

**NEPEAN COUNCIL
OPEN HOUSE
MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2000
BEN FRANKLIN PLACE, 101 CENTREPOINTE DRIVE, NEPEAN**

The meeting commenced at 7:06 p.m.

Members Present:

Mayor Mary Pitt

Councillor Margaret Rywak
Knoxdale Ward

Councillor Rick Chiarelli
Nepean Centre Ward

Councillor Lee Farnworth
Merivale Ward

Councillor Merv Sullivan
Lakeshore Ward

Councillor Wayne Phillips
Evergreen Ward

Councillor Jan Harder
Barrhaven Ward

Open House

A Vanguard comprised of a piper, Ms. Mary MacDonald, two Fire Prevention Officers, Mr. Bruce Connolly and Mr. Dave Wilcox, and two Senior By-law Services Officers, Mr. Mark Beaudoin and Mr. Roger Chapman ceremonially paraded Members of Council into The Chamber.

01 Prayer

Mayor Pitt opened the meeting with a prayer.

02 Welcome/Acknowledgements

Mayor Pitt welcomed guests to the 2000 Annual Open House Council Meeting and thanked Ms. Mary MacDonald for piping the procession into the Chamber. She also thanked Mr. Bruce Connolly and Mr. Dave Wilcox, Fire Prevention Officers, and Mr. Mark Beaudoin and Mr. Roger Chapman, Senior By-law Services Officers for their part in the vanguard.

03 Introductions

Mayor Pitt introduced members of Council: the Councillor for Evergreen Ward, Wayne Phillips; the Councillor for Merivale Ward, Lee Farnworth; the Councillor for Knoxdale Ward, Margaret Rywak; the Councillor for Nepean Centre Ward, Rick Chiarelli; the Councillor for Lakeshore Ward, Merv Sullivan; and the Councillor for Barrhaven Ward, Jan Harder.

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Mayor Pitt also welcomed and acknowledged special guests, Regional Chair Bob Chiarelli, former Nepean Reeve/Mayor and Regional Chair Andy Haydon, former Nepean Councillor Aubrey Moodie, Mayor Claudette Cain, Regional Councillors Molly McGoldrick-Larsen, Gord Hunter and Wendy Byrne.

04 Legacy Quartet

The Legacy Quartet lead the singing of O Canada.

Mayor Pitt formally introduced members of the Legacy Quartet: Linda Rowat, Carole Griffin, Anne Higgs and Shirley Webb, noting the group was formed three years ago and belongs to the 110 member Canadian Showcase Chorus, the Nepean Chapter of Sweet Adelines International. Mayor Pitt described the various venues at which Legacy has performed and their role as fundraisers in the community.

The Legacy Quartet performed *Let's Sing Again, Breaking Up is Hard To Do, Can You Feel the Love Tonight* and *Ride the Chariot*.

05 Mayor Pitt's Annual Address

Mayor Pitt delivered the following address:

"This is the first open house meeting for the new millennium. Tonight is historic. It is monumental. It is bittersweet. I am so honoured to be the Mayor of this fine City, one enriched with tradition, blessed with incredible people and filled with many invaluable resources.

The last two years, this Council has had the privilege of representing the interests of Nepean residents and businesses, and it truly has been a privilege. It has been a challenging time in our City's history, however it is our challenges that make us strong and united.

I want tonight to be about pride ... about accomplishments ... about the strength of people.

I have the distinct pleasure of working with various stakeholders ... residents, business leaders, City staff, the local media, representatives from various organizations and my colleagues in neighbouring municipalities.

As I said earlier, I have had the privilege of representing the interests of residents. Residents have come to me with their concerns and their inquiries, and I have done my best to work with them to come up with suitable resolutions. I extend a big thank you to our residents for their perseverance, dedication and passion during the last few years as we fought for our City.

