



COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE – APRIL 2006

It's a pleasure to write the Council Communiqué again. It can be a chore, as there's not always a lot happening, or at least not a lot that's developed to the point where we have something concrete to tell you. Nevertheless, it's an opportunity to provide some insight to what's going on, and what we can expect in the near-term.

Especially the Mayor, but also Council and the Town's staff spend a great deal of time preparing for and interacting with the Agglomeration council. This isn't productive work, but we have no choice in the matter. Please bear this in mind when you ask something of the Town staff. They are working hard at providing a good service level, but sometimes the Agglomeration gets in the way.

As spring approaches, we are making plans to improve the appearance of the Town's parks and green spaces. We intend to make a special effort to catch up on the last four years' neglect. One change will be to re-establish our policy of favouring perennials over annuals. This reduces annual labour costs, and allows more time to be spent on cleanup, weed control, etc.

We have a large area to cover, so some details can be missed. If you see a tree down, dumping, vandalism or anything else exceptional, please let us know.

We've increased the tree maintenance budget to \$35,000. Proper pruning and maintenance of our trees increases their lifespan and we try to replace any trees that are lost.

By 2008, the Town is required to have a program in place to reduce the quantity of organic waste going to landfill. We haven't begun looking at the details yet, but there should be a place in this program for backyard composting. The Town distributed wire mesh composting bins some years ago, and mine is still in use. All my garden debris and about half of my leaves go into the bin each year. Expect more news in the year to come...., and if you have ideas to share we'd like to hear from you.

Blue box recycling containers are available at Town Hall, if yours is lost or damaged.

Noise pollution is on the agenda. We've had a few problems emanating from the Industrial Park, and some people find the noise from highway 20 is increasing. In summer, when people like to sit outside and the old-fashioned of us open windows, noise from heat pumps, swimming pool pumps, lawn mowers, etc is a factor. Good maintenance and consideration for others can help to avoid this problem.

Chuck Colomb, Councillor