



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN  
COUNCIL MINUTES**

**MEETING NO. SEVEN**

**April 22, 2024, 6:30 p.m.**

**Township Administration Building, Council Chamber  
318 Canborough Street, Smithville, Ontario**

Council: Mayor Cheryl Ganann  
Councillor Shelley Bradaric  
Councillor Joann Chechalk  
Councillor Mike Rehner  
Councillor William Reilly  
Councillor Jason Trombetta

Regrets: Councillor Terry Bell

Staff: Donna DeFilippis, Interim Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer  
Nancy Fiorentino, Acting Director of Legislative Services and Clerk  
Kevin Geoghegan, IT Help Desk Analyst

Attendees: Regional Councillor Albert Witteveen

**1. SINGING OF "O CANADA" - SMITHVILLE CHRISTIAN HIGHSCHOOL**

**2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**

The Township of West Lincoln, being part of Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The Township of West Lincoln, as part of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, stands with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

**3. OPENING PETITION - Councillor Mike Rehner**

Councillor Rehner read the opening petition from a prepared statement.

**4. CHANGE IN ORDER OF ITEMS ON AGENDA**

There were no changes in the order of agenda items.

**5. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest or conflicts of interest.

**6. REQUEST TO ADDRESS ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no requests to address items on the agenda.

**7. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

7.1 Jayden Polgrabia

Re: Presentation - 3rd Annual Mountainview LemonAID Day for FACS  
Niagara

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION**

Jayden Polgrabia, founder of the LemonAID Day fundraiser event, gave a presentation describing the event and requesting an endorsement of the event from the Township (attached as Schedule "A").

**Moved By** Councillor William Reilly

**Seconded By** Councillor Shelley Bradaric

1. That the Council of the Township of West Lincoln hereby supports Family and Children's Services (FACS) Niagara and their upcoming fundraising and community event being Mountainview LemonAID Day to be held on Sunday, June 8, 2024 and encourage children, parents and families within the community to support and participate in Mountainview LemonAID Day in the Township of West Lincoln; and
2. That the event be shared on social media.

**Carried**

The Mayor recessed the meeting at 6:49 p.m. for a duration of 5 minutes to enable staff to address technical issues with Zoom.

The meeting resumed at 6:53 p.m.

**8. REGIONAL COUNCILLOR'S REMARKS**

Regional Councillor Witteveen read from a prepared statement (attached as Schedule "B").

**9. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

9.1 Council Minutes

Re: Minutes - March 25, 2024

**Moved By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

**Seconded By** Councillor Mike Rehner

That the minutes of the open session portion of the March 25, 2024 regular Council Meeting, and the recommendations contained therein, be accepted.

**Carried**

9.2 Public Meeting Under the Planning Act

Re: Minutes - April 9, 2024

**Moved By** Councillor William Reilly

**Seconded By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

That, the minutes of the public meeting held on April 9, 2024 under Section 34 of the Planning Act with respect to:

1. 3118 Grassie Road (Sikender Gulacha) - Site Alteration Application be accepted.

**Carried**

**10. COMMUNICATIONS**

10.1 Niagara Regional Labour Council

Re: Support of correspondence in regards to declaring April 28th, 2024 a National Day of Mourning for Workplace death and injury.

**Moved By** Councillor Jason Trombetta

**Seconded By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

1. That the correspondence received from the Niagara Regional Labour Council, dated March 24, 2024, be received; and
2. That the Township recognize the National Day of Mourning on April 28th, 2024 and fly all flags on Township properties at half mast on April 28th, 2024.

**Carried**

10.2 Canada Community Building Fund

Re: Support of resolution in regards to Federal infrastructure funding not keeping pace with population growth.

**Moved By** Councillor Shelley Bradaric

**Seconded By** Councillor Jason Trombetta

**WHEREAS**, Canada is experiencing record population growth, having welcomed 1.25 million new Canadians last year alone; and

**WHEREAS**, According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) we need to build at least 3.5 million additional homes by 2030, and municipalities need to build or expand the infrastructure to accommodate this growth; and

**WHEREAS**, FCM has estimated that the cost of the municipal infrastructure required support housing development is, on average, in the range of \$107,000 per unit; and

**WHEREAS**, According to Statistics Canada the cost of upgrade *existing* municipal infrastructure so that it is in a state of good repair is in the range of \$170 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, Non-residential construction price inflation has risen by 29% since the end of 2020 and municipalities are facing soaring costs for infrastructure project without a corresponding growth in revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, Unlike federal and provincial revenue, municipal tax revenue has not increased in recent years along with inflation, economic growth or population growth; and