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The Nepean business community has been exceptional ... very involved and always willing to lend a helping hand. A special thanks to the Nepean Chamber of Commerce for their spectacular efforts during the restructuring debate.

Nepean City staff are the best group of people I have ever worked with. They are dedicated and tenacious. We have had many great times, and I look forward to working with them in the year ahead. They will do us all proud with their professionalism and desire to provide the best service they can to the Nepean ratepayers.

An extraordinary amount of time and effort was devoted to the issue of municipal restructuring by all municipalities in 1999.

The research and analysis undertaken to prepare submissions to the Special Advisor and the Provincial Government ensures valuable information is available for the Transition Board's consideration.

Existing strong working relationships among staff and elected officials of the area municipalities and Regional Municipality have been enhanced as a result of the work on governance. All have gained a greater appreciation and understanding of the operations of the various municipal organizations. Nepean staff are committed to continue providing a high level of public service to our ratepayers in 2000 while working on the numerous issues associated with the transition to a single city.

As we all embark on a new way of conducting municipal business, I make you a promise ... and that is that I will do everything in my power to ensure that the model of governance for the new city is given unconditional cooperation. I will personally make certain that the City of Nepean continues to be represented in the most professional manner. I will be at the table and work hard with the Transition Board to represent Nepean's interests.

1999 was a monumental year for the City of Nepean. Each and every one of our departments were busy undertaking new projects while maintaining day-to-day activities. Here are some of our accomplishments.

For the Parks and Recreation Department, summer camps continued to increase in popularity with a 3% growth in 1999. This is due in part to the addition of more specialty camps including computer skill development programs.

At the Nepean National Equestrian Park special events were increased which boosted attendance and revenues in 1999. Among these special events were the Capital Classic Showjumping Tournament, the Nepean Horse Trials and the Dog Trial Championships.

Also in '99 the Greening Our City program was extremely successful with almost double the number of projects from the year before. Public participation in this environmental program also doubled, resulting in the planting of 7,100 trees, shrubs and perennials at a dozen project sites.

A \$5.2 million addition was constructed at the Nepean Sportsplex. The third and newest ice surface, which boasts "state of the art" mechanical systems and ice-plant includes an ice surface,

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five large dressing rooms, spectator seating for 300 and a 3,000 square foot community hall on the second floor, overlooking the rink.

Park Planning and Development staff managed the expansion of the Nepean Central Library. This \$1.8M project has greatly extended the ability of the Library to provide services to the growing CentrepoinTE Community. A new access road now provides better traffic flow to City Hall. Additional street lighting, a new theatre marquee, garden plaza, and the streetscaping of Meridian Place have added vitality thereby enhancing Nepean's civic centre.

The CentrepoinTE Theatre Volunteer Company (CTVC) earned a place in the spotlight in 1999 when it received the Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Recreation and Culture. The Volunteer Company was recognized for making the arts more accessible and affordable for performers and patrons. Since its inception in 1988, the CentrepoinTE Theatre volunteers have contributed an estimated 200,000 hours of service. Another fine example of how voluntarism improves our quality of life.

Partnership projects are key to our City's success. We established joint projects with both School Boards that include shared library facilities, a twenty microcomputer electronic centre, playing fields, and community use of schools and buildings. This is another example of good business sense and the incredible benefits of partnerships:

The Nepean Public Library and its board should be proud of their accomplishments this past year. The library witnessed many changes:

- a \$97,000 grant from Human Resources Development Canada was used to provide public internet access at the Central Library and at the Ruth E. Dickinson Branch,
- a new collection of over 6,000 music CD's,
- a new children's CD-ROM collection,
- a program to introduce all grade four classes in Nepean to the public library, and
- public computer literacy training, including the internet.

The Nepean Public Library participated in the Ottawa-Carleton public libraries' millennium project which provides information about public libraries and a book for all newborn babies in 2000.

Fire and Emergency Services also had a busy year. We were delighted to hire five probationary firefighters in April and they celebrated with a graduation ceremony in June.

