

Schedule "A" to the April 28, 2025 Council Minutes

Mayor's Remarks- April 28/25 Council

On the day of our last Council Meeting, Director of Community and Protective Services, Cynthia Summers and I attended a morning session at Niagara Regional Police Headquarters to take part in an information session regarding body cameras. This was one of many public information opportunities provided by the NRPS to educate members of the public, senior staff members and members of various councils throughout the Region regarding their thorough investigation of the potential use of such cameras. It was both an opportunity to learn about the use of body cameras and to be able to ask questions. As a follow-up, I saw just this past week in the St. Catharines Standard, that the NRPS after a wide public consultation process has in fact made the final decision to begin to outfit their membership with body cameras.

On April 3, I was honoured to take part, along with MPP Oosterhoff in a roundtable discussion which included the Niagara Keystone Award Winners. This luncheon event held at Stanpac was a closed session, led by Keystone Awards Founder Dean French. I am very proud of the fact that among the ten named 2025 Keystone Award winners, honoured for their job creation efforts, two were West Lincoln companies - Stanpac and Big Country Raw.

I was pleased on April 4th to be able to host MPP Sam Oosterhoff, to discuss West Lincoln's main priorities. Now that the Provincial election is over, Sam spent time visiting each of the mayors in his riding to gain knowledge of the priorities of each municipality so that he is prepared to be able to offer his support during this next term of office.

April 11th saw these Council Chambers filled with just over 80 older adults who attended the West Lincoln Age-Friendly Advisory Committee's education event. The "Financial Crimes Against Seniors", presentation by 3 members of the NRPS who are tasked with dealing with Fraud/Scams occurring in Niagara, was extremely well-received by our residents. Word has spread of its value to seniors and additionally, the overall success of the event and as a result, plans are being formulated for this to be replicated in some of our neighbouring Niagara municipalities. Additionally this past month, the Age-Friendly Advisory Committee has produced a brochure that is being circulated throughout our community. It includes a quick and easily to read information guide to services and emergency numbers that might prove useful for older adults.

Also on April 11th, CAO McBride and his wife, Jen and John and I attended the annual West Lincoln Fire Department Dinner and Awards Celebration that was held at the Caistor Community Centre, better known to most of us as the Abingdon Hall.

The CAO and I were each pleased to be able to say a few words thanking the Firefighters for their dedication to serving our municipality, welcome the many new recruits on the department and additionally acknowledge that event as being the last for Fire Chief Dennis Fisher and thank him for his service.

Friday, April 18th, I was happy to attend the Easter Fest activities provided by our Recreation staff. There were hundreds of families - grandparents, parents and children of varying ages all out to enjoy the early Spring day and the activities that were provided. Thank you to all staff involved in organizing this Good Friday morning event and also thank you to the West Lincoln Firefighters who were also on hand to the delight of residents of all ages.

As our Community Centre also provided a site for the Federal Election Advance polls over the Easter weekend, it was great to see so many residents taking advantage of that opportunity. Once again, I thank our staff for facilitating the use of our Community Centre for both the Advance polls and Election Day

voting to occur. Many residents were extremely disappointed that they did not have the opportunity to vote in West Lincoln during the recent Provincial election. The comments that I received this time were all extremely favourable regarding this change.

On April 16, CAO Truper McBride and I attended Lincoln Mayor Sandra Easton's State of the Town address. It is always interesting to hear what Mayor Easton has to say as they, in Lincoln, are about 15-20 years ahead of West Lincoln in terms of their residential, commercial and industrial growth. These annual breakfast/luncheon engagements in each municipality provide excellent networking opportunities for all who are present.

Although Earth Day was officially April 22nd, it was not until Saturday, April 26th, that members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee or MYAC as they are called, gave up their Saturday morning to join Executive Assistant Jacquie Thrower and myself to clean up all of the park areas surrounding our Community Centre. Their hard work amounting to about 8 large-sized black garbage bags was rewarded with lunch in the Community Centre.

Sunday, April 27 marked the start of preparing cookies for the Smile Cookie Campaign at our local Tim Hortons. I spent 3 hours yesterday decorating cookies as once again this year, the profit from the Smile Cookie Campaign goes to our very own West Lincoln Community Care. Last year, just over \$25,000 was donated back to our local charity, so I encourage you to buy lots of Smile Cookies, eat lots of Smile cookies and if you have some time to help decorate, reach out to West Lincoln Community Care to volunteer to help out. I believe that there are still a few unfilled time slots. The actual campaign started this morning at 6:00 am and runs until end of day, Sunday, May 4th.

Finally, just a reminder that our flags were flown at half mast today to recognize and honour those who have been seriously injured or who have lost their lives in workplace accidents. April 28th of each year is recognized as being Canada's National Day of Mourning. On this day, we not only remember workers who have died, were injured or became ill from their job but we, across our nation, are tasked with renewing our commitment to protecting workers and preventing further workplace tragedies.