

# Roles and Responsibilities Workshop



## Ten years – Ten lessons

Malcolm Eaton

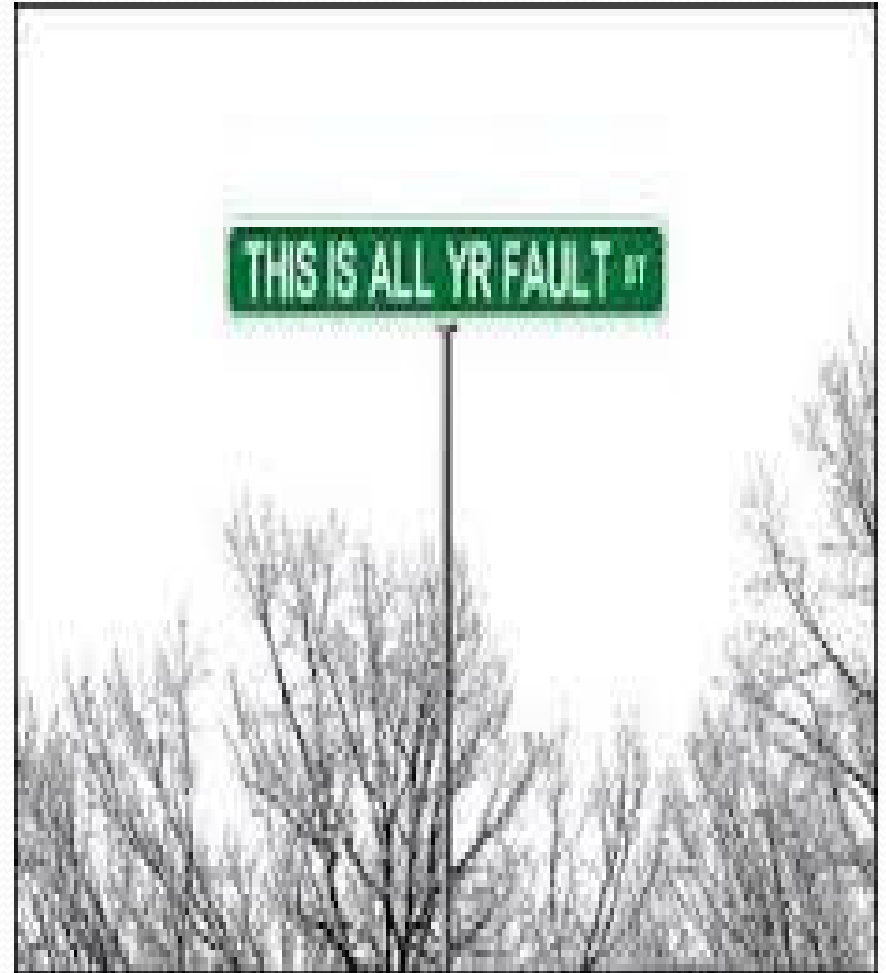








# # 1 – Compliments and criticism





When the burdens of the presidency seem unusually heavy, I always remind myself it could be worse.  
I could be a Mayor.

