

Change is coming

Anna Moscardelli - January 2021

Congrats to Kevin Marriott, Lambton County's newest Warden. Kevin is the current Mayor of the Township of Enniskillen, which has a population of about 3000 people with just over 1000 households. It is an area that is mostly farmland.

Mayor Kevin won against former Warden Bill Weber and Sarnia City/County Councillor Brian White. Both opponents are great guys but for me I believe Kevin will be a huge asset not only to farmers but for those in the urban and sub-urban areas. Those areas have been put on the back burner for way too long.

With Covid changing life for many, especially in real estate, we saw several families moving out of the city into the suburban areas. Many services such as internet, sewers and natural gas are highly sought out services in the "boonies". Several times I wondered, "with plentiful households in one area, why is there not natural gas in a surrounding that is an approximate 10 km stretch?" Companies can talk about delivery charges, but do you ever look on your utility bills to see what you pay for delivery charges? For internet, why is fibre optics being installed in various areas, however somewhere like Paradise Valley that has both year-round and seasonal "homes", fibre optics will not be installed for them, yet they have natural gas. It makes no sense. At times I think councils should be comprised of more millennials. Sorry councillors and mayors, no offense but we need to get with the advancement of the times. This pandemic has forced us to change whether we like it or not.

No doubt the cities have been serviced better because of the dense population where companies earn more profits even though we are told that is not true. Of course they (the companies) earn more. We see competition coming in to play where certain services are usually half the cost to what people that live outside the cities pay. Those people living on the outskirts usually tend to have poorer quality for the service at a bumped-up price because of a lack of competition.

In my opinion, I imagine Warden Kevin will look outside the city limits to increase services quicker than what has been in the past. For instance, many of the communities outside the city that have relied on DSL for internet, electric, oil or propane for heating and septic systems for sewers will now have fibre optics and hopefully the other services will follow. Being a realtor, myself and co workers agree that dealing with areas that "lack in services" will likely see a greater increase in purchases due to these services improving. As some say, "pitter, patter lets get at 'er".

Warden Kevin is a great guy who has done well for his area. And no doubt he will do well for all the residents of Lambton County. Congrats Kevin on your win. It is well deserved, and I look forward to seeing all the new changes coming.

2021 is now here...a new day and a new year. Many will be glad that 2020 is over. For me, I have loved 2020, however I am looking forward to what 2021 will bring. I will be embracing many more of the changes that we will likely see. Further, I can only hope that those who are putting restrictions on small business look at the whole picture. How do you allow large gatherings in places like Walmart and Costco, yet the Government is either closing or limiting small businesses? It just does not make sense. Not everything will fall into a "one size fits all" category. I fully understand that tough decisions must be made, and I appreciate what is involved. I would not want the task, and personally I think we can all learn from what is happening.

I wish each and every one of you all the best in this New Year. Wishing you joy, health, happiness, and prosperity. Stay safe and please, please, please be kind to one another.

