



MEDIA RELEASE

TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
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For Immediate Release

Utopia, ON - March 6, 2019 – The Township of Essa has concluded the recruitment process for its new Chief Administrative Officer. After an extensive search, Mayor Macdonald and Council are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Colleen Healey-Dowdall to the position of Chief Administrative Officer, effective March 18, 2019.

Township Council is excited to have Mrs. Healey-Dowdall serve Council, staff and residents in this role after it has been successfully led for the past 15+ years by Chief Administrative Officer, Greg Murphy. Mr. Murphy will retire on March 31, 2019 after providing Council, staff and residents with 41 years of exemplary public service.

Mrs. Colleen Healey-Dowdall brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position of Chief Administrative Officer. She has been working in the public sector for 25 years, of which the past 20 years has been as the Township of Essa's Manager of Planning and Development. She is a strategic and versatile Senior Manager who is recognized as an expert in many areas. She has extensive experience in planning-related matters, economic development, governmental relations, and is highly skilled in development-related growth. She is recognized as a cooperative and proactive member of staff.

Throughout her career, Colleen has worked collaboratively with many community members, groups, businesses, developers, politicians and government officials. She will continue this cooperative approach as the new Chief Administrative Officer with internal and external stakeholders in this new position.

Colleen has an extensive education which will assist her as the new Chief Administrative Officer. She holds a Master's Certificate in Municipal Leadership, a Bachelor of Arts Degree (Honours) in Geography/Political Science, and a Bachelor of Applied Arts Degree (Honours) in Urban and Regional Planning. She has continued with extracurricular studies and courses offered through the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO). Additionally, she holds an MCIP designation at the Canadian Institute of Planners, and an RPP with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute.

We would like to wish Colleen Healey-Dowdall the best as she leads the management team and all Township staff in implementing Council's policies and directions. We have the utmost confidence that she will continue to foster strategic relations with all stakeholders at all levels of government. Council is enthusiastic and confident that the outstanding leadership credentials of Mrs. Colleen Healey-Dowdall will continue to further preserve Essa as a municipality that is truly "Where Town and Country Meet".

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