**WHEREAS**, Municipalities are facing a gap in federal infrastructure funding as the 10-year Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program has come to an end, the Canada Community-Building Fund is being renegotiated and the Permanent Public Transit Fund is set to start in 2026;

**WHEREAS**, The Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF), which was formerly known as the federal Gas Tax Fund, provides more than \$2.4 billion in annual capital funding directly to municipalities through a predictable allocation mechanism, and municipalities of all sizes use the CCBF to deliver direct results for Canadians by building and renewing critical core public infrastructure, including water infrastructure, local roads, public transit and community, and cultural and recreational facilities; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, That the federal government work with agreement signatories and municipalities to maintain the CCBF as a source of direct, predictable, long-term funding for local infrastructure priorities; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the federal government commit, in Budget 2024, to the next generation of infrastructure programs, including a new program for water and wastewater infrastructure and an increase to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the federal government convene provinces, territories and municipalities to negotiate a “Municipal Growth Framework” to modernize the way that municipalities are funded in order to enable Canada’s long-term growth.

**Carried**

- 10.3 Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day  
Re: Support and recognition of Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day.

**Moved By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

**Seconded By** Councillor William Reilly

1. That the correspondence received from Niagara Health regarding Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day, dated April 2024, be received;
2. That the Township of West Lincoln recognizes and accepts May 11, 2024 as Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day; and
3. That May 11, 2024, being recognized as Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day in West Lincoln, be promoted on social media to raise awareness.

**Carried**

## 11. **MAYOR’S REMARKS**

The Mayor read from a prepared statement (attached as Schedule "C").

## 12. **REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

- 12.1 Planning, Building & Environmental Committee

Re: Minutes - April 9, 2024

**Moved By** Councillor William Reilly

**Seconded By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

That the minutes of the April 9, 2024 regular Planning, Building & Environmental Committee Meeting, and the recommendations contained therein, be accepted.

**Carried**

12.2 Administration, Finance & Fire Committee

Re: Minutes - April 15, 2024

**Moved By** Councillor Jason Trombetta

**Seconded By** Councillor Shelley Bradaric

That the minutes of the April 15, 2024 regular Administration, Finance & Fire Committee Meeting, and the recommendations contained therein, be accepted.

**Carried**

12.3 Public Works & Recreation Committee

Re: Minutes - April 15, 2024

**Moved By** Councillor Mike Rehner

**Seconded By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

That the minutes of the April 15, 2024 regular Public Works & Recreation Committee Meeting, and the recommendations contained therein, be accepted.

**Carried**

**13. STAFF REPORTS**

13.1 Acting Director of Finance (Katelyn Repovs) and Property Tax and Payroll Coordinator (Lisa Kasko Young)

Re: Recommendation Report T-09-2024 - 2024 Tax Rate By-law

**Moved By** Councillor Jason Trombetta

**Seconded By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

1. That Recommendation Report T-09-2024 dated April 22, 2024, regarding the "2024 Tax Rate By-Law", be received;
2. That the 2024 tax rates attached as Schedule A to report T-09-2024 be approved; and,

3. That By-Law 2024-24 to set the rates of taxation for the year 2024 be approved.

**Carried**

**14. RECONSIDERATION**

There were no motions introduced for reconsideration of items.

**15. NOTICE OF MOTION TO RESCIND**

There were no notices of motions to rescind.

**16. OTHER BUSINESS**

16.1 Members of Council

Council Remarks

Councillor Reilly

Councillor Reilly made a correction to a comment he made earlier in the meeting. When speaking with Mr. Polgrabia, Councillor Reilly said “incumbersome,” but meant to say “inclusive”.

Councillor Chechalk

Councillor Chechalk commented that she was impressed by the new West Niagara Secondary School.

Councillor Chechalk congratulated Ann-Marie Chechalk for receiving the Niagara Agriculture Lifetime Achievement Award.

**17. NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**Moved By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

**Seconded By** Councillor Shelley Bradaric

That an Item of New Business be introduced regarding the renaming of the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital noting the urgency in timelines for responses to Hamilton Health Sciences concerning this matter.

**Carried**

**Moved By** Councillor William Reilly

**Seconded By** Councillor Jason Trombetta

That the new business item regarding the renaming of the hospital be deferred until such time that Hamilton Health Sciences is able to come before Council to provide a presentation on the matter.

