

Letter to Citizens of the Burton Greater Geary Local Service District **November 2014**

The vote for the Local Service District committee for Burton Greater Geary will be held on Wednesday November 5, 2014 at 7pm at the Burton Lions Centre in Burton.

The current committee was elected a little over two years ago and will end their mandate effective November 5. The members who are elected at the public meeting serve as volunteers. The next mandate is for four years.

At the previous election there were five members elected, three from the Burton area and two from the Geary area. All five were elected to represent the whole local service district that encompasses Burton/Swan Creek/Geary/Waterville/Haneytown/French Lake. It was an effective and high functioning committee that worked well together for the benefit of the whole local service district.

Base Gagetown and the Town of Oromocto divide the district geographically. It is officially called the parish of Burton, which is why the name Burton is used on all official correspondence coming from the provincial Department of Environment and Local Government.

Once the committee was established they began to use the name Burton Greater Geary Local Service District as a more inclusive name to represent the communities that make up the district. The provincial legislature has to officially change the name and the committee has been working to have this done.

All the expenses, the population base and the tax base, which provides the revenue for local service district expenses, are calculated based on the whole local service district.

We have a manager (Ivan Corbett) from the provincial government to set our budget and pay our bills. This is the same procedure for all local service districts in the province.

The current committee is the first the district has had. The committee worked to become familiar with the legislation and processes that affect our district. They organized meetings to be held in either Geary or Burton on alternate months. All public meetings were held in Oromocto for ease of travel from both sides of the district.

The committee has represented the citizens on two issues of electoral boundary changes, one Federal and one Provincial. We were able to prevent the Federal boundaries from changing but did lose out on the provincial one. We sit with the Local Service Manager and review the budget for each year. We are able to ask questions and to raise concerns about the level of service we are paying

for. We have held public sessions to have representatives from some of these services to present what they do for us. (Fire Department) A presentation was made at a regular meeting of the committee on the change in the policing model (RCMP).

The chair of the Burton Greater Geary LSD meets regularly with the other chairpersons for Local Service Districts in our region (Region 11) to discuss regional services. The current chair also sits on the Regional Services Commission board for Region 11. She represents our district along with five other chairs, who also represent the 23 other local service districts. All of the mayors from the region are on this board. This has been a valuable source of information for our district.

The committee members participated in the work to complete a rural plan. This process was facilitated by Rural Planning and made up of interested people from the whole local service district. There was significant support for the final plan and the Minister of Local Government has signed off on it.

The current committee with the assistance of a community volunteer has begun the process of setting up a district emergency measures plan required by the province. This is ongoing and will have to be taken on by the next committee.

The committee facilitated public sessions and a vote on recreation that gave everyone an opportunity to learn how that process has to occur in a Local Service District. This was followed up by a public vote on whether to establish the service or not. The final vote was no.

The location for the LSD election on November 5th was an error made by Local Government and does not reflect who can or should vote for the new committee. The citizens of both community areas have been welcomed to attend any and all meetings in both areas and many have done so. We hope our Geary residents will take the time to drive to Burton to vote for the next committee. We also hope our Burton residents will come out to vote.

The committee wishes to express our sincere appreciation for the support and encouragement we have received in our role as your first Local Service District Committee.

Sincerely,

Mary Mesheau
Chair of the Burton Greater Geary Local Service District Committee
Dave Smith, Weldon Moore, Pat Smith, Trevor Hanson