

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

Regional Councillors Report: April 28, 2025

Good evening Mayor, members of Council, staff and the public. I would like to start with a couple of updates on the Wastemangement file. We received a report on the 2024 illegal dumping throughout the Niagara Region. In 2024 there was 1,027 incidents of illegal dumping were investigated. 32 were reported by local municipal staff, 720 were reported via Waste info hotline and 275 were identified through proactive monitoring by staff. A large percentage of these issues were in public spaces and curbside receptacles where household garbage was disposed at or on these locations. In West Lincoln we had a total of 20 reports in 2024. Our reports came from illegal dumping on our rural roads.

Since the new year the Provincial government has decided with producers that they will no longer be collecting non-eligible sources. This means those that are not part of the residential collection program will not have their material collected. The staff have lobbied to continue this program to service BIA's, downtown areas. There is still much dissatisfaction with this moving forward. Staff are willing to come out to explain in detail what this decision means to our local business community as per requested by Councils. This has been very frustrating as for many decades we have been working to divert recyclables out of landfills.

On the Public Health file, we received an update on the Physician recruitment. The State of Primary Care in Niagara welcomed 26 new physicians in 2024 marking a record year for recruitment. 7 more will start in Q1/Q2, 2025. There are 31 physicians currently accepting patients. the highest number at one time on the Niagara Regions Find a Doctor page. As the population grows the team continues to work to meet the demand. On going challenges are that 14% of the current physicians are over 65 and nearing retirement. Expansion of medical school seats and strengthen partnerships with municipalities, clinics, and post secondary institutions. Great success has been achieve through International Recruitment efforts. 60% of new physicians have been recruited from the UK. The team continues to work on all fronts to make sure the residences of Niagara have access to primary care in this competitive atmosphere.

On the local events, I had the opportunity to attend the Niagara Christian Gleaners annual fundraiser late last month. The Niagara Regional Chair also had his annual state of the Regions addressed. West Lincoln Chamber show cased our local business through a video. Many were concerned with the uncertainty of business with the US through new tariffs creating uncertainty. Niagara Region and Chambers are working hand in hand to help in these matters. It was great to see our US partners

at this event as well so we could reassure each other of our committed partnerships of the past and present. I also had the opportunity to attend the lifetime achievement event held at Twenty Valley golf club for our resident John Sikkens for his many years of volunteerism in agriculture as well as our community.

And this is my report this month if any councillors have any questions on my report I will gladly answer them to the best of my abilities.

Thank-you,

Albert Witteveen