



CAO REPORT – April 26, 2021

As a start to my report this week I wanted to acknowledge the work of our Corporate Officer and her team in coordinating the new technology upgrades to the Council chamber. These changes will allow for a more seamless interaction for those who are streaming the meetings and also a clearer sound recording of the discussions of Council. In addition, with COVID 19 still with us, special consideration has been given to achieving as much distance as possible between seating positions and the introduction of plexiglass barriers between Council members.

As Council is aware, we have introduced a new rapid review process for temporary patios, given the most recent public health measures which have closed indoor seated service. I am pleased to report that the new process is proceeding well. To date we have had a number of inquiries about the process from the business community and have approved two different locations for temporary patios: the Beanery Café, and more recently the Second Home Restaurant. I am proud of our staff who have been responsive to this need, and who have worked closely with the Chamber of Commerce and the business community during a difficult time for the sector.

I would like to acknowledge the work of volunteers, community groups, and staff who helped with the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Week Celebration. By all accounts, it was a big success and many activities were enjoyed while at the same time honouring the COVID 19 protocols. The first unlimited yard waste pick up and a downtown recycling depot also took place this last week, and many residents took the opportunity to participate in these services. In fact, the One-Day Recycling Depot which was set up at the arena was the busiest we have ever had, with more than 1.5 times more than our previous largest ever collection.

On the staffing front Council will be pleased to know that we have hired our new permanent firefighter/inspector position. Mr. Nigel Thomas is the successful applicant. Nigel has been with the department as an auxiliary firefighter since 2009 and has demonstrated exemplary service during this time. He will be an excellent addition to our full-time complement on the team and will start officially on May 3.

Finally, just a quick update on the Thirsk Dam crack that is being investigated. Our consultants, GeoTriangle, completed a site visit and field inspection on Friday, April 9. We are targeting a report for the second Council meeting in May which will include an assessment to determine the cause(s) of the crack, comparative stability analysis and any recommended actions that flow from the analysis.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Statt, CAO

