

### 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.



[facebook.com/walterschummer.ca](https://facebook.com/walterschummer.ca)



[walterschummer.ca](https://walterschummer.ca)



[wschummer@townshipofbrock.ca](mailto:wschummer@townshipofbrock.ca)



705-432-8464

### COVID INFO:

[townshipofbrock.ca](https://townshipofbrock.ca)

[durham.ca](https://durham.ca)

[publichealthontario.ca](https://publichealthontario.ca)

[canada.ca](https://canada.ca)

### Councillor Grants:

I continue to donate up to half of my councillor salary to our local non-profit organizations and groups.

During these trying times I urge local non-profit organizations to apply.

Full details and application procedures are on my website.

## COVID VACCINATIONS

COVID vaccinations are taking place and are planned to ramp up in the coming weeks. In the meantime you are asked to continue maintaining social distancing and other measure to minimize the spread.

Vaccinations in Brock will take place at the Rick MacLeish Community Centre starting March 15. Online appointments can be booked at [durham.ca](https://durham.ca) or by calling 1-800-841-2729. Currently vaccinations are planned based on age groups with the current age group being those 80 or older (or those turning 80 in 2021).

It is important to remember that COVID IS in Brock. At the time I write this newsletter there are 4 cases in Brock so please continue to keep everyone safe by keeping yourself safe.

## CHANGES AT COUNCIL AND TOWNSHIP

As you know we lost our Mayor Debbie Bath-Hadden. My condolences go out to her family, friends, and colleagues. Debbie served the township well over so many years. Prior to her death she was granted a leave of absence by Council as she dealt with her medical conditions. At that time Regional Councillor Ted Smith, who is also Deputy Mayor, formally took on the responsibility for The Mayor. To ensure that Brock maintains two representatives at Durham Region Council I was appointed to sit at Regional Council. It has been an honour to sit at The Region and represent the taxpayers and residents of Brock.

In losing The Mayor a series of events were put in motion as mandated by The Municipal Act. Council was obligated to declare the seat at Council vacant. By doing that Council was obligated to decide how to fill the seat which can happen by appointment or by-election. Council voted to hold a by-election to ensure a democratic replacement with a year and a half remaining in the term. However, with the announcement by Brock's Clerk that she would be leaving The Township it became evident that we would not have the skillset and experience within the municipality to hold a by-election. A by-election is a very involved process.

On March 8 Council reconsidered its decision and has voted to appoint the position. Council unanimously voted to appoint former Mayor John Grant. Mr. Grant was the close runner up for the position in the 2018 election. Provided Mr. Grant accepts the position and is eligible he will assume the position of Mayor sometime during the week of March 15.

Late last year Brock hired its recent CAO Dean Hustwick. Mr. Hustwick, currently in his six month probation, is our second permanent hired CAO during this term (not counting a number of interim or acting CAOs).

Earlier this year Brock lost its Treasurer Laura Barta and just recently lost its Clerk. These are two very senior positions in a municipality and are the two positions actually mandated by The Municipal Act. Losing these two senior positions is definitely a blow to The Township.

## BUDGET FINALIZED

### **Brock Non-Profit Advisory Committee**

**All non-profit organizations in Brock are encouraged to register with The Township on the new webpage. The special committee formed to review the state of health of this vital sector needs to know who you are and where to contact you. The committee will be working to develop recommendations to Council on how Brock Township can assist our local non-profits.**

**Contact The Township or visit [townshipofbrock.ca](http://townshipofbrock.ca) and search for "non-profit"**

### **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.

This newsletter is produced by Walter Schummer, Ward 3 Councillor and is not a publication of The Township of Brock. Opinions and comments expressed herein are those of Walter Schummer and not The Township of Brock

Township Council approved the 2021 operating and capital budgets. The tax increase this year is set at 2.4%. However, Council changed how streetlighting charges are levied going forward. The charge will no longer appear as an added charge on your tax bill. By doing this, the actual tax increase will be about 0.12%

Council had a tight budget to work with and probably could have done more to control taxes given that many services in Brock continue to be curtailed. No changes were made to the Works or Recreation budgets which account for over \$10 Million in spending. Should Council require some room for spending in 2021 this is one area where it will no doubt be available.

The Rick MacLeish Arena and Community Centre was again a target in the budget. It's sad that I had to fight to even get the fair value of the needed repairs into the budget. It continues to be a struggle to move the needed roof repairs along. While the amounts have been approved in the budget there continues to be apprehension to actually do the work. While we have been putting away hundreds of thousands of dollars each year into reserves for just such work it is sad that some members of Council are now squeamish about actually spending it.

Another big ticket in the budget is the acquisition of an aerial truck for the Brock Township Fire Department. This vehicle will not only cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars now but will require us to start putting serious money aside for its eventual replacement. It represents a major addition to Brock's Fire Department fleet and was recommended unanimously by a committee established to review such a purchase.

## THANK YOU TO OUTGOING STAFF

As stated earlier, Brock Township has lost its Treasurer and recently our Clerk. Both of these senior and valuable employees are going to Scugog Township to continue their careers.

### **Brock's Clerk: Becky Jamieson**

Ms. Jamieson has been employed with Brock for almost a decade. I was on Council during the 2010-2014 term when Ms. Jamieson was hired. Over those years Becky has shown professionalism and dedication to The Township as she progressed through positions in the administration building's Clerk's Department. During this term of Council Becky was eventually promoted to the position of Municipal Clerk upon Thom Gettinby's retirement when the position was split between CAO and Clerk.

Becky has not only shown professionalism beyond her actual years of experience, but she has done so by always putting a very human and personal touch to her work. Even if you did not necessarily agree with something she did in her position it was hard to argue with her when she would greet you with her smile. It was a smile I have rarely seen her without.

I am going to miss Becky's dedication to Brock Township and its residents and taxpayers. Being a resident of Brock she is one of the few senior Township employees who actually live in the municipality she serves. Becky takes with her a wealth of experience and knowledge which will serve her next employer well.

Thank you Becky for everything you have done for Brock! You will be missed indeed.

### **Brock's Treasurer: Laura Barta**

I want to take this opportunity to thank Laura for her professional service to The Township of Brock. I was on Council when Ms Barta was hired and I don't think she has disappointed or let down a member of Council since then as she exercised her duties with integrity and professionalism.

Laura has very much been a "rock" that could be relied on by staff and Council members alike over the years. I know, from being a professional accountant as well, that it's not always easy explaining complicated financial matters to people. Mix the complicated world of accounting with the intricacies of municipal finance and it becomes even more difficult. Laura has done an excellent job at communication with the public and Councils.

During Ms. Barta's time as Brock's Treasurer our township auditors have repeatedly given high praise to her and her staff for the excellent work done during the years.

Brock's a small municipality and the Treasury Department is probably the smallest in Durham but our Treasurer has run it effectively and efficiently. I wish Laura all of the best in her continuing professional career and Brock's loss is surely another municipality's gain. Thank you Laura Barta, Treasurer of Brock Township.