Clerk's Note: This motion for deferral was withdrawn by the Mover and not voted on.

**Moved By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

**Seconded By** Councillor Mike Rehner

1. That it is the desire of the Council of West Lincoln to support the naming of the hospital based on input from our community; and
2. In order to gauge the community's stand, a survey shall be carried out between the dates of April 24, 2024 and May 10, 2024, via both electronic and paper versions, with paper copies being available in the three library locations and the Township offices; and
3. That, given that the Township will be basing its decision on the results of the survey, liaison with the Town of Lincoln and the Town of Grimsby will no longer be required; and
4. That once complete, the results of this survey be provided to the Hamilton Health Sciences Board prior to the HHS Board May meeting and to the WLMH Foundation.

**Carried**

**Moved By** Councillor William Reilly

**Seconded By** Councillor Mike Rehner

5. That Hamilton Health Sciences be invited to a future meeting of Council or Committee regarding the renaming of the hospital to provide a presentation on the matter.

**Carried**

**Moved By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

**Seconded By** Councillor Mike Rehner

That the main motion regarding the Item of new business respecting the hospital renaming be approved as amended to include new clause 5.

**Carried**

## **18. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

**Moved By** Councillor Shelley Bradaric

**Seconded By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

That the next portion of this meeting be closed to the public to consider the following pursuant to Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act 2001:



18.1 Interim Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer (Donna DeFilippis)

Re: Minutes of Settlement - Employee

**Applicable closed session exemption(s):**

- Advice that is subject to Solicitor-Client Privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;
- Labour relations or employee negotiations.

18.2 Interim Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer (Donna DeFilippis)

Re: Performance Review/Status Update

**VERBAL UPDATE**

**Applicable closed session exemption(s):**

- Personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees

**Carried**

The meeting moved into closed session at 8:52 p.m.

18.1 Interim Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer (Donna DeFilippis)

Re: Minutes of Settlement - Employee

18.2 Interim Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer (Donna DeFilippis)

Re: Performance Review/Status Update

The Mayor noted that during closed session, staff direction was provided respecting Item 18.1 concerning the Minutes of Settlement – Employee.

**19. BY-LAWS**

**Moved By** Councillor Joann Chechalk

**Seconded By** Councillor Jason Trombetta

1. That, leave be granted to introduce By-laws # 2024-21, 2024-22, 2024-23, 2024-24, 2024-25, 2024-26, 2024-27 and 2024-28, and that the same shall be considered to have been read a first, second, and third time with one reading, and are hereby adopted; and,
2. That, the Mayor and Clerk be and are hereby authorized to sign and affix the Corporate Seal thereto, any rule of this Council to the contrary notwithstanding.

**Carried**

19.1 BY-LAW 2024-21

Being a By-law to regulate the Parking of Motor Vehicles on lands which are not highways.

19.2 BY-LAW 2024-22

A By-law to amend By-law 2014-67, being a By-law to establish a system for Administration Penalties respecting the stopping, standing and parking of vehicles.

19.3 BY-LAW 2024-23

A By-law to amend By-law 2019-83 being a By-law under the Building Code Act respecting construction demolition, change of use, occupancy permits, transfer of permits, inspection and associated fees.

19.4 BY-LAW 2024-24

Being a By-law to adopt the estimates for the year 2024 and to set the rates of taxation for the year 2024.

19.5 BY-LAW 2024-25

Being a By-law to authorize an agreement between the Corporation of the Township of West Lincoln, The Corporation of the Wainfleet and Da-Lee Dust Control for the supply and application of dust control material for the three-year term 2024 to 2026.

19.6 BY-LAW 2024-26

A By-law to authorize an agreement between the Corporation of the Township of West Lincoln and Kelly Digs Landscaping for the provision of Cemetery Grounds Maintenance Services for a period of five years effective May 2024 to December 2028.

19.7 BY-LAW 2024-27

A By-law to authorize an agreement between the Corporation of the Township of West Lincoln and Walkers Construction Limited for the 2024 Road Rehabilitation work project.

19.8 BY-LAW 2024-28

A By-law to adopt, confirm and ratify matters dealt with by Council Resolution.

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at the hour of 9:38 p.m.

