

# HARRINGTON HERALD

Welcome to the first edition of our quarterly newsletter. Our aim is to keep you abreast of the progress the Mayor and Council have achieved and to be a listening post or sounding board for any ideas, concerns or proposed solutions to any issues you feel we should address.

The last six months have been filled with items we felt you as citizens would like us to consider and find resolutions for. It has been a learning experience for some of us and we think we're on the right track.

## **CHANGES IN OFFICE PROCEDURES**

Have you had occasion to call the office recently. Instead of pressing one for Tom, two for Dick, three for Harry and probably nine for total frustration your call is now answered by a real live person who will direct you to the appropriate person or department. The automated system may still kick in on occasion.

The office is now open between noon and 1:00 P.M. manned by management. As a result of a legal opinion received from our solicitors cheques issued to individuals for items such as reimbursement of funds expended on behalf of the Municipality, payroll adjustments such as holiday pay, UIC and QPP adjustments, and authorized mileage will now be grouped as one sum in our list of bills to be paid.

## **MRC**

Councillor La Roque has been forceful and vocal in his representation of Harrington's interests at the meetings to the point where they now truly know who and where we are. He has been pressing for solutions to the High Speed Internet problem (more news on this matter further on in this issue), the Eco Centre, the roads etc.

## **ROADS**

Our Director of Public Works has been physically evaluating the condition of our roads and has determined that the worst of the worse are chemin White and the chemin Maskinonge from the bridge for approximately 4 kilometres. Many of us have commented on how much worse chemin White is in comparison to the Arundel section which was brought to gravel 3 years ago. We have determined that it is time that something be done on the whole road network and that we should start somewhere. We felt that given Mr. Swail's recommendation we would present a motion for a borrowing by-law to finance repairs to both these roads.

We realize there are other roads, in particular chemin Harrington, that also need attention however we have to start somewhere - one step at a time.

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Speaking of chemin Harrington we commend the citizens who have made representations to all levels of government and we support them in any way we can.

## **HIGH SPEED INTERNET**

We have had discussions with Groupe Access and on their assurance that they can provide service to 80% or more of our population we have offered them our emergency communications tower for their equipment. They will be running tests and have assured us that power can be in place within two months. Anyone interested in high speed should avail themselves of Groupe Access's website ([www.acces.com](http://www.acces.com)) to sign on as a subscriber or as an interested party.

## **ECO CENTRE**

The MRC's proposal for regional Eco Centers in Gore, Harrington and Grenville Village (the existing Lachute Eco Center was to be included) has been rejected by three municipalities. Under the circumstances and as Mr. La Roque had previously stated we will proceed with our own Eco Center at the former dump, construction to commence as soon as the necessary paper work is received from the Provincial government. Should the dissenting municipalities have a change of heart the MRC would reimburse us for the cost of construction and we would proceed under the initial proposal whereby the MRC would have full responsibility and management of the Eco Center, the cost being shared by all nine municipalities.

Due to an unusually mild winter we have an excess of sand purchased for the roads. This will be used in the construction of the Eco Center thereby returning part of the park back to us.

## **COUNCILLOR PARKINSON**

It is with some regret that we announce the resignation of Mr. Parkinson from Seat No. 5. We wish him well in his endeavours.

## **BY-ELECTION**

As a result of Mr. Parkinson's resignation a By-election has been called to fill the vacancy. Election day will be in Mid-July.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

It was brought to our attention that one of our citizens of advanced years lives on his own without electricity or telephone. There has been an occasion where he had a mishap with no means of communication. We have offered him one of our emergency radios which would give him access to our volunteer firemen who are on call.

## **CIVIC NUMBERS**

We have been considering the various numbering hardware available out there as well as the best method of achieving this project. We are committed to getting this matter resolved as soon as possible.

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## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The forestry truck purchased in New York state and the new fire truck were on display outside the Harrington Valley Centre on May 3<sup>rd</sup> giving citizens a chance to view these additions to our fire fighting capabilities before attending the monthly general meeting.

The forestry truck will enable our volunteers to have access to fire calls on some of our smaller roads and has a pumping capacity of 625 imperial gallons. The new fire truck is state of the art and has a pumping capacity of 1050 imperial Gallons

## **PRIVATE ROADS PILOT PROJECT**

Council is working on a programme to assist residents in our various lake associations in maintaining their roads.

## **HARRINGTON HURRICANES**

Our dragon boat team is gearing up again to participate in this year's race. They did us proud last year raising a considerable amount of money for the Cedar Cancer Institute and coming in third in their first attempt. Go Hurricanes Go!

## **HARRINGTON FESTIVAL**

This year's celebration is scheduled for August 14 and our theme this year is Country Western and no – no mechanical bull but a lot of other fun things. Mark your calendar.

## **HARRINGTON VALLEY RODEO**

This annual event is great fun and is scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>. If you're looking for lots of good food, and some very interesting rodeo events – come on down.

We will have further details on both Celebrations in our next edition.

## **HARRINGTON WEBSITE**

You will find the Harrington Herald on our website at [www.harrington.ca](http://www.harrington.ca)