

Daily normal becomes tragedy with the sad loss of Jeannette Runciman

Life can change so quickly.

The accident that resulted in the death of Jeannette Runciman last Thursday afternoon underlines how fast our daily normal can turn into unimaginable tragedy. All of us at town hall grieve and fly our flag at half-mast over this terrible loss. We extend our support to former senator and provincial cabinet minister Bob Runciman and his daughters Sue and Robin on the loss of the



MAYORAL MUSINGS

Mayor Brett Todd

wife and mother who, in their words, was their “best friend and held the family together.”

As longtime Runciman family friend Barry Raison said the other day, Bob’s political successes would simply not have been possible without Jeannette’s support. They were a true partnership, to the point where she would re-

view speeches, serve as his wingman at public events, and, of course, look after the family and play the lead role when raising their two daughters while commitments often took Bob out of town.

I was fortunate enough to see this first-hand on a number of occasions over the years at various public events, most recently at the inaugural meeting of our council in December of 2018. I was greatly honoured when Bob accepted my invi-

tation to officiate at our swearing-in ceremony, and even more delighted when Jeannette accompanied him that evening. The observations that Jeannette made that night about political life were perfectly hilarious, fully on point, and absolutely invaluable.

Not enough accolades are given to political spouses. Partners hold families and couples together. They keep us sane when things go wrong and keep us balanced when things go

right. Without the full support of your partner, you cannot succeed in political life at any level, at least not for any length of time. Politics is a team sport, whether you belong to a political party or not, and that commitment to teamwork starts at home.

I ask that you keep the Runciman family in your thoughts and prayers. While it is hard to find any consolation in the wake of something so impossible to fathom, we have to keep moving for-

ward. There is great value in showing that we are, in the end, together.

All we can do is go on. Trust in each other. Be with each other. Express little kindnesses, whether they be in the form of a hug or a handshake or a card or an email. Hold on to those we love every moment that we can, because the reality of our fragile existence is that there are no guarantees about what the next few minutes may bring, let alone tomorrow.

Take care, everyone.

It’s my pleasure to be speaking to you from the pages of the new South Grenville Journal.

As your Member of Parliament, it’s an honour to have been elected to be the voice of our community in Ottawa. We have a tremendous chance to build on our successes and face our challenges



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Michael Barrett

head on.

Our future is a bright one, that’s why I will continue to support and advocate for red tape reduction

and lower taxes for businesses so they can grow, create good jobs, and remain competitive in today’s global market. Small businesses are truly the backbone of our Canadian economy. Further, I return to Ottawa to stand up for our farmers, seniors, and families who form the fabric of our identity in rural

Ontario.

If the 42nd Parliament has taught us anything, there is much work to be done to ensure that Canada remains a place where businesses and families can prosper and a place where the public has confidence in their institutions. That begins by holding the government to

account.

This minority parliament is a great opportunity for all Members of Parliament to collaborate and work together across party lines to repair public trust in our country’s institutions like the executive and judicial branches of government. In this 43rd Parliament, I look forward to

working with Members of Parliament from all parties to get the results necessary for you to get ahead and keep our country strong, united, and free.

I’m looking forward to continuing to work hard for you and your family, and seeing you at the great events across our community.

2019 ... a busy building year in the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal

Council received some great news from the Office of the Chief Building Official at the committee of the whole, public works, environmental services facilities meeting last Monday night when the department presented the fourth quarter and year-end building report. The committee receives and reviews these building reports at the end of every quarter, and the first half of the year showed that the 2019 season was off to a very slow construction start compared to other years



E-C MAYOR NEWS

Pat Sayeau

in terms of the value of building permits issued and permit fees collected.

The year-end report painted a completely different picture. Total construction value for the year 2019 increased by approximately 4.4 million dollars over 2018, primarily due to increased new construction in the industrial sector which showed a project value of \$4,489,817 on

the building permit applications which collected \$26,442 in permit fees.

The number of new housing starts in 2019 were down by five residential units from the previous year, but surprisingly the new construction value on the eight new residential building permit applications was up by approximately 1.05 million dollars over the 13 new residential units constructed in 2018. By comparison the average new home construction value went from \$214,615

in 2018 to \$279,875 in 2019 and the residential building permit applications collected \$54,274 in permit fees.

Construction values in the commercial sector also rose significantly to \$411,420 in 2019 compared to \$54,000 in 2018.

In total the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal saw \$11,218,337 in 2019 new construction project value and the building department collected \$102,025 in permit fees, thus enabling the department to almost meet the requirement

that fees collected cover the entire cost of departmental operations.

Of particular interest to EC taxpayers is the effect which this \$11 million of new construction in 2019 will have on tax revenues in 2020. Although project value is not the same as the MPAC assessment value which “kicks-in” when the “occupancy permit” is issued, it is estimated that the township should receive approximately \$100,000 in additional tax revenue in 2020 from the 2019 new construction projects.

Special recognition

to Dwane Crawford, Chief Building Official for supplying the information for this column.

In closing this weeks column, and in answer to many questions, we want to recognize the new business generated at the Crews Railyard over the first weekend in February as they were selected as the rail loading point for the movement of military vehicles transferring from Base Petawawa to Wainwright Alberta for summer manoeuvres.