Lyndon B. Johnson 36<sup>th</sup> President of the United States

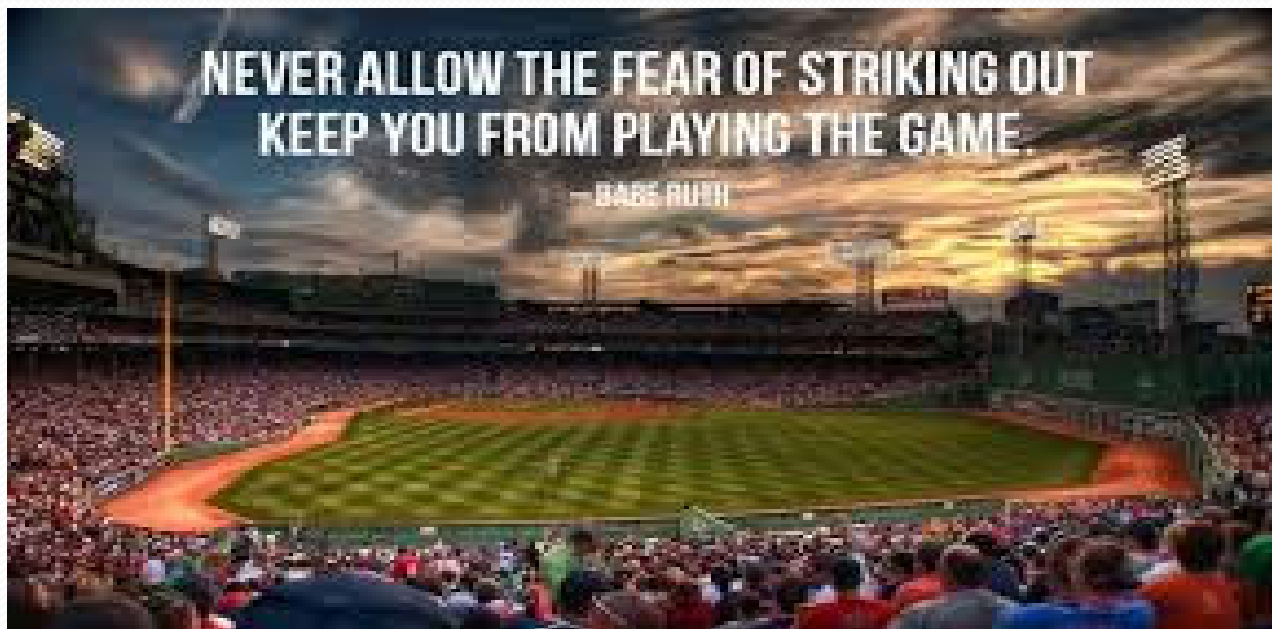
- Beware of the **vocal minority**..... “Squeaky wheels”
- Beware of the terminally unhappy.... “Grouches!”
- CAVE people – *Citizens Against Virtually Everything*
- NOPE people – *not on planet earth*
- BANANA people – *Build absolutely nothing anywhere near anything*
- SCUMMI people – *Socially concerned until my money is involved*



*If people had expected me to be infallible they would have made me the Pope. They only elected me Mayor.*



**Show up. Speak up. Team up.  
Never give up. Lift others up.  
Things will look up.**





## #2 - What the ~~Mayer~~ COUNCIL decided about the Ugly old white building!!!!!!









# # 3 : Are you a Full Time Reeve, Mayor or Councillor ?







## ❖ *You are all full time !*

- ❖ .....even if you are not paid as one !
- ❖ ... at the rink, at the grocery store, on the street, at the coffee shop
- ❖ ....at 5 in the morning when there is a water break...
- ❖ .....when disaster strikes – You are the Councillor , the Reeve, the Mayor, the leader...

## ❖ *You're always on council*

- ❖ Expect a loss of privacy .. *Expect your family to be affected... they did not run for election but they got elected too.....* set some boundaries...



## # 4 : *It's always about the money!*





# Understanding your financial situation



**Borrow  
Wisely** \$









# # 5 You will need some advice, help, info, support, criticism.....



"It's time we heard from the silent majority."



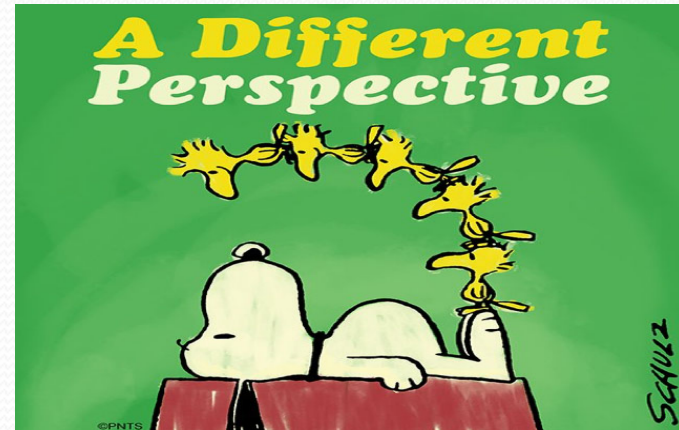
*I wonder if  
common sense  
will ever make  
a comeback...*