Municipalities have made great efforts to assist one another in emergency situations for many years. We have witnessed two fine examples of mutual aid: First for West Carleton Township ... the huge fire in June that affected 500 acres; and more recently the silo fires that burned for a week in Rideau Township. Nepean fire crews were there ... neighbours assisting neighbours.

The department received a new emergency services unit which provides additional resources for major fires and emergencies.

Other important projects that took place in the Nepean Fire Department are:

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- a public awareness program by Fire Prevention on Y2K issues and emergency preparedness, and
- the computer automated dispatch system was installed in our Communications Centre and training of staff took place.

Last November, two students from St. Elizabeth Ann Seyton School, (Corey Domenico and Dominique Bietlot) were Fire Chiefs for the Day. The experience was educational and a great way to get the youth involved in an extremely important issue safety. I enjoyed the day tremendously.

Our By-law staff have been very busy in '99. Both with the property standards and smoke-free by-laws. The City of Nepean traditionally has been one of the leading municipalities in Ottawa-Carleton to develop and implement progressive smoke-free by-laws for both work places and public places.

The Human Resources Department successfully negotiated Collective Agreements with all City Unions for the year 2000. They also initiated a region-wide process to uniformly collect and report Human Resource data for the Restructuring Transition Board and new Municipality. The Human Resources group initiated a special training and development program to assist new employees in the transition to a new municipality.

The recent retirement of our Commissioner of Public Works presented the opportunity to begin the next stage of our organizational evolution.

January 1, 2000 saw the introduction of a city manager model of administration. The City's former structure of seven departments has been consolidated into four major service groups with the elimination of the executive position in Public Works and associated expenses. Further savings are anticipated as functions merge and economies of scale are realized.

Nepean's four major service groups are: Fire and Emergency Services, Community Services, Development Services and Corporate and Financial Services.

The Public Works Department undertook an environmental assessment study for a new stormwater facility for the Nepean Creek/ Merivale Industrial storm drainage areas. When constructed, this will enhance Nepean's leadership role in stormwater management and protecting the water quality in the Rideau River.

The department also completed development of a "Roadway Classification System" to assist in responding to traffic related concerns and prioritizing maintenance activities and new infrastructure construction.

As our City grows ... so does our infrastructure ... the Public Works Department completed the design and construction program consisting of approximately 20 projects valued at over \$7 million.

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A very important element for a quality city is its maintenance ... the department continued developing an infrastructure management system to ensure that funds are used efficiently and are sufficient to maintain the City's infrastructure in an acceptable condition.

The Economic Development Division created several new initiatives to strengthen and expand our support to entrepreneurs and existing businesses. For example:

- We introduced free one-on-one small business consulting services to help people start or run their business.
- We helped form a South Nepean Business group to promote shopping and business in South Nepean.
- We produced a user-friendly new brochure which outlines home-based business regulations.

The small business seminar series continues to be an overwhelming success. More than 350 people attended one or more of the 19 seminars offered in 1999.

A constant source of pride for Nepean is our growth build it and they will come! The total value of building permits issued in 1999 was \$184.8 million, the 3rd highest on record!

Also, of interest residential permits are very strong - up 38% over 1998. As well, institutional permits are up 144% over 1998.

The major employers are also growing. Nortel Networks completed more than 530,000 square feet of research and development space at its Carling Campus - the largest private-sector technology campus in Canada.

JDS Uniphase completed the first 2 phases of its corporate campus in the South Merivale Business Park, and construction is now underway on the third phase. JDS has grown remarkably fast in Nepean, and now employs more than 6,000 people - making it the second largest high tech employer in Ottawa-Carleton, behind Nortel Networks.

For the Finance Department, the primary issue in 1999 was Y2K. The information technology staff managed Year 2000 compliance activities to ensure that the City was ready and that facilities and municipal services would not be impacted.

