

Schedule "A" to the June 23, 2025 Council Minutes

June 23/25 Council Mtg. Mayor's Remarks

The day after our May 26th Council meeting, the members of our Community Recognition Committee, that being Councillors Joann Chechalk and William Reilly, Executive Assistant Jacquie Thrower and myself, met to make final decisions regarding both the Nomination form and the Press Release for the 2025 Awards. Nominations are being sought from the community for residents who have served their community well in either a short burst of time or over many years in the following categories: Sports/Recreation, Cultural or General Volunteerism. Additionally we have a Youth Community Engagement category to try to capture the contributions of young people to our community. The nomination period opens on Canada Day and closes the weekend of our Agricultural Fair, September 5-7th. Our Celebration of the 2025 winners will take place on October 21st upstairs at the Community Centre.

That same week our delegation materials were finalized and our request for delegation meetings at the August AMO Conference were submitted. We now are continuing to enhance and expand on those materials in the hope of actually being granted meetings with several different ministers. We should hear back sometime in mid to late July about whether or not we have been accepted to delegate personally.

May 31, John and I were honoured to be guests at the 60th Anniversary Gala for Community Living of Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln. It was a lively and most enjoyable celebration of the wonderful work that their staff have been doing to support and enhance the lives of those with developmental challenges.

On Monday, June 2, a good-sized crowd, consisting of Town Hall and Library staff and many residents witnessed the raising of the Pride Flag in West Lincoln as we recognized the first week of June being Pride Week. One week later on June 9th, a similar sized crowd, again with several residents, came out along with their umbrellas since it was pouring rain, as we raised the Age-Friendly Niagara Flag in recognition of June also being Seniors Month.

On the morning of June 3, CAO McBride and I, along with our counterparts from both Pelham and Wainfleet had an interesting and informative tour of the Fero Facility on the South Service Road in Winona, where we learned of their growing capabilities for the production of modular buildings, suitable for classrooms, respite or retirement homes, hospitals etc.

That same afternoon, I took part in a webinar hosted by our Legal Counsel, Jason Reynar regarding "Strong Mayor" powers. There were 2 Mayors on the panel, one being part of the original cohort, Mayor Lynn Dollin of Innisfil and myself representing the perspective of those newly appointed. Approximately 80 people were registered for the 1 hour session and as you can imagine the questions were flowing regarding the meaning, breadth and consequences of these newly placed powers.

The afternoon of Friday, June 6th, the West Lincoln Age-Friendly Advisory Committee held a very successful event which drew a sizable crowd of older adults to learn about the findings of the McMaster University's "Road Less Travelled" study regarding the various effects that lack of public transportation has on our residents as they age. Additionally Community Support Services of Niagara under their newly branded label "Heart to Home" presented information about their varied services for Seniors.

Regional Chair Bradley has a regionally-wide Chair's Youth Advisory Council and on June 12, I was invited to take part on a panel at their final meeting of the year. The panel consisted of a City of St. Catharines Councillor, Marty Mako, a Regional Councillor, Rob Foster of Lincoln and a Mayor, myself

who all provided background information about our paths to where we are now. We answered a great many questions from these young people, many of whom have been on this Youth Council since January 2023 and are now in university.

The morning of June 13th, I was pleased, along with Growth and Sustainability Chair, Councillor Chechalk to sit in on the third Developer's Roundtable organized and effectively run by Growth and Sustainability Director Boerema. The report from Agile regarding the need for future I&I work to gain capacity in our storm/wastewater system was heard by all at the same time and many questions were answered by both the consultant and the Regional staff in attendance. A presentation on this same topic will be coming to Council, likely at the August meeting.

Saturday, June 14th, John and I were pleased to attend the "Touch a Truck" event that was organized by our Public Library staff who partnered with the Chamber of Commerce. Library staff initiated this event when they were looking for an event to mark Father's Day. Their thinking was that all Dad's (and some Moms) and most kids love to look at large trucks and farm machinery and they were absolutely correct in their thinking as a couple of hundred residents came out to the Community Centre parking lot, over the 4 hour period to enjoy touching, sitting in or climbing on various vehicles. Thanks to our local farm and business communities, as well as Township and Regional staff for taking time to clean up and shine those vehicles for this community event.

The first of what will be a few Public Information Sessions regarding the Fulton Employment Lands was held on Tuesday, June 17th. The Fulton Hall was packed with local residents who had many questions about what that zoning change would mean for their property. The questions were well responded to by both the consultant and our Manager of Growth and Sustainability, Susan Smyth. Residents were reassured that they would be able to continue to enjoy their property as they wished for as long as they wished in spite of any change to the zoning.

I will end this month's report by highlighting two very successful community events, both grassroots, resident- initiated events. The first Friday evening, June 13th was the Caistor School Fun Fair. This event that has been running successfully for well over 30 years supports school "extras" and although staff always are involved and supportive, it has always been run by a Parent Committee. The Station 2 Firefighters have been providing the BBQ'd food since the existence of that station. The Caistor Fun Fair proves to be a huge community gathering year after year with former students returning along with their own children and their parents, now grandparents. It is always a multi-generational event enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

The second event that I want to highlight, held only for the second time ever, took place on Saturday, June 14th. That was the Community-wide garage sale.

This highly successful event which was originated by residents and was grown on various social media platforms resulted in not only a way for the buying and selling of no longer needed household goods, but provided a huge opportunity for social engagement throughout the municipality. Although some areas were so congested with traffic that it was a bit difficult to get around, it was wonderful to see so many people of all ages out and about in our Community!

Finally, I would like to wish my colleagues and staff, and all of our residents, a safe and enjoyable summer. Hopefully I will still see many of you out to enjoy our amazing Canada Day activities as we celebrate being Canadian together on Tuesday, July 1st at the Leisureplex.