

## **Submission for Review of the size of Council**

Responding to a 2009 Council commitment that it would consult the citizenry, the OMB rejected a Ward Boundary Appeal by Lyle McBurney and myself, in which equitable representation by 10 councillors would be achieved by changing some ward boundaries, for a 10-ward configuration. It has since become clear that **County voters prefer to retain all existing ward boundaries.**

In accordance with that ruling of the OMB, with our subsequent ballot question, and in accordance with the report of its consequent Citizens' Assembly, I believe that **Council is now obliged to act on citizens' wishes, and establish a Council size of 10 Councillors and a Mayor.**

**This 11 member council could be achieved by adopting the North/South 2-ward configuration recently proposed by Mayor Quaiff, or by adopting a variation of the 3-ward NEW configuration proposed by Gary Mooney, in which a tenth Councillor could be elected at large, to serve as Deputy Mayor.**

Either the Quaiff North/South configuration or a modified Mooney NEW configuration would provide equitable voter representation in a Council that is not embarrassingly oversized when compared with other municipalities. A modified Mooney configuration would be less costly for campaigning candidates because electoral ward sizes would be smaller than with a 2-ward configuration. It could achieve the recommended number of 10 councillors by adding the position of Deputy Mayor, which may help by offloading some files from the Mayor as his/her workload increases in future. But if Council does not want a Deputy Mayor, it could be forgiven for choosing either a 2-ward North/South configuration or a 3-ward NEW configuration having 9 councillors and a Mayor.

The choice is simple. It is now time to finally resolve the matter and move on to the County's more important business at hand.

Jim McPherson  
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