

December 14, 2015: **3 good news items and then the audit**

Item #1 Montessori school

Congratulations to councillor Wawrzaszek on demonstrating courage and tabling a resolution asking for reconsideration in the rezoning application brought forward by Jennifer Burtch to increase her Montessori school size from 5 children to 8. The two main objectors to this rezoning application are councillors Doody and Marks. Both expressing their opposition because this school for whatever reason does not fit in this quiet neighbourhood. As councillor Bamford eloquently pointed out that older established neighbourhoods have seen large families amongst them. I myself come from a family of seven and my younger sister married into a family of 21. This quiet neighbourhood "not in my backyard " mentality was poorly orchestrated in this instance and the no brainer that it was, finally received approval with all of the council voting in support and the two descendents holding firmly onto the past. Again congratulations are in order to councillor Wawrzaszek for showing courage and publicly admitting that he got it wrong the first time around.

Item#2 Syrian refugee family update

The Committee set up to welcome our new Syrian family into our city proudly announced that through public and corporate donations \$31,000 had been raised. If you add the matching \$15,000 from the city taxpayers a nice tidy sum of \$46,000 had been raised to help defray the cost of accommodating our new family. The committee chairman made it clear that much work still needed to be done prior to the family's arrival which by the way could be measured in hours or weeks. The committee divided themselves into different roles. For instance, airport arrival-- schooling--housing--language facilitator--social integration—employment. The committee is still in the dark as to the size and makeup of this family soon to be chosen to come and live in the city with a heart of gold.

Item#3. Club Richelieu

The club Richelieu president GABE Provost was pleased to formally announce that the Club Richelieu was also making another large donation of \$30,000. To be used to welcome another refugee family to our city. Fantastic! way to go guys.

Item #4. The long awaited Deloitte secondary waste water treatment plant audit

The presenter started out making this statement,"there really was no meaningful opportunities for cost recovery because 90% of the contract is based on fixed costs. The problem that was initially discovered is that the city did not observe industry standards and only tendered with a 10% contingency fund Councillor Rinaldo admitted that during the initial deliberations our city engineer recommended the lower contingency number despite her reluctance, stating that if the the city would tender with the industry standard 30% contingency fund that most bidders would find it attractive to come in with a higher bid. Councillor Campbell was visibly disturbed by the question that the mayor asked. The question is as follows; if the city were to build this plant today at what number wouldn't come in at? The answer surprisingly was we would be in throwing distance of \$80,million. Well there you go problem solved this answer flies in the face of the exact same plant being built in Cornwall for ,,,wait for it \$55.5 million. Deloitte and Councillor Campbell seemed to be in agreement that risk management and communication was poorly handled. Councillor Campbell touched on the geotechnical difficulties

that could have been better risk managed because the city still had historical data. As a blue print we had two bridges that had to be erected on piles and the school board nixed the idea of building there because the Melrose swamp as it is known to builders would not be a suitable site.

The KPMG report noted that there was \$100k that was knowingly wasted by someone in our city administration with no accountability . But now \$12million? Will there be any accountability for this blunder ?only time will tell.

Council retired to go In Camera once **again**.