

Inauguration Speech of Reeve Janet Clarkson

*Delivered at the Township of Galway-Cavendish and Harvey
Inauguration Meeting, December 7th, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
at the Administration Office, 701 County Road 36.*

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, children, staff and council. Thank you all for being here tonight.

I am probably as surprised as you to be here, but we can blame it on a fortune cookie! Four years ago, I got a fortune cookie from the Cody Inn Restaurant that said, “do **not** do something you want to do, because you might lose,” that was 2 weeks before nominations closed. And out came the bike! Well, during my campaigning **this** fall, I told this story to a young lady who **then** gave me a fortune cookie, and asked me **not** to open it, until after the election it said “**impossible** is a word **only** to be found in the dictionary of fools,” **That** pretty much sums up my philosophy.

I believe in **strong** relationships, between council, and community.

We must **encourage**, and **recognize** our volunteers, **they** take on projects we could never dream of, such as doing the work, and managing our community centres, (these centres keep our original communities alive), volunteering on boards for our medical centres, and doing gardening and general tasks. The Public Library, Good Buy Room and Community Policing all operate with volunteers.

I want to recognize my husband, **Pete Clarkson**, along with dozens of volunteers for building our temporary medical centre, and co-ordinating and building the sports pad in Buckhorn. **Jeff and Sheila Chesher** got involved with the demolition of the old township building and contributed countless hours and materials to the sports pad. I must recognize **Jean Smith** for the hours **she** spends keeping many of our projects financially sound.

Many, many of you in this room are volunteers, and you are very much appreciated.

Tourism is the economic driver, in not **only** this area, **but** the Province, and our new **tourist** information centre will **add** a tool to this challenged group. **Why** is this business so important? **First** is employment, but the second, which affects all of us, is tax relief. Every **dollar** collected from business, is about one and a half times as great as regular taxation whether that dollar is collected in the Buckhorn area, or anywhere else. Once it hits Donna’s desk, it gets distributed, where ever it is needed in the municipality.

I have had people say, “They only benefit themselves.” Well, what about **student** employment? This helps take a burden from them, and their families as education costs rise. The value they receive in training, punctuality, and customer service, as well as money management, will serve them all their lives. The first problem a new grad faces on their resume is to list experience. **They** have it in a field everyone is familiar with. Garry and I got our first training counting dew worms in the stone building for a penny a hundred, that our sister Mar and her husband Doug, had picked the night before. My son John, got the chance for an apprenticeship, because he was seen picking up the papers in the playground,

day after day. Andy Mitchell's son pilots ships through the St. Lawrence Seaway because he got a job on the Sequin one summer.

In today's economy, many seniors also supplement their shrinking incomes by working in the tourist trade.

We are faced now and in the immediate future, with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. This requires us to bring **all** municipal buildings up to a standard that we have not **had** to deal with before. **This** is very costly, and in some cases requires major renovations. **Pat**, our CAO, has recommended we get **all** our areas costed out now, **so** that if **funding** becomes available, we are ready to apply. This has been used well this past term, as we have **successfully** gained funding for the Cavendish Community Centre rink and play ground facilities, the Lakehurst Hall, the Township Welcome and Tourist Centre building and several road projects. These opportunities come unexpectedly, with very short time lines. The projects that are shovel ready, have a better chance of being accepted. They must be done, so we should be ready to get some relief if possible.

I believe, we must support all initiatives to protect our water! **This** can be from bad **sewage** disposal, to poor water management. This will be our **biggest** problem going forward. Without proper water management, life as **we** know it, will cease to exist. Both our economy, and life style, is totally dependant on water. Our ratepayers and cottage associations, are doing a thankless job in testing water, and we need to help them co-ordinate their results.

