

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
CONSENT AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020**

A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

- p. 1 1. Township of Essa Building Department Stats – September 2020.
- p. 2 2. Community Notice from Hydro One dated September 23, 2020, re: Barrie Area Transmission Upgrade Project.
- p. 4 3. AMO Communications dated October 2, 2020, re: Additional Policy Update – COVID-19 Public Health Measures, Municipal Relief Phase 2 Funding, and an Inspector General of Policing.
- p. 8 4. Correspondence from the Office of the Solicitor General dated October 2, 2020, re: Anti-Racism Initiatives.
- p. 15 5. Correspondence from the Office of the Fire Marshal dated October 6, 2020, re: Interpretation of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*.
- p. 18 6. Media Release from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) dated October 6, 2020, re: Some Good News and a Call for Healthy Waters Project.
- p. 20 7. Resolution from the Township of Asphodel-Norwood dated October 7, 2020, re: Cannabis Production.
- p. 22 8. Resolution from the Township of Lake of Bays dated October 9, 2020, re: Reform to the Municipal Insurance Policy.
- p. 24 9. Resolution from the Township of Blandford-Blenheim dated October 13, 2020, re: Unlicensed and Unmonitored Cannabis Grow Operations.
- p. 25 10. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe dated October 13, 2020, re: Update on Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019) and Updated Land Needs Assessment Methodology.

B – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR ACTION

None.

C – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR REVIEW AND REPORT TO COUNCIL

None.

Sep-20

Current

Permits Issued	# Permits Issued	# Permits Issued YTD	Monthly Construction Value of Permits Issued	Construction Value of Permits Issued YTD	Monthly Building Permit Fees	Building Permit Fees YTD
Residential	35	276	\$3,009,895.00	\$23,919,387.00	\$38,207.96	\$297,273.23
Commercial	0	15	\$0.00	\$713,136.00	\$0.00	\$9,861.29
Industrial	0	1	\$0.00	\$167,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,639.06
Institutional	0	3	\$0.00	\$130,000.00	\$0.00	\$225.00
Public Utilities	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Agricultural	0	4	\$0.00	\$520,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,008.11
TOTAL	35	299	\$3,009,895.00	\$ 25,449,523.00	\$38,207.96	

Y.O.Y.	22	256	\$1,361,327.00	\$ 16,686,709.00	\$18,201.59	\$ 172,677.06	79.53%
--------	----	-----	----------------	------------------	-------------	---------------	---------------

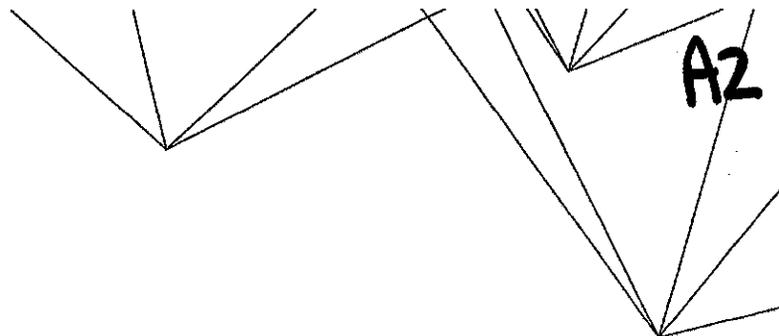
NEW SFD CONSTRUCTION

Dwelling Units Created

Type	Current Month	YTD	Dwelling Const. Value	Dwelling Const. Value YTD
SFD/SEMI/ROW	11	90	\$2,380,000.00	\$18,918,000.00
Mult Res Bldgs	0	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Accessory Apt within Existing Res Bldg	0	0	\$ -	\$0.00
TOTAL	11	90	\$2,380,000.00	

Y.O.Y.	5	32	\$ 989,600.00	\$ 9,309,030.00
	120.00%	181.25%	140.50%	103.22%

D



COMMUNITY NOTICE

Barrie Area Transmission Upgrade Project

Dear Neighbours,

September 23, 2020

To better serve our customers in the Barrie and surrounding area, Hydro One is preparing to begin upgrading aging transmission infrastructure that is reaching capacity. This will ensure we meet the growing demands for electricity in the region. The project involves upgrading equipment at both our Barrie and Essa Transformer Stations (TS), and upgrading the transmission line from 115 kilovolt (kV) to 230 kV that connect the stations (see