

From: Paula Banks
To: Mary Ellen Truelove
Cc: John Fenik; info@reviewmirror.ca
Subject: please add to correspondence for the next meeting
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A Tale of Two Seats

By John Fenik

As soon as the gavel fell at the Rideau Lakes Township council meeting on Aug. 11, 2025, the meeting fell into disarray. The issue had to do with where members sit.

Mayor Hoogenboom said "In the Procedural By-Law, the mayor has the responsibility to assign the order of seating."

He then asked Councillor Jeff Banks and Councillor Bulloch to change seats. It was at this point that the meeting fell into a familiar milieu of disrespectful exchanges and outright aggression between some council members.

Councillor Jeff Banks replied to the mayor's direction by saying, "I am fine where I am."

Councillor Paula Banks interrupted the mayor several times, moving that the procedure by law be set aside, saying to the mayor, "You should not be selecting seats."

Opinion Piece

A Tale of Two Councils: Westport & Rideau Lakes

Dear Madam Editor,

The week of August 11th -15th, I attended two Committee of the Whole Meetings. On August 10th, I attended the Rideau Lakes municipal service meeting virtually. On August 11, 2025, I attended the Village of Westport Special COW meeting. The contrast between the two councils was enormous.

During the meeting, the mayor and members of the Westport council conducted themselves professionally. They were courteous to each other, and members listened to each other. They had all read staff reports and collectively moved the business of the village forward. While not always unanimously agreeing on an issue, they respect each other's opinions—a well-functioning council.

By contrast, the Rideau Lakes Council,

as soon as the gavel fell, the meeting fell into disarray. The issue had to do with where members sit. The mayor asked that Councillor Jeff Banks and Councillor Bulloch change seats. It was at this point that the meeting fell into familiar disrespectful exchanges and outright aggression between council members. The bright lights in the discussion came from Councillors Bulloch, Carr, and Hutchings, who all made valiant attempts at being peacemakers.

As a Rideau Lakes Township taxpayer and voter, I find the conduct of some members of Rideau Lakes Township council to be profoundly disappointing.

John Fenik
North Shore, Upper Rideau

I would like this added to the correspondence for the next meeting to speak to the lack this reporter's ability to tell the whole story and include all the facts when writing what seems to the residents as neutral reporting but are actual opinion pieces in disguise and for a paper which refused to print one on my letters to the editors defending ourselves against these half-truths.

Paula Banks