

Village of Duchess

April 1, 2019

The Council of the Village of Duchess has been party to the discussions of regionalization/amalgamation since they began and feel that it is time to state their position.

After much discussion, the Village of Duchess Council has made the unanimous decision that they will no longer be attending the Regional Working Group (RWG) discussions and will not be part of the amalgamation discussions. The Village of Duchess Council feel that the best interests of the Duchess community are not served by continued participation in amalgamation discussions at this time.

The Village of Duchess Council feels that the main focus of the RWG is almost exclusively focused on amalgamation. As previously stated, Duchess council believes that the best way forward is through increased collaboration and regionalization, while ensuring the preservation of the community of Duchess as it currently exists. Amalgamation is not something that makes sense for the Village of Duchess and this is why they feel it best to step aside at this time.

The Village of Duchess Council is very willing to discuss regionalization initiatives, when they offer cost or manpower savings or are beneficial to either municipal partner.

The Village of Duchess Council is prepared to start discussions with the County of Newell regarding the Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework and work towards a final document to fulfill the mandated Provincial requirements and we hope that these talks can be productive and successful.

The Village of Duchess will continue in discussions for broadband for the entire region. In addition, The Village of Duchess will gladly continue to work together with our partnerships – Fire, Recreation, Garbage, Newell Regional Services Corporation, Newell Regional Solid Waste Management Authority, FCSS and Economic Development.

The Village of Duchess Council has been listening to Duchess and area residents and we will continue to be a good neighbour to all our regional partners.

Respectfully, Councillors for the Village of Duchess