

MAYOR'S REPORT

AUGUST 30, 2011

Labor Day is almost here, and you know what that means. Children in the Berlin, Gorham and Milan areas are headed back to school. We all must take a moment to exercise extreme caution when driving near school and bus loading zones. Please, when in these areas, put down the cell phones and look, look, look! Most kids haven't seen their school chums for a couple months and in the excitement of getting back to school, lapses of judgement are bound to occur. Have you all seen Brown School lately? There have been many new windows installed that are both great looking and ultra energy efficient. The best part is that the work was done in house by school maintenance employees. The project saved tens of thousands of dollars, but more importantly, it shows that when city employees accept the operational changes necessary to increase efficiency, their job security is enhanced. More needs to be done like this, as we begin to lay out plans to figure out how to best tackle our street condition problems. It is time we maximize the labor talents we have in our various departments, for job security sake.

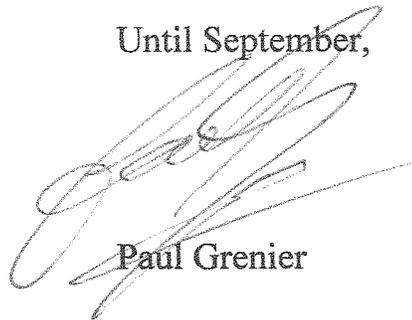
Berlin certainly got a big boost last week with the announcement from Governor Lynch's office that finally, finally, Berlin Station's legal hurdles have been cleared. It is time for a construction closing and a ribbon cutting ceremony! I've working hard to make this happen in Berlin, but my efforts don't hold a candle to the tireless hours put in by DRED Commissioner George Bald and Governor Lynch himself. Governor Lynch stood very tall in the darkest hours of this ordeal, and demonstrated true leadership. Coos County is very fortunate to have John Lynch as governor. He dedicated any and all resources necessary to get this deal done, but his direct intervention made the difference. Mr. Governor, if you are reading this, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your efforts of the last six months. Patriarch Partners and Gorham Paper and Tissue as well as Cate Street Capital and Berlin Station are here and investing here because of your direct efforts. May God Bless you my friend!

You can count me in as a strong supporter City Councillor Ducharme. I've had the honor of serving Berlin in some official capacity for over 20 years. I have served with many people over the years, some who were Monday night servants, some others who had very spotty attendance records to still others who served

with singular personal agendas. None were very helpful to make Berlin a better place, and often times, actually hurt Berlin's efforts. I could not be more proud of the present Berlin City Council. Everyone brings a uniqueness and perspective that really makes things work. Compromise is actually a nice word! Dori Ducharme brings a financial perspective that is intensely valuable. She is still somewhat new, but works very hard to make Berlin better. People make mistakes in their lives and we all have to be accountable for them but at what point does it become overkill. She should NOT resign, Berlin needs a person of her talents. Remember, she has a family, kids, a home in Berlin. I judge her on her efforts, her sincerity, and her knowledge. From where I sit, Berlin is very lucky to have a public servant like Dori.

Finally, The Notre Dame Arena is making ice!! The arena board spent almost \$25,000 this year upgrading the ice plant operations. The older compressor was rebuilt, the brine pumps and their electric motors were replaced as well as new operational control panels installed. The inside of the rink area was also repainted, a light color instead of green. I want to thank Scott Turmel, Paul Laborgne and of course, Joe Accardi for selflessly volunteering hundreds of hours to get us ready. It was great news to hear that the Berlin Youth Hockey Association had one of the biggest pre-registration efforts in recent memory. Can't beat those hockey moms!!

Until September,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Grenier', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Paul Grenier