# Community engagement

***Business owners***  
***Chamber of Commerce***  
***Seniors / Elders***  
***Students***  
***Volunteers***  
***Sports/ Rec folks***  
***Young families***  
***Church groups***  
***Former council members***  
***Other community groups***





# 6 Who is like us? Who can we learn from ?  
Who has a better idea? Talk to them !





# #7 : I need to learn more about ??????



Saskatchewan Association  
of Rural Municipalities



FEDERATION  
OF CANADIAN  
MUNICIPALITIES      FÉDÉRATION  
CANADIENNE DES  
MUNICIPALITÉS



Government  
— of —  
Saskatchewan  
Ministry of Government Relations



SASKATCHEWAN  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE





## #8 : Rural - Urban cooperation ?



Saskatchewan --- 779 municipalities

- Urban - 459 (16 cities, 147 towns, 256 villages, 40 Resort villages)

- Rural 296 Northern 24

Canada -- 3700 total Alberta -- 352

*Regional Cooperation – Why ?  
What ? How? When?*



# ***Regional Cooperation = Planning***

- **Why?**      **Build capacity – shared resources, improve operations and services, tackle difficult issues together**
  - Emergency/Disaster , Engineering, Planning, Bylaw Enforcement, Purchasing, Recreation and Culture, Economic Development, Technology, Communications, Accounting/Audit, Waste Management, Watershed, etc etc.....
  - **Community issues – Health Care, Education ADVOCACY!!!**
- **What?**      **All shapes and sizes – no one size fits all**
  - *Regional districts? District planning?*
- **How?**      **Start discussions – look at what other municipalities have done, talk with not about.....**
- **When**      **Now is a good time.....**



## Lesson 9 :Working with your Administrator and Council colleagues





# What does good governance look like?

- *Communication is the key – roles are important*
  - Learn, teach, coach, help, explain and listen
    - - *do not assume our council knows how to be a council*
  - Council members need *to trust* each other – *no surprises*
  - Good policies, programs and process
  - Council's role ? : *“Nose in – fingers out”*
    - Council evaluation/feedback – How are we doing as a council?
- Do you have a *strategic plan?* Are you following it?
- *Do a Performance Review on your CAO.....*
  - Council's relationship with the CAO \*\*\*\*
- *Have difficult conversations.....*





## IMPROVING COUNCILLOR CONDUCT





## ***Lesson 10: Plan! Plan! Plan!***



If You Don't Know  
Where You're Going,  
You'll Wind Up  
**SOMEWHERE ELSE.**

**-Yogi Berra**



**Planning -- what are we looking at –  
the dash, hood, the road, the horizon or  
the rear view mirror?**







- **Strategic Plan - what does this council want to achieve**
- **Financial Plans – sustainability .....**
  - **Official Community Plans / Zoning Plans**
  - **District/Regional Plans**
  - **Economic Development Plans**
  - **Asset Management Plans**
  - **Communication Plans**
  - **Council Development Plans**
  - **Special project plans ... new landfill, new arena, museum/heritage projects,**
  - **Other .....**




# Thinkers.....



- *Promises and Hopes are not a plan..*
- Good planning requires good working.....
- *A goal without a plan is a wish...*
- Stop admiring the problem – do something about it!
- When the horse dies ... get off.
- If Plan A does not work... there are 25 more letters.
- *You can only change your plan if you have one.*
- Adventure is just bad planning.....





*Thanks to all those mayors ,  
reeves and councillors, past  
and present, friends and  
colleagues, around the province  
who provided insights and  
wisdom along my ten year  
journey.*

*“It was an honour to serve”*

*Malcolm Eaton*



THANK YOU FOR  
LISTENING

