

## Warden Peter Emon Re-caps ROMA/OGRA

At the February 25<sup>th</sup> session of County Council, Warden Peter Emon delivered a brief re-cap of the main initiatives the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) brought forward for discussion with various Provincial Ministers and Provincial Staff at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and Ontario Good Roads Association combined conference. Overall Warden Emon said that the EOWC delegation was well received and that he and others had many opportunities to speak with various ministers and their staff during the four day conference. Warden Emon highlighted the following discussions. First, regarding the proposed "Eastern Ontario Growth Plan", the EOWC spoke to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ted McMeekin. Warden Emon said that the City of Ottawa receives a larger share of Provincial and Federal funding than its surrounding neighbor municipalities, even though those municipalities have a larger combined population. The EOWC is concerned regarding the lack of consultation with rural municipalities to this point with regards to urban planning and development charges. Minister McMeekin assured the EOWC that they would be consulted as equal partners on any reports or actions moving forward.

Warden Emon also spoke to the announced increase in the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund and Connecting Links programs. The EOWC has requested more public accounting of where the funds go if they are declined by some municipalities, and that the application process be simplified. Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure, Brad Duguid, said that they are making changes to the applications for the next round of funding. Warden Emon said that the Eastern Ontario Regional Network was mentioned with high regard by many Ministers and Provincial Staff at the conference, in particular they are watching the progression as EORN now moves to increase cellular service in rural areas. EORN will be seeking additional funding in the range of 200 Million dollars to complete the cellular initiative and perhaps tie in an emergency response system via their new towers as well.

On the energy front, Warden Emon said there was much discussion regarding energy rates, and capacity, and how they impact economic development in rural Ontario. Specifically, brown-outs and lack of grid capability to accept hydro electric generation input.

Policing costs were also up for discussion at the conference and Warden Emon said that municipalities expressed their concerns about budgetary and infrastructure pressures that the new policing model has placed on them. Also, discussed was an alternative policing model that utilizes a private security firm to assist police services in delivery of certain services to the community, like investigations or community policing.

Finally, Warden Emon said that Bill 151, regarding waste diversion was also discussed and that municipalities are concerned about the report for the Bill as there appears to be several areas that would allow municipalities to be left with hefty costs if waste management processes were changed.

## COUNCIL INITIATIVES

County Council Adopted By-law 19-16 A By-Law to Provide for the Remuneration of Members of the Council of the County of Renfrew.

County Council Adopted By-Law 20-16 A By-Law to Amend a By-Law 32-15 Being a By-Law to Authorize the Adoption of a Council Code of Conduct for the Corporation of the County of Renfrew.

County Council Adopted By-law 22-16 A By-Law To Establish And Require Payment Of User Fees And Charges.

County Council Adopted By-law 23-16 Employment By-law # 1 for County Officers and Staff.

County Council Adopted By-law 24-16 A By-Law to Purchase Land County Road 512 (Foymount Road).

County Council Adopted By-law 25-16 A By-Law to Accept the Transfer of Land County Road 25 (Laurentian Drive).

County Council Adopted By-law 26-16 A By-Law to Register Transfer Documents County Road 22 (Grattan Road).

County Council Adopted By-law 27-16 A By-Law to Purchase Land County Road 22 (Grattan Road).

County Council Adopted By-law 28-16 A By-Law to Authorize Execution of Contract No. PWO-2016-01 for the Supply and Delivery of Bulk Course Highway Salt.

County Council Adopted By-law 29-16 A By-Law to Amend By-Law 58-09 - Corporate Policies and Procedures for Child Care Services for the County of Renfrew.



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