



Christopher Northcott,
Councillor, Division 6
(403) 423-0158
Christopher.Northcott@vulcan.ca

COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor activities and updates for May 2023.

- Attached is my May write-up, “Notes from Council,” for the Champion Chronicle and my website.
- Attended regular meetings.
- Attended 6 PM ORRSC Executive Committee meeting over Teams on May 11th, 2023, from the County Office.
 - Take Away:
 - Reviewed draft annual report.
 - Update on the subdivision internal database.
 - Update on vehicle purchase.
 - Update on regular business.
- Attended 7 PM Marquis Foundation Building Update meeting on May 11th, 2023, at Vulcan Legion.
 - Take Away:
 - Great presentation on building opportunity and the need for it.
 - Addressed how to finance the project and the need for member municipalities to contribute their share of the \$1.5 million equity stake based on equalized assessment cost-share.
 - Some villages expressed their desire to support the project but said committing the funds might not be possible at this time.
 - Noted by Mayor Smith that member-municipalities must contribute to operations of the foundation, however, capital contributions are optional.
 - Consensus that the old building had significant deficiencies and that aging buildings do get more expensive to maintain.
- Attended Lake McGregor Country Estates Community Association AGM on May 20th, 2023.
 - Take Away:
 - Well-run Saturday morning meeting; great attendance. Main meeting room was full. Board of directors took turns speaking to the PowerPoint presentation.
 - Looking to fill four vacancies on the board.
 - All land associated with common property being transferred from the developer to the community association. The only delay has been land titles, however, they purchase title transfer insurance. This transfer does not include the lands south of existing development or the hill road down to the lake. The community association is getting the



Christopher Northcott,
Councillor, Division 6
(403) 423-0158
Christopher.Northcott@vulcan.ca

COUNCILLOR REPORT

campground and eight undeveloped lots. The developer still has some of the seasonal lots that do not pay the HOA fees; I believe this was seven lots.

- Working with Alberta Environment on the water and wastewater license renewal. They have been granted an extension to 2024. The Board believes they have a strong relationship with Alberta Environment.
- Business ahead for the board includes a bylaw review, development of reserve fund and strategies to generate income, and looking at options for undeveloped lands. In all matters, the Board is welcoming input from residents.
- Fees were increased in mid-2022. This was necessary to cover legal fees which were close to \$90,000. The Board believes that a change of legal counsel saved money and got them to a settlement. The Board is breaking even on revenue and expenditures, however, some believe that increasing fees from \$255 per month to \$300 per month will better fund the reserve. This will need to be addressed before the end of the year.
- Looking for pricing on an engineered asset management study. This study will help identify infrastructure deficiencies and priorities. While they have a routine maintenance schedule on their wastewater system they are asking residents to be very mindful of what goes down the drain.
- Some of the windows at the club house are bowing. The pool is a challenge to meet appropriate contact times with chlorine when use is heavy. Users need to be mindful the pool capacity and hours of use.
- Community standards are being enforced and fines will be issued when necessary.
- Looking into composting program to reduce sludge going into wastewater system.
- McGregor residents are being told to use the Vulcan Waste Transfer Site rather than the Lomond site, although there is confusion on this matter and on the hours of operation for the Lomond transfer station.
- Community safety is a priority. They are looking at curtailing youth driving golf carts. The social committee has purchased a defibrillator. The Board has registered a site id with STARS Air Ambulance to facilitate faster transportation. This site id (14452) will be posted on signage around the community. STARS knows the property and knows where they can land.
- Vulcan County Emergency Services is doing a fire safety barbecue on July 22nd. Other events are planned for the summer.
- Hutterites will be selling their produce in the main courtyard.
- Weed spraying will be offered for \$20 per month.
- Looking into a covered boat storage facility.



Christopher Northcott,
Councillor, Division 6
(403) 423-0158
Christopher.Northcott@vulcan.ca

COUNCILLOR REPORT

- Attended all-day tour of cemeteries in the County to kick off the MITACs Locating Missing Graves Project on May 31, 2023.
 - Take Away:
 - Had a bit of rough start. Laurie had to deal with some matters for the Victim Services Board that she sits on and was not able to leave Vulcan right away. We were able to use a truck from the County and the plan was for all of us to get into it. We met with Kelly McLeod and her village foreman at the Cemetery, as well as Nels, however, the university guys were not there. Phoned Ron Svanes and asked if he could check to see if they were at the Bowville Cemetery (Google was sending people there when you looked up the Carmangay Cemetery) and it turns out they were already there. Once Laurie made it to Carmangay, we decided to meet up with them at Bowville in order to get back on schedule. Ron was able to explain the value of the project to the Bowville Cemetery.
 - Went to the Travers Cemetery next. It is directly north of Travers and quite high up. We were met there by Lions Randy Schlaht, Erich and Carol Ruppert, as well as Village Administrator Amanda Nielson. This cemetery is needing this project to identify where the graves are located and from there develop a new plan. Conditions were right to fly the drone and they were able to capture a few images. They have a fold out landing pad and a tri-pod that allows for pinpoint accuracy with the GPS locates. The drone will be flown over each cemetery at various altitudes and times of day to collect a comprehensive data set. This data will provide layered maps and temperature readings with GPS accuracy.
 - From Travers we went to Lomond Cemetery. Randy and Erich were able to show us the part of the cemetery where unmarked graves remains a problem as well as the area that is accurately pinned. This will provide excellent application for the technology.
 - Being that we were too late for lunch in Lomond, we headed to Milo, had lunch, and then met Lion Allan and Colleen Bartsch at the East Milo Cemetery. From there we went to West Milo Cemetery which will be a challenge to fly given the overhead powerlines. They figure they will likely have to keep the drone high and overhead of the lines. Both Milo cemeteries will likely require ground penetrating radar (GPR) given that some of the unknown graves could be under a hedge and because of the overhead powerlines at the west cemetery. The GPR is quite time consuming and labour intensive, and the data is not as easy to interpret as some often believe it will be.
 - From there we went back to the Carmangay cemetery where Nels was able to meet up with us again and Laurie was able to provide an overview of what she learned from Todd McFarland.

COUNCILLOR REPORT

- Long day but very productive. The conversations with the community members were very helpful and detailed notes were taken by Dr. Coburn's intern, Paul. They plan to get started with flying the drone over the next few weeks as the cemeteries are mowed. Carmangay, Lomond and both Milo cemeteries are mowed. Work parties are planned for Bowville and Travers. The drone flights will be repeated after some rain and as things green up.
- Constituent Matters:
 - Spoke to constituents at the McGregor Country Estates Community Association AGM. Long-time residents of the County who farm near Kirkaldy are concerned about the lack of progress with the Horus Solar Farm. They are wondering if allowing lower profile transmission lines to be built in the road allowance might move these projects along. See picture for comparison.