We need to expand our economic development agenda. We took on a very **big** task four years ago, in committing to fundraise \$250,000 for **your** medical centre in Buckhorn. With the **help** of Six Foot Bay's golf tournament, (which kicked it off), the Christmas Gala, Farmer's Market, and countless donors, we managed to do it. **Now** it is time to take it to the next level and **actively** pursue and support **new business**. We **really do** live in the best possible area! We offer 2 medical centers, **sports** facilities, **community centres**, **excellent** school and daycare. We are close to a **university**, and a college and within a **reasonable** distance from Toronto. We also share **the world recognized Trent-Severn Waterway canal system** and I can tell you from the experience of greeting the boaters at the canal in Buckhorn on market day, that this system is second to none.

We must package and promote it!

I had a call from two scientists from Germany, a few months ago who choose **Buckhorn** to live in for two years while they work on a **special** project at Trent University. They **chose** the Buckhorn area because of the daycare, school and medical centre.

This brings me to the medical centres. We are so fortunate to have two; one long established in Kinmount and serving a very large number of patients and our new one in Buckhorn. The Buckhorn Medical Centre has become a mini emergency **because** of the degree of emergency room work Dr. Mallory and Dr. Ferrier have done. It is also serving our tourist population in the summer. Whenever I am in another area, and they ask about our health

care, and I speak of ours, **we are the envy**. Thanks to both of these groups of physicians for taking such good care of us.

Going forward, I would like to see a senior's housing development happen. This will take a lot of pressure off our maturing population that we all know is expanding. We will spend time studying this project to determine the best course of action to take, however I feel it is a gap in our social fabric.

I was born an optimist, and I am very optimistic about this next term of council. We accomplished much these past four years, and we must build on it in a positive way. We have had extensive training, and we are supported by excellent staff. Pat Kemp, our CAO, is extremely competent and approachable. Natalie, knows municipal law inside out and I will always value her direction. Mike Zimmer has brought a breath of fresh air and **considerable** experience from other areas. Donna Teggart, our Treasurer, is the most efficient and people oriented person I have ever met!

I am sorry to say, that Gerard Pearson is retiring! His smile and good nature will be missed. Last but not least, is Don Mitchell. Don has brought a degree of professionalism to our fire department that is recognized all over the County and Province. Peter Franzen has left his mark on many of our projects and I wish him well.

Each of your councillors will speak for themselves, and I look forward to working with them, as a team, this next term.

I got into this business because of the seed planted in my head by my **grandson Trent**. He said, "All you ever do is **talk** about it. Why don't you do something?" I admire, and worry about this next generation. I think, my generation has made a heck of a mess of things, and I feel **we** have a responsibility to improve it, where we can.

This next 100 days, you can expect to see a time line on the infrastructure spending; better communication prior to council meetings to make the attending of council more informative; and dates for two council meetings which will be held one in Cavendish, and one in Galway, probably in June and August

We hope to have a date for a general meeting, which will feature staff, heads of departments, council and community organizers.

We have a responsibility, to provide you with **good** government. And **we** are going to give **you** the tools to keep yourselves better informed..

On a personal note, I must thank my family, and the families of the rest of my council. This job would be much **harder** without the **support** of friends and family. My daughter Leslie, has taken on many of my responsibilities at the gallery, and my husband **Pete** has encouraged and allowed me to take on this role. He has also learned to cook! I have felt the love and support from many of you here tonight, and I will be forever grateful.

I am open to suggestions from one and all and I will be in the office for a definite time each week to meet with and go over ideas or concerns which may arise.

Now I would like to introduce your new council and have them say a few words.

Your Deputy Reeve Ron Windover; Ron is returning as a Deputy Reeve and I look forward to working with Ron. Councillor at Large Madeline Pearson has a wealth of experience and she and her family put countless hours in at the Galway Hall. Harvey Ward Councillor Bev Mathews has been serving this community for many years and her experience fills in a lot of gaps. I look forward to working with Bev and Galway-Cavendish Ward Councillor Don LaCombe. Don is Galway Hall's standby. He needs to learn to put the turnips on a little earlier but he more than makes up for that in the work he does in the community.