

Laura Cunliffe

From: Doug M Parker [REDACTED]
Sent: June-02-15 12:50 PM
To: AAA - Clerks Office
Subject: Fwd: Council Structure and Size

Begin forwarded message:

From: Doug M Parker [REDACTED]
Subject: Council Structure and Size
Date: June 2, 2015 at 12:48:33 PM GMT-4
To: clerks@pecounty.on.ca

I believe that municipal government , given its responsibilities, (such as garbage , water , sewage , roads , public housing , and especially zoning) is the level most closely connected to the daily lives of its citizens . Therefore it should be as democratic as possible - the more representation per citizen , the better . People should feel that their elected representative is not only aware of their issues but that he or she is accessible and responsive to their concerns . The size of the constituency is therefore vital to having such a councillor .

Since municipal candidates do not usually run for a political party the voter's familiarity with the candidate as a person is an essential factor in deciding one's vote . The size of the constituency is therefore vital to one's chances of being familiar with the candidates as people . The councillors who have represented South Marysburgh have been active in the community, widely known , been aware of our issues as well as those of the County as a whole , and have listened to us . Amalgamating with other wards will undermine the chances having such councillors .

Along with the Milford Fair , Mount Tabor and the Mummies , our Town Hall , the Recreation Committee , village , local businesses , Black River Cheese Company , other local businesses , churches and our unique history and geography have all been important in defining our sense of community . These are all the "ties that bind " but in addition there must be a political tie. The councillor provides that essential tie . Amalgamating with other wards will undermine the political tie that is so important in defining our sense of community .

Reducing the number of councillors will not lead to savings as councillors will surely have to be paid more as the size of their constituencies increase .

Reducing the number of councillors will not guarantee greater efficiency . Efficiency rather depends on the ability of the mayor to lead and the quality of the councillors elected . Democracies have never claimed to be the most efficient form of government or the easiest way to make decisions - dictatorships make that claim .

For the above reasons it is important and highly desirable the the County governance remain as it is presently constituted .

Doug Parker
[REDACTED]