by sending these charges through the roof. There's an added twist on the DC story. With much of the increase from the proposed Sunderland Arena project it's ironic that not only is the township applying for grants from The Province for the project but it was announced this year that Kaitlin Developments (who is building most of the homes in Sunderland) reached an agreement to end an LPAT dispute with residents in exchange for giving The Sunderland Lions upwards of over \$500,000 more for the project (in addition to The Lions' pledged amount). This means that the proposed project could in fact be funded by 144% or more which begs the question.... "are the DCs now too high"?

Township Says Goodbye to Thom Gettinby:

Township CAO & Clerk Thom Gettinby retired this past year after serving The Township for over 22 years. I expressed by appreciation for the many years Mr. Gettinby served Brock Township. While I did not always see eye-to-eye with Mr. Gettinby I was sure he always operated with the best intentions for Brock. I want to wish Thom the best in his retirement.

Since Mr. Gettinby's retirement Brock acquired the services of an interim CAO with Mr. Garth Johns stepping into the role. Mr. Johns concentrated much of his time with an internal review of policies and procedures. Some of the recommendations he proposed have been implemented with others being reviewed. Mr. Johns left his post earlier this fall. Since then Brock's new Chief Building Official, Mr. Richard Ferguson has assumed the role as interim CAO.

New CAO

Brock has secured a new CAO following a search effort comprising most of the fall. Mr. Robert Lamb will start his duties with Brock on December 2nd. Mr. Lamb comes from Tay Township as their CAO and I join the rest of Council in looking forward to this new era in Brock Township leadership.

In future editions of this newsletter I will bring more updates on the past year as well as current issues before The Council of The Township of Brock. For more details on these and other issues visit my Facebook page or

Transit Pains and Costs

As Brock Taxpayers continue to send huge sums of money to Durham Region Transit it would appear DRT is finally taking a serious look at transit in Rural Durham.

This year almost \$1,000,000 in taxes from Brock will go to fund transit in Durham Region. I've long said that transit in Brock was lacking (and that is a polite term). Durham Region Transit has been hosting surveys and open houses in North Durham to gain a better understanding of our unique transit and transportation challenges.

It is hoped that a new set of proposals will come forward from Durham Region Transit to better serve Brock Township.

While on-demand service has been improved it still causes unrealistically long commutes if someone were willing to take the service to destinations in the south or beyond.

Transit has always been a challenge in any rural community. It's important that if Brock taxpayers are going to pay such large sums into this regional service then its only fair that our level of service



One Million Dollars!

should reflect the levels of service provided elsewhere in Durham. To have empty buses travelling around Brock is not an effective use of taxpayer dollars or a healthy contribution to our climate.

More information will be coming as DRT finishes its study.