

## **REPORT OF BROCK REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Brock Region encompasses the half of the Niagara Peninsula that includes Dunnville, Wainfleet, Port Colborne, Dain City, Fort Erie, Ridgeway and Ridgemount, Niagara Falls and Chippawa, Fonthill and Welland. All the parishes are expected to be represented at meetings the first Wednesday of the month. Each meeting is held at a different parish in the region, even though distances can be daunting. This exercise has made our region “smaller” in the sense that we know our region better and it has offered us opportunities to visit and learn first hand about other parishes.

Included in the format of most meetings this year has been a discussion portion focused on the Diocesan vision. The Archdeacon provided us with copies of the vision and it was the intention to review and discuss a petal at each meeting. It was our hope that through this exercise, the representatives could return to their parishes and entertain a dialogue at their parish council. This activity seemed to us, one way in which we could take an initiative of the Church and provide support and subsequently a wider understanding.

It was during this process that we discovered that some representatives:

- were not elected at their annual vestry and
- did not have a position on the parish council where they could report on the monthly information discussed.
- Some parishes do not have a representative at all

This made our intentions of assisting parishes to become more familiar with the vision an almost impossible task. Additionally, when the representatives with no position on their parish council, reported to the rector, there was no certainty that information was taken to their parish council for discussion and planning.

Consequently, this is a matter that will need to be discussed further to decide the viability of this council. Fortunately, many of us believe that with a proper venue for sharing the information we discuss at the regional council, we can be of assistance to and an additional support to parishes.

Following the discussion of the vision, (or a topic of interest to the members), a more traditional business meeting follows. An important element of the business meeting is the report from Synod Council which updates parish reps on the various matters of concern from the Diocese and any proposed changes to Canon law or policies and the budget intentions. The business portion of the meeting is also an opportunity for parishes to discuss new ideas and discover new ways in which to grow. This information too may be at a dead end for those reps with no voice at their parish councils. Another benefit of our meetings is that they provide a place to network and build community.

I would be remiss if I did not thank all the council members who continue to come out diligently, especially in the cold, snowy, winter months. Without your support, and commitment, the regional council would be non existent. Thank you too for your continued belief in the value of this council and the message it has to share.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mrs. Patricia Davis, Chair