The department also managed the regular on-going program of budgets, year end, and normal financial activities.

In Nepean we are very proud of our debt - free status ... and the fact that the residents have seen no tax increase in 7 years.

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In 1999, the average ratepayer paid \$545 for all of the municipal services they received from the City of Nepean. This year the average Nepean tax bill will be \$520.

The Queensway-Carleton Hospital received a \$1 million dollar grant from the City of Nepean in 1999. These funds assisted our community hospital during their recent expansion. For example, the Child Birth Centre, the new Catscan unit and as well, some of the funds will be used to assist in the new emergency department which will start construction in the summer.

In 1998, I established the Mayor's Task force on the Millennium, a group comprised of community, business and staff representatives meeting on an ongoing basis to come up with ways of commemorating this new millennium.

A few of those projects include the Millennium medals, which we will be presenting in a few minutes, recognizing special people in the Nepean community over the last 100 years.

The Strawberry Festival in June will celebrate the Nepean agricultural community. Another millennium project is the Fragrant Garden, (a floral garden designed specifically with the physically challenged in mind), to be given a permanent home at Ben Franklin Place. The Millennium Community Fund will help community groups finance their millennium programs. We have a total of \$20,000 to give away.

Nepean's New's Years Eve and New Year's Day events were a great success. We have certainly celebrated in style and at the same time left lasting legacies for our future generations.

I would like to take a minute to speak individually about my Council colleagues.

Firstly, Councillor Margaret Rywak has tremendous knowledge about our City and the residents. Margaret continues to go above and beyond her role as a City Councillor. She formed the "Nepean Committee Against Impaired Driving". She organizes many events for the community and continually participates in Nepean activities. Councillor Rywak has served as Chair of the Public Works Committee for 10 years.

Next, Councillor Rick Chiarelli. Rick is a life long resident of Nepean and is in his third term on Council. Rick is truly devoted to the City of Nepean. He was instrumental in our municipal restructuring campaign. He invested many tireless days to the governance debate. His commitment to the City also includes his work on the Nepean Public Library Board and the Environmental Committee.

Councillor Lee Farnworth is extremely involved in her community. Lee supports various organizations including Nelson House and the Nepean Community Resource Centre. She is the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee. She very ably manages to balance a busy teaching career at Algonquin College and her duties as a City Councillor.

Councillor Merv Sullivan has been on Council for five years. I value his business approach to the daily challenges of municipal business. Merv represents the Lakeshore community in a professional and respectful manner. He has managed the needs of an established community very

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well. Merv is the Vice Chair of Public Works Committee and the Chair of the Nepean Public Library Board and the Reserve Fund Sub-Committee.

Councillor Wayne Phillips has brought his unique skills to our team. His initiative in regard to strategic planning for the City was welcomed, and the process was a healthy one. Wayne's Ward is the largest in the City and he manages the diversity and demands of his constituents very well. Wayne is Chair of the Planning and Development Committee. He is a life long resident of Nepean.

Councillor Jan Harder is extremely involved in the Barrhaven Community. Her passion and enthusiasm is shown in every project she takes on, including Teen Expo, Canada Day and her weekly coffee houses at the Walter Baker Centre, just to name a few. As well, Jan is Vice-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee, and Chair of the Economic Sustainability Committee. She also has a full-time job.

As you can see, this Council is comprised of individuals that have varying strengths, backgrounds and interests. This diversity is the basis of a good team. I look forward to the next year for us as a Council. I thank each and every one of you for your cooperation over the past two years and your commitment to the residents of Nepean.

I have learned so much during my tenure as Mayor. I have gained tremendous knowledge about people, their passions and interests, their generosity and compassion, and their goals and ambitions.

As Mayor I wear many hats .. Ambassador, Negotiator, CEO, Media Spokesperson, leader, compromiser, and the list goes on. I've even had the opportunity to be a model for charity fashion shows, and a hockey coach.

