

May 6/15 4.1

May 6, 2015 - Committee of the Whole Presentation - Monica Alyea

Thank you to those Staff, Mayor Quaiff and any Councillors who have obviously worked with some considerable thought in laying out "the process" proposed to be followed regarding the "Size of Council" deliberations. I sincerely appreciate this effort. I only have a "content" question that remains.

This is a tough topic and it deserves public input - well planned opportunities for public input. That's how it was done in 1996 by a group of Councillors who knew their "communities of interest and engagement" well. This process before you will hopefully encourage all Councillors, through this extended time period for discussion, to get beyond "the NUMBER" and look at the "MERITS" of two elements:

1. Any proposals that are submitted by June 4 plus those already received. AND...
2. The Current System

#2 is so important. I think a full look at the Current Structure is necessary. And having looked at the population/electorate statistics provided- even more so. I dug up the 1996 Census records of population for each of the lower tier PEC townships/villages - the records the Council and Staff would have had to work with at the time of amalgamation. I've attached the numerics on the end of this document. But here are some interesting items to me from the "population" comparisons:

The "population" of Picton is down by 23%. (Based on 2014 "electors" figure provided - down 20%)

The population of Bloomfield is down by 22% (2014 electors - down 23%)

The population of Hallowell is down by 23% (2014 electors - down 12%)

The population of Ameliasburgh is up by 1% (2014 electors - up 5%)

The population of Sophiasburgh is up 1% (2014 electors - up 15%)

The population of Wellington has grown by 18% (2014 electors - up 18%)

North Marysburgh has grown by 18% (2014 electors - up 46%)

Athol has grown by 11% (2014 electors - up 24%)

South Marysburgh has grown by 10 % (2015 electors - up 39%)
Hillier has grown by 6 % (2014 electors - up 23%)

I think these numbers can tell us something about planning for our future model of governance in Prince Edward County.

I think they tell us that most of the current system is still very applicable. It at least must be in the mix for consideration. It shouldn't have to be a "Proposal" from the public - but that's what this document implies to me in its content. The current model of governance - 15 Councillors and a Mayor - will be gone. I think you owe it to yourselves to come to your Council discussions, and to the Public to come to the public discussions, with an answer to "Why" we are recommending this way and not that way. Not just a "number" but the logic and statistics and future vision of how it will work to support the proposed option(s). And as Councillor Harrison so aptly put it - "What's in it for the Ratepayer?"

Without a deliberate, "future-looking" strategy for representation, not just a time capture of the "now" population, what appears to be our "growth" areas, our rural "far-flung" places, could lose what they currently have. What do they offer to the "greater public interest of all electors" of this Municipality? I've asked for a tax comparison by Ward. It was very interesting the last time it was prepared for Council.

Today, I need an answer on whether the Current System will be one of the Proposals without a submission from the Public.

Please put this "provincial" government historical action template over the situation before you:

"Let's get this done. Sounds good. We'll look like we're doing something contemporary and progressive - responding with change. It will operate more effectively. Nothing will change in communities. People will still get the same service. It will save money so people will want it. We'll figure out the details later."

And then there was amalgamation. And then there were wind turbines. And then...

Demographics [edit]

VTE	Canada census – Prince Edward County, Ontario community profile [hide]		
	2011	2006	2001
Population:	25,258 (-0.9% from 2006)	25,496 (2.4% from 2001)	24,901 (-0.6% from 1996)
Land area:	1,050.45 km ² (405.58 sq mi)	1,050.14 km ² (405.46 sq mi)	1,049.99 km ² (405.40 sq mi)
Population density:	24.0/km ² (62/sq mi)	24.3/km ² (63/sq mi)	23.7/km ² (61/sq mi)
Median age:	51.6 (M: 50.8, F: 52.2)	47.7 (M: 47.1, F: 48.4)	44.3 (M: 43.6, F: 44.9)
Median household income:	12,397	12,055	11,399
Total private dwellings:		\$53,287	\$44,516
Median household income:			

References: 2011^[1] 2006^[6] 2001^[7]

Population trend:^[8]

- Population in 2011: 25,258
- Population in 2006: 25,496
- Population in 2001: 24,901
- Population in 1996: 25,046
 - Ameliasburgh Township: 5571
 - Athol Township: 1383
 - Bloomfield Village: 687
 - Hallowell Township: 4577
 - Hillier Township: 1851
 - North Marysburgh Township: 1312
 - Picton Town: 4673
 - Sophiasburgh Township: 2283
 - South Marysburgh Township: 1018
 - Wellington Village: 1691