

Ward 2 Newsletter

Councillor Jeff Laidlaw



2007 Issue 1

Township of KING

Greetings Nobleton / Laskay Constituents:

I wanted to touch base and let you know of what I've been doing as your Councillor since being elected over 4 months ago now.

Aside from the flurry of meetings of Council; which have been abundant, I've also taken it upon myself to take an extended tour of the Township in an attempt to meet and speak with every business to better understand their needs going forward.

In the Council meetings we have been primarily dealing with the issues of the budget, and development applications.

It has not been a quiet time and if I were to try and tell you everything in detail, I would be writing 7 or 8 pages. If I had to characterize this first quarter, I would say it's been about establishing the working parameters and becoming better acquainted with the intricacies of the system and the people who work it/make it work.

I realize that this is a top level view, and may spawn questions; which I'm pleased to try to respond to.

Thank you all for your support to date and I look forward to continuing to work with you for our Ward and community.



BUDGET

On the question of the budget, there are numerous projects which become necessary due to the installation of sewers in King City and the anticipated start of the Nobleton project. This has led to what the township calls "concurrent works" projects; primarily the re-surfacing of the roads and repair to road beds where necessary. Unfortunately past Councils either didn't put money away for these projects or alternatively spent what they did put away, and thus the Township is faced with a cash flow challenge. The initial proposed budget for 2007 expenses inclusive of capital works and concurrent works came in at just shy of \$ 20 million, with anticipated revenues of just shy of \$ 16.5 million.

The options to deal with this are i) substantial property tax increases or ii) issuance of debentures. I have repeatedly suggested to Council that the residents have reached what I have termed the "limit of tolerance" for tax increases. Having said that I suspect we will ultimately come out of the budget process with something between a 2.5 and 3.0% increase, and the Township will issue new debentures for the balance.

This will place the township in the position of having somewhere in the range of \$ 32 million of authorized debentures with a minimum of \$ 5 million issued. \$ 26 million in debentures relates specifically to the King City project and will be tied to the cost recovery formula charging back this amount to King City residents.

I cannot speak to the deliberations at York Region and the York Region District School Board and how this may affect the property tax load. I did note in our local papers that the initial proposal by York Region was for a property tax increase somewhere in the range of 5.5%. I'm hopeful that the end result of deliberations at that level will bring that increase to a lower level.

I have strongly suggested to the Mayor that King Township needs to seek a review of the tax structure formulae to ensure that residents of King Township are not paying more than their fair share of York Region's expenses.



DEVELOPMENT

The development applications which affect Nobleton that have now come forward are the Baldesarra lands and the Stupp property. At this point the Planning Department of King Township has indicated a number of problems with the Baldesarra proposal, and has suggested a significant reduction in the number of proposed units (down to 202 from 245). The OMB process for this one has started, as previously reported through e-mail. The current Stupp proposal calls for 86 units on 41 acres and is generally reflective of estate lot type development.

In the case of both of the proposals noted above, the outstanding concern from the resident standpoint may be the potential opening up of the cul-de-sac on Kaake, and Wilkie. King Township has adopted a general policy of having at least two points of access into (and out of) new plans of subdivision; primarily related to emergency access.

VICTORIA DAY CELEBRATION



I have been working with Patty Fleetwood (Patty's Country Flowers) in establishing and coordinating the **Victoria Day Celebration** in Nobleton. Ideas of what you might want to see at this event are welcomed.



NOBLETON COMMUNITY HALL

I'm sure that the bulk of you are aware of the ongoing efforts to preserve the Nobleton Community Hall in both form and function. On Monday, February 26, Council approved the recommendation to designate this building as a heritage building. More information to follow with respect to funding for needed roof and other repairs.

MEETINGS



As Councillor I have been attending meetings of the Nobleton Schomberg District Chamber of Commerce, the King Township Library Board, the King Township Museum Advisory Committee, the Laskay Hall Board of Management, as well as a series of meetings outside the Township related to the issues of Climate Change and Global Warming.



RESIDENTS' REQUESTS

There have been a number of individual / specific requests made by residents; including the limitation of the use of **engine brakes** through the village, repair of **sidewalks**, new **lighting**,

checking of **chlorine levels** in the municipal water supply, and the like which also are taking significant time, effort, and persistence to deal with and achieve positive outcomes.

SEWERS



There is some question of just what is happening on the Nobleton sewer project. The township, in the orientation sessions initially advised that work would be going ahead this summer in two phases; the collector system across King Road in the early part of the summer months, then wind northwards to the Slokker lands later in the summer into the early fall. Mapping is available on my website, www.laidlawlistens.com. The status of this project is uncertain at the moment. The **water** exploration reports are due at the end of May or early June.



CONGRATULATIONS

It would be remiss of me not to congratulate the following Ward 2 people:

Jim Streb for his appointment to the Library Board;

Dana Gisana for her appointment to the Parks Advisory Committee;

Dr. David Harper for his re-appointment to the Committee of Adjustment;

Bev Berger for her re-appointment to the Accessibility Committee.

Thank you all for your willingness to participate in this manner in the political process.

Email NOTIFICATIONS



Since becoming Ward 2 Councillor, I have sent out a number of email notifications on a variety of topics. As this method of communication has been generally well received, I plan to continue issuing email notifications. If you have not received any of these to date and you would like to be added to the distribution list, please send an email to Add@LaidlawListens.com with the subject "ADD".

