

## Resident complains about Lord's Prayer

**By Richard Blanchard**

The future use of the 'Lord's Prayer' to open Adjala-Tosorontio council meetings is up in the air after a complaint about its use before its recitation at a recent council meeting.

Council was about to begin its public session with the prayer when a person in the audience told them that the use of the prayer was illegal. A sign at the council chamber door explains that Adjala-Tosorontio uses the Lord's Prayer before its council meetings.

In 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled unanimously that a Quebec municipality could not begin its council meeting with the prayer.

The court ruled that 'when all is said and done, the state's duty to protect every person's freedom of conscience and religion means that it may not use its powers in such a way as to promote the participation of certain believers or non-believers in public life to the detriment of others.'

Mayor Mary Small-Brett had council hold a moment of silence contemplation instead of the Lord's Prayer which is used by Simcoe County council before its meetings.

She said that after the meeting that council would be discussing its position on opening the meeting in the near future.