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JUSTIN PAYLOVE,  
DEPUTY CLERK

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MAYOR CHERYL GANANN

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Mountainview  
**LemonAID Day**  
for FACS Niagara



# Hello!

I represent

**FACS NIAGARA**   
**FOUNDATION**



# Kids Helping Kids

- Mountainview LemonAID Day is a community driven event, encouraging kids to help kids by raising funds to send children to summer camp.
- On Saturday, June 8, teams of kids and their families will set up lemonade stands across Niagara to ask for donations.





*There are so many children in our community who deserve an opportunity to be with friends, connect with nature, and make lasting childhood memories.*

Anna Bozza  
FACS Niagara CEO





9/13/23

Hello,  
I would like to thank you for both of  
the Camps, especially the sleepout camp.  
It was very fun, I made friends did  
fun activities and learned new things.  
Overall I would definitely like to go  
back next year.

Sincerely,

Camp Attendee  
Summer 2023



More than



# \$100,000

Raised in 2023 to send local children to over 500 weeks of summer camp

# In 2023



**SUMMER CAMP**  
**500+**

CHILDREN WHO HAD A SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE IN 2023, INCLUDING:

- ATTENDING WEEK-LONG DAY CAMPS
- OVERNIGHT CAMPS OUTSIDE THE REGION
- CAMPING WITH FOSTER PARENTS
- RECEIVING A SPECIAL CAMP AT HOME BASKET

The infographic features a central white tent icon with radiating lines above the text. A yellow banner contains the text 'CHILDREN WHO HAD A SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE IN 2023, INCLUDING:'. Four white arrows radiate from the center to four categories, each with an icon: a campfire for 'OVERNIGHT CAMPS OUTSIDE THE REGION', two trees for 'ATTENDING WEEK-LONG DAY CAMPS', a family silhouette for 'CAMPING WITH FOSTER PARENTS', and a gift box for 'RECEIVING A SPECIAL CAMP AT HOME BASKET'.

# In 2022-2023



FACS Niagara served:

- An average of **400** children in care each month
- More than **600** families that receive ongoing services to help them be at their best.

FACS' goal is to give **children** we serve a summer camp experience!

# One Hundred Stands Across Niagara

Each team will receive everything needed to run a LemonAID stand!

- LemonAID Stand & Banner
- T-shirts & hats
- Lemonade Concentrate
- Pitchers
- 100 cups and stickers & more!



# 100%

of proceeds go towards sending local children and youth to summer camp.



# More Info

[facsnigararafoundation.org](https://facsnigararafoundation.org)

905.937.7731



**FACS**  
**NIAGARA**

Family and Children's Services  
Les Services à la famille  
et à l'enfance de Niagara

SUPPORTING | STRENGTHENING | PROTECTING • SOUTENIR | RENFORCER | PROTÉGER



**MOUNTAINVIEW**  
BUILDING GROUP

**FACS NIAGARA**   
**FOUNDATION**

# Thank You!

## Questions?

Regional Councillors Report: April 22, 2024

Good evening Mayor, members of council, staff and members of the public. I would like to share with council the Niagara Region is starting to initiate Public Works projects throughout the Region. We will see continued road work on Hwy 20 and resurfacing of Regional rd #69 this year. I will update council on other projects scheduled for West Lincoln when they get put into the cue for priority and budgeting requirements.

I spoke with the Director of Transportation on line painting program as I had a number of complaints and concerns especially during rain episodes, The work is being sent out for tender as I speak and we should see work commencing in later May and early June on our Regional roads.

Also at our Public Works meeting we received our first report on the ASE program showing us that driver behaviour does change through the program in our Community Safety Zones. The report covered the inception to the end of the calendar year. I will give a more comprehensive report when we receive the information from the first quarter of this year. This will give us at least 6 month of data to fully understand the outcome. The report will be completed in early June and presented to committee at that time.

The Niagara Childrens Water Festival will take place on April 30 and go to May 3rd this year the targeted group will be grade 4. This event will be held at Brock University for the four days. Different elementary schools from across



Niagara will participate in a variety of hands on water related themed activities facilitated by volunteer experts. Over the 4 days the event anticipates approximately 3,200 students and 1,000 parents and volunteers are registered for this years event. The festival was first established in 2002 in partnership with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, City of St Catherines, Ontario Power Generation and the Niagara Region.

