

Message from Reeve Peter Ketchum

I am really pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to your 2010 Pointe au Baril Directory. As you may know this is the last year for this Council and the next election will take place on October 25, 2010.

Nobody needs to be told how much the economic times have changed in the past four years. In this past term of office our Township were fortunate to receive grants that helped with the purchase of new garbage compressor bins and significant grants to revitalize the waterfront in the Pointe au Baril Village. I am afraid the days of Federal and Provincial capital grants are over, and you may feel relieved that we do not anticipate any further major expenditure in the near future.

You may recall that we targeted a zero increase last year and taxed accordingly. This year we are focusing on cost containment with a target for our own expenditures of a 1% increase. Unfortunately, we have been notified by the Province many of their levies to us are way above inflation. We have not yet heard from the Province on the most burdensome levy—that for education but we do know that Ontario is moving towards full kindergarten funding and that initiative can only translate into increased costs.

Over the past year I have been very pleased of how well our municipality performed—I thought our staff functioned at the highest level that I can remember. In particular, we strengthened our Public Works (perhaps garbage to you), and the integration of Building and Planning has made both these departments better and more efficient.

Councillors Gary French and Ken Williams worked very hard on your behalf. When called to action for special projects they both volunteered their individual and special skills. I assure you they are effective Councillors who also benefit Council as a whole.

Last year I said “We live in interesting times.” Next year appears to be even more challenging. PaBIA was a great support to our Township and I really appreciated it. To make the Township of The Archipelago really work well we need all Cottage Associations and Council to work together—may our relationship with PaBIA only get better!

Let's all have a great summer and let's hope for lots of sunny days!