If you asked me to write a job description - I would say that the job of Mayor is challenging, demanding, exhilarating, fast-paced, at times stressful, but always a constant source of pride. I am really proud to be the Mayor of this great City. I thank the residents for giving me this opportunity.

As we all know, Nepean is destined to merge with other area municipalities. I'm confident that our own unique history and strong sense of community will live on for many, many years to come."

06 Presentation of Millennium Medals

Mayor Pitt introduced the Nepean 2000 Medals Program, which honours citizens who have dedicated significant amounts of time to community service. She advised that through these medals she is confident that Nepean's unique history and strong sense of community will live on for many years to come.

Councillor Farnworth presented the first medal to Mrs. Greta Robinson, well known and respected throughout the international arts community, and who for the past 37 years operated Nepean's first ballet school - the Greta Leeming Studio of Dance - which has achieved a national and international reputation.

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Councillors Phillips presented a Nepean 2000 medal to Mr. Irving Altman for his outstanding community service with the Nepean Association for Performing Arts (now the Centrepointe Theatre) as well as the Rich Little Foundation for the Performing Arts, among many other contributions related to the arts community.

Councillor Chiarelli presented the third millennium medal to former Nepean Councillor, Reeve/Mayor and Regional Chair, Andy Haydon. Councillor Chiarelli noted that Andy is known for the now famous "pay-as-you-go" financial concept. Councillor Chiarelli also described Andy as a well-respected politician whose foresight led to successful projects such as the Nepean Sportsplex and the transitway.

Councillor Rywak advised the next three medals would be received by Mrs. Ruth Bell - one on behalf of her deceased husband, the Honourable Richard A. Bell, one for her stepdaughter, Judith Bell, who is ill and could not attend, and one for Ruth's valued contribution to the community.

Beginning with the medal for Mr. Bell (better known to most as "Dick" Bell), Councillor Rywak referred to Dick as a member of the fourth generation of the family to be born in the Bell Homestead on Richmond Road known as "Fairfields". She described his contributions as the solicitor for the Township of Nepean and later for the City, supporter of Nepean's heritage and establishment by both Ruth and Dick of Nepean Museum, as well as Dick's many efforts on behalf of the Queensway-Carleton Hospital, Ontario Law Reform Commission and Carleton University's Board of Governors, and as a former member of Federal Parliament and member of the Privy Council.

Councillor Harder asked Mrs. Ruth Bell to also accept the Nepean 2000 medal on behalf of her stepdaughter, Judith Bell. Following in her father's footsteps, Councillor Harder, described Judith practicing law for 20 years (also for the City of Nepean), before her appointment to the Superior Court of Ontario in 1986. Councillor Harder noted her success as a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada, and lecturer of law at the University of Ottawa. She also described Judith's service on the Board of Governors of Carleton University, Board of Trustees of the Ottawa Civic Hospital and Hospital Advisory Board of Ottawa-Carleton Regional Health Board and District Health Council.

Councillor Sullivan called upon Ruth to receive the final medal for her numerous community services over the past three decades. He related many community services performed by Ruth on behalf of the Nepean Township Library Board, Eastern Ontario and Provincial Library Trustee Boards, Friends of Nepean Library, Nepean's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, Nepean Museum, Nepean University Women, YM-YWCA, Canadian Commission for International Year of the Child, Board of Directors for TV Ontario, including lecturer of government and politics at Carleton University and Algonquin College, among many others.

- 07 Resolution - To approve By-law No. 10(02)2000 confirming the proceedings of Council at its Open House Meeting on January 12, 2000.**

MOTION NUMBER 003-2000

Moved by Councillor Harder
Seconded by Councillor Sullivan

BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law No. 10(02)2000, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of Council at its Open House Meeting held on January 12, 2000, be introduced and read a first and second time and deemed to have been read a third time and passed.

- Carried -

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

John LeMaistre, City Clerk

Mary Pitt, Mayor