A quick update on the Canada-Wide Early Learning+ Child Care Program Update. Regional wide child care spaces are 8,632 that are enrolled in the program with 255 spaces that opted out. What does this mean for our families is that the cost of day care has been reduced. The numbers go like this, before the program to June of 2023, infants has gone down from 56.86 to 26.87, toddlers from 49.04 to 23.20, pre-school age from 43.82 to 20.66 and JK/SK from 39.65 to 18.73. Also 2 million has been invested into the salaries of Early Childhood Educators in 2023. 841 Educators have benefit from the CWELCC program. As I have explained in the past the challenge is filling positions in this career path. Currently 180 Early Childhood Care teachers are enrolled in the Niagara College program. This is a good news story as more parents families can be enrolled in the workforce in Niagara with this enhanced support for child care.

From children to seniors, we received a report sharing an update on the volunteers at our Long Term Homes in which we operate. In 2023 940 individual volunteered there time to the Senior services including 816 students and 184

adult volunteers. Combined they provided 208,674 hours of support. We have seen a decline in public interest since COVID. Seniors services are working with the community to coordinate new volunteers to the data base through a program called Better Impact. Programs that volunteers participated in included meal time assistance, friendly visits, pet visits, recreation programs such as cards and games, bingo, special meals, pastoral visits, church services, operate tuck shops, hair salons and help coordinate fundraising events. All this make invaluable difference in the lives of all the residences of the Niagara Region.

At the Planning and Economic Development committee meeting we had a presentation informing us on Niagara Workforce, labour shortage ages are negatively affecting business productivity with 57.2% of individuals 15 years and older are working. Retirees are exiting the workforce faster than people entering. Priorities are to develop talent attraction and retention strategies for in-demand jobs and emerging sectors. 218,800 people are self-employed or employed in Niagara out of 469,000 residences. Interesting facts in West Lincoln is that in 2016 we had 128 businesses employing 1,489 jobs and in 2023 we had 222 businesses employing 2,955 jobs. This is great to see the increase in business investment and doubling jobs in our community over 7 years, definitely a great news story to share.

Again thank-you for allowing me to update you on what's happening at the Niagara Region for this last month. If any members of council have any question

I will gladly answer them for you.

Regional Councillor,  
Albert Witteveen

April 22/24 Council Meeting - Mayor's Remarks

The morning after our last council Meeting on March 25th, John and I attended a Fundraising Breakfast Kick-off event for Gillian's Place Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Programme. Our local Kiwanis Club is a regular supporter of Gillian's Place especially since we have learned about the number of rural families, including many from West Lincoln, needing support from Gillian's Place. These programmes provide support to both women and children.

On Wednesday, March 27th, Regional Councillor Witteveen, Councillor Chechalk and I attended the State of the Region Address delivered by Regional Chair Jim Bradley to over 400 people at John Michael's Banquet Centre. It was also the occasion where the Regional Niagara Impact Awards were given out to recipients.

On the cool, rainy afternoon of April 2nd, the flag to create Autism Awareness was raised to mark the start of World Autism Month. Thanks to Executive Assistant Jacque Thrower for standing out in the cold rain with me that day.

On Wednesday, April 3rd, our guest at the MYAC meeting was Township staff member, Jeni Fisher, who as a member of the Township Green Team spoke with the students about the various "greening" initiatives throughout the Township. Available MYAC members helped to clean up the grounds around our Community Centre on Saturday, April 20th, as their contribution to the Earth Day initiatives of the municipality.

Thursday, April 4th, John and I attended the Grand Opening of West Niagara Secondary School, including the new Community Theatre. Tours were available after the formal portion of the event. We were well represented as both Councillors Reilly and Chechalk and also Regional Councillor Witteveen were also in attendance. A great many West Lincoln residents also took advantage of this opportunity to check out the new school. It turned out to be a wonderful occasion to visit with many who were eager to see this impressive new learning environment. On a personal note, although I was most upset and wrote a great many letters to the School Board and their various Trustees of the day, in support of keeping our own South Lincoln High School, I must admit that I was extremely impressed with the number and variety of courses and activities now available to our students at this new school.

Volunteerism and generosity is alive and well in West Lincoln as evidenced by the fact that the Niagara Christian Gleaners held not one, but two Fundraising Dinners on the evenings of April 5 and 6th, both of which had approximately 400 people in attendance at the West Niagara Agricultural Building. John and I attended the Saturday evening dinner as did Councillor Chechalk. No surprise to those of you who know me, they had a great Silent Auction each evening, which of course, I supported well!

