



28 Pulford Street, Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 1B4

January 26, 2021

Report to Council

Town of Kingsville

Subject: ROMA Conference January 25, and 26, 2021

I attended the above noted conference, along with three other members of Council. This conference was conducted by use of Zoom style technology. As in the past, this conference did offer several Ministers, sponsors, and presentations to respond to questions asked in advance.



Just one of the great conference sponsors. Our Insurance provider (Cowen) was another.

Welcome on Monday morning at 8am commenced with an Opening by a Chief of the First Nations representing those that came before. His speech noted the need for us all to work together for the common good, for children and the future.

First Keynote Speaker was Chantal Hebert, she did note a book by Winston Churchill, Our Prime Minister interest in Climate Change, along with the fact that in an election with COVID-19 there is less change in elections to office.

Allan Thompson, Chair of ROMA noted the need for Broadband, along with Support for Public Health.

As the morning progressed the following topics were highlighted:

- Local Governments need and have some tools to regarding House Planning and Design
- Migrant Workers Housing and the need to do better.
- Idea that Sick Days should be paid, especially with COVID-19.

At 10am The Conference had a Zoom style presentation by Mr. Ford.



He noted his desire to help all rural communities.

The importance of Rural Communities

Having COVID-19 Vaccine

Providing dollars to support quality of life.

And the Importance of Broadband

AMO President Graydon Smith (mayor of Bracebridge) noted the need for governments at all levels, can and do work together. The success of many working quietly in our communities needs to be recognized.

The Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health, noted the fact that it is the local levels of government that basically receive the concerns that effect all levels of Government. She expressed thanks to all who serve our communities.

Break Topics included:

The need for Asset management plans and the benefit in use of the use of the Gas Tax credits to towns such as Bracebridge, Fergus, and Guelph.

The First Minister's Forum (11) listed a great cross section of Ministers from Health, Education, Long-Term Care, Attorney General, Children as just an example.



Some Topics on this session included:

- For Health Care the Funding Model for Hospitals should consider seasonal peaks such tourists in cottage country, and Temporary Foreign Workers in southern Ontario.
- For Child Care the Minister of Education noted the desire moving forward for Childcare in be included in School builds
- The Need for the Community Safety Plans was discussed, it may be necessary for some to submit interim plan if the plans are not available by the due date.
- Next 911 system is coming. Question was asked if the Province will fund the new 911 program. No clear answer.

Technology

Some examples were provided of increased use of technology using Broad Band and Cloud Technology. United Communities of Prescott & Russell noted their use of Notarius – Digital Signatures program.

Tuesday Morning, we heard from both representatives of the Liberal and Green Parties. In each case both told us what that might do.

From Broad Band, to support for Tourism and Climate.

The Discussion table that followed included:

Drainage

Planning

Building

Senior Admin

First Topic:

Drainage:

With the Drainage Act a site meeting is required. The meeting at the actual site invites the Eng. As well as the effected rate payers. In 1970 during a snowstorm one engineer moved the site plan meeting to a local school. One person challenged and case went to referee (judge) who noted the move was deemed reasonable.

In the case of COVID it was suggested that it may be wise to delay the site meetings if not critical.

If the project must move ahead offer online, with call in, with Clerk taking calls and concerns.

Noted that we should ensure the ratepayers have as much notice as possible. This may require more detailed paperwork up front.

For Planning

Some municipalities are increasing the minimum notice period (from the 20days) to ensure delivery.

One Town noted that they are requiring the developers to post larger signs at proposed developments that show details as opposed to the little yellow signs we used.

COVID-19 Experience and Response

The CAO of Blue Mountain noted that they had a COVID-19 problem. 12 out of 15 in a work group tested positive.

Steps: Emergency Command Centre active

Health Unit involved.

Health Unit was lead on the project.

Communication was a key issue for Staff and Council with daily updates. Calls referred to health Unit.

Decision was made to make a public media release to reduce or eliminate the rumors in town.

Privacy of staff is also required.

Ministry of Labour notified.

No easy answer but the help and guidance of the Health Unit was helpful.

COVID-19 and Building (another Community)

Noted some permits are still required.

Staff that do the plans review are working from home.

The use of E Permits, E applications and E Inspections helpful. Not all jobs can be done just by pictures.

Building Inspectors do require some field work even in COVID times.

Government has issued some directions as to what can and should be done.

Housing Planning and Design

One municipality is reviewing what can be done with Planning and zoning to open more opportunities for housing.

Key is the mix or compatibility with existing stock in the areas.

Government Support for Fairs, or Agricultural Society and Horticultural Societies was announced.

An Ag Society may be eligible for \$7000.

A Horticultural Society may be eligible for \$1,140.

Federal Government

Good news things are happening to get more support.

Vision for recovery following COVID-19.

For the Family and any Women in crisis encouraged to talk to someone they trust and reach out the support groups. The Government is working to aid all in distress.

Thanks to all the essential workers from the Retirement Homes, to the nurses and others.

Summary**Good Conference**

Many topics also covered and offered. Other members of Council may have attended different workshops. As a collective group your Council and CAO did meet with two ministries to discuss the farm sector, and the workers as well as the impacts and challenges that it presents.

This report is my own and may not represent the views or findings of others. E.& O. E.

Gord Queen

Deputy Mayor

Kingsville

gqueen@kingsville.ca