

## Mayor's Message – August 2025

It's Summer!

By Elspeth McLean-Wile

I hope by the time this is published you will have enjoyed a summer holiday of some kind. The holiday could be as simple as staying at home working on household projects or gardening. For some, it will include travel to visit unexplored places, visit with family or attend some festival, concert or special summer event.

Council takes a break from Council and committee meetings during the month of August. Many councillors will be having holidays with family and friends, attending a variety of community events and taking a break from Council work.

It is now six months since we were elected to serve as your Mayor and Council. I thought it might be appropriate to outline some of the key accomplishments during that time:

- We held a strategic planning session which resulted in the development of our five strategic priorities. You can learn more about them at [modl.ca/strategicpriorities](http://modl.ca/strategicpriorities).
- In consultation with staff we developed and approved our first budget with all financial discussions held in public with public input opportunities provided at each session.
- We completed the first round of community consultations on a comprehensive Land-Use Planning strategy. We saw more than 850 people and meetings that were held in each district and at the municipal office. Council held in-depth discussions on appropriate planning considerations for watershed areas, preservation of farmland, and home-based businesses. Detailed papers were prepared by staff to support and inform the Council discussions. We will have a What We Heard Report to Council in the fall.
- We approved Cluster development regulations.
- We initiated discussion with the Town of Bridgewater and began planning for the expansion of public transit to Hebbville, Wileville and Cookville.
- We established a committee with the Town of Bridgewater to address growth and development issues common to the two municipalities (water, wastewater, planning and development regulations, etc.).
- We began an advocacy campaign for improved cell service and started a round of meetings with government representatives to outline the needs of the area.
- We approved the development of a municipal app to aid in communicating information to residents.

- We began working with our neighbouring municipalities on considering the regional needs of economic development and the best way forward to achieve a regional approach.
- We conducted public consultation on the community space that will be available to MODL in the WellTide Collaborative Health Centre.
- We approved a revised format for Municipal Matters and implemented a series of improvements in our communication strategy with residents. This includes holding an evening Council meeting once a month and starting in October holding periodic Council meetings in the community (the first will be in Conquerall Bank).

I wish you all an enjoyable summer with family and friends.

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