April 8th was of course Eclipse Day. Many "just in case" Emergency Operations plans were made in advance leading up to this date so as to be prepared for the possibility of any emergencies that might arise unexpectedly. Fortunately all potential problematic areas were relatively quiet and West Lincoln was lucky to have most of the clouds thin out as the eclipse began to occur, thus allowing for an impressive view of this once in a lifetime event.

Our CAO Recruitment Team of Councillors Reilly, Bradaric and myself supported by Clerk Nancy Fiorentino and HR Advisor Joanne Scime, have met several times in recent weeks and by the time our job posting closed at the end of day, April 12th, we had 66 resumes submitted. We are now working through those resumes so as to determine who will be invited to interview. That process will eventually, we hope, lead to 3-4 front-running candidates being asked to present to all of the Council so that collectively, we can choose our new CAO sometime in June. Fingers crossed regarding the timing!

April 13th, once again, Regional Councillor Witteveen, Councillor Chechalk, John and I spent the evening together at the Niagara Federation of Agriculture event held at the Twenty Valley Golf Course Club House when the Agricultural Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Ann Marie Chechalk for her well over 40 year volunteer work with youth through various Niagara 4 H Clubs. As a former educator, I very much appreciate the positive and supportive role that Ann Marie has played in the lives of so many West Lincoln young people and as such was honored to present her with a certificate on behalf of West Lincoln's Council, staff and residents to help mark this occasion..

Wednesday April 18, from 6-8 PM, I attended the Hospital Community Council meeting. In attendance at these meetings are representatives from each of the 3 municipality's Councils, a Representative from the Hospital Foundation and Hospital Auxiliary as well as the Save and ReBuild Committee. Included is also a representative from HHS who relays information and up-dates on the progress of the new build and a representative from WLMH providing up-dates on current hospital programmes and progress in preparation for a future move. Dr. Joan Bellaire, as hospital Chief of Staff is always in attendance which is chaired by Andrew Smith, who was also the Chair of the Hospital Fundraising Campaign. The really good news is that the hospital build is on schedule at this point with no expected delays and an expected opening date is June of 2025. After so very many years of disappointment after disappointment regarding the hospital, that is not too long to wait now! Interest and excitement for the new hospital is growing and the Foundation reported that all of their Fundraising efforts are being strongly supported by residents and businesses in all of the hospital catchment areas.

The morning of Friday, April 19th, I represented West Lincoln at the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's 65th Anniversary Celebration that also marked the Grand Opening of their new Administration Offices on Merrittville Highway, in Thorold.

Staff from Finance, Planning and Public Works worked diligently for the past 6 or 7 weeks to put together a very thorough Grant Application for the Ontario Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund which had Friday, April 19 as the deadline for submission. Our grant, which we hope will be successful, included a letter of support that we had requested from MPP Sam Oosterhoff. Interim CAO Donna DeFilippis and I met with MPP Oosterhoff in his Constituency Office on Friday afternoon to thank him for his support and to discuss with him the importance of this potential funding to a small, rural municipality such as West Lincoln. We also had occasion to discuss the issue of our current lack of housing starts with him and additionally it was a chance for an initial discussion about the International Plowing Match coming to West Lincoln in September of 2025. Since MPP Oosterhoff is now Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism, Sport and Culture, we also had the issue of insufficient Provincial Library Funding on our agenda for this meeting. When we made our delegation to this Ministry at the ROMA Conference in January, 2024, our local MPP sat in at our delegation to offer his support at that time, so we know that he is well-versed in the facts regarding several years of static funding for libraries in Ontario.

Saturday, April 20th after spending the morning with a small but hard-working group including Jacquie, John, some MYAC members and some of their family members, we were able to warm up in the Community Centre. Nick Brunaccioni kindly opened up the Concession Booth for us, enabling us to have an early lunch together as a thank you for their contribution to our Earth Day clean-up initiative. Of note: three other MYAC members who were unable to help on Saturday morning, contributed by either doing similar work on Friday or later in the day on Saturday.

Saturday evening, Councillor Chechalk and John and I attended the Robert Land Academy Fundraising Gala. Each year, since its inception in 2018, someone is chosen to receive the John Brant Award, which honors a respected leader who has demonstrated loyalty, labor, courage, commitment and honor. This year's award was presented to Adam Shoalts, who was determined by the Board of Directors to have exemplified those same values in all aspects of his life. The fundraising portion of the evening provides scholarship opportunities for families who are not financially able to provide a full year's tuition but have a son who is in need of the uniqueness of this opportunity to reach his full potential. This additional source of funding also allows for additional programming and the improvement of facilities.