

OVER A QUARTER OF A MILLION RIDEAU LAKES TAX DOLLARS DELIBERATELY WASTED!!!

That's right! Five of our Township Councillors are recklessly ignoring the needs of our community

Think this is an exaggeration?

- **No!** Six years of planning and public consultations led to a shovel-ready, architect-designed, multi-use facility to meet the needs for a Portland Hall/Library and new Municipal Offices – at a cost of \$330K.



**FIVE COUNCILLORS VOTED TO TRASH
THESE TAX DOLLARS!**

More Tax Dollars are At Risk!

- Opportunities for Federal and Provincial infrastructure, green and accessibility grant funding for projects are at risk because the Official and strategic plans are being ignored.
- Desperately needed new build or significantly renovated Municipal Offices will cost taxpayers more than a one-time combined building structure.
- Funding is being diverted from major planned projects to ad hoc projects.
- The previously healthy Township budget is headed for a serious debt situation because municipal financial planning and budgeting fundamentals are being ignored and there are no significant municipal reserves.

**THESE FIVE COUNCILLORS ARE
IGNORING THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF
RIDEAU LAKES TOWNSHIP!**

What are you getting instead?

- Spending another \$106K to design Portland Hall/ Library and a \$3 million building open 28 hrs/wk for library and rentals
- Was already rejected by the majority during the previous public consultations.
 - Ignores the economic benefits for Portland of bringing full-time jobs to the Village.
 - Ignores the tax dollar savings of a single construction contract, combined technology and building infrastructure costs.

**FIVE COUNCILLORS VOTED TO WASTE
MORE TAX DOLLARS TO GET LESS!**

What can you do?



Get Informed!

More details are on the reverse. The Township website contains all the information on the Portland Hub with minutes and video of Council meetings where these decisions were made.

Speak Up!

Hold Council to account! Call, email, write letters, write to your councillor (<https://www.rideaulakes.ca/town-hall/council/council-members>) and copy wasted.rldollars@gmail.com, write your local paper, ask members of Council why they have made these poor decisions.

Get Involved!

Participate in the **public consultations** for the new Portland Hall/Library project. Come and give your opinion and feedback on Council's current plans.

Where? Portland Legion, 2314 Harlem Rd
Tuesday August 22nd: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Thursday, October 12th: 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

We are a grassroots group from across Rideau Lakes Township that wants to inform our neighbours about what steps have been taken and what the current Council has planned.

Portland Municipal HUB – A Timeline

- **2015:** The Township of Rideau Lakes ***Strategic Plan – 2015 and Forward*** identifies the municipality's vision and priorities for the next 10 years. Vision 2025 includes well-developed infrastructure, viable villages and hamlets, an expanded business base, a thriving retirement community with services closer to home, financial sustainability, **the development of a municipal hub** and environmentally sustainable waterfront development.
- **2016 – 2019:** The future of the Portland Community Hall is assessed by Eastern Engineering Group Inc. and report highlights structural integrity issues with the building, deterioration of user facilities and poor accessibility. Staff report also details deficiencies present and states that “it is at the end of its useful life in the absence of a major restoration.” In 2018 the Gallagher property is purchased for \$365K. Costing for refurbishment and accessibility improvements are estimated at over \$800,000. Estimates to build a new, modern facility with the same square footage as the existing hall range from \$1.0 – \$1.4 million. A 2019 community visioning exercise identifies an improved or new hall and community hub as a priority.
- **2020:** A township survey of Portland area residents on the future of the Portland Community Hall receives 277 responses. 76% of respondents chose building a new hall over renovating the existing structure. The Municipal Services Committee considers a staff report regarding the renewal of the Portland Hall and this report recommends a variety of co-located uses to better serve the whole municipality.
- **2021:** The Portland Hall property is chosen for the new HUB development. +VG Architects is selected through a competitive process to prepare designs. Two consultation sessions are held to gather public input. Three options are presented at the second session; two include municipal offices and one excludes offices. Option two, which includes one building containing a new hall, library and municipal offices is chosen by the majority of respondents. The Municipal Services Committee approves moving forward with option two by a vote of 7-2. This decision is confirmed at the January 2022 Regular Council Meeting.
- **2022:** In May, +VG Architects provides a Class D estimate of \$3.9 million to Council; Council approves the creation of 33% drawings. The 33% drawings and Class B estimate of \$5.8 million is presented to Council in August. Council directs staff to begin seeking grant funding using the 33% drawings, authorizes +VG to create 66% drawings and updated estimate. In October the 66% drawings are received by the Township with a Class B Estimate of \$6.5 million. The old Portland Hall is demolished and site preparation begins for the new build. The 2022 Municipal Election is held; three new members are elected to Council. In December the 90% drawings and Class A estimate of \$7.5 million is received by the Township. Councillor Cathy Livingston, a vocal supporter of the Portland HUB project, passes away leaving a vacancy on Council.
<https://www.rideaulakes.ca/town-hall/projects/portland-municipal-hub-project>
- **2023:** In January, the new Council is presented with the 90% drawings, and a report from the CAO recommends Council move forward to tendering. Council rejects the motion with a tie vote; all three new councillors vote against the project. A by-election is scheduled for May to fill the vacancy in Bastard-South Burgess Ward. A new councillor is elected who opposes the planned Portland HUB, and the project is considered dead. A motion to start a new RFP process for the design of a hall/library for Portland without the inclusion of municipal offices is passed with a slim majority of the Municipal Services Committee in May. Council, again with a slim majority, awards the RFP in July 2023 to Altered Roots Architects Inc. at a cost of \$106K.
- \$925K has been spent in Portland since 2018 and all we have to show for it is the playground on the Gallagher property.
- **This is the contact information for the 5 Councillors that are responsible for the current direction of Council. Please make your voices heard by contacting them:** Jeff Banks, Councillor, South Elmsley – jeffreyjbanks@gmail.com – 613-284-6200; Sue Dunfield, Councillor, B&B – 736sued@gmail.com – 613-802-1415; Paula Banks, Councillor B&B – paulainpolitics@hotmail.com – 613-284-0238; Linda Carr, Councillor, S. Crosby – linda.carr.crosby@gmail.com – 613-246-2081; Debbie Hutchings, Councillor, N. Crosby – lambtrax@outlook.com – 613-483-8000. If you are emailing, please copy the Clerk at mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca so your email will be entered into the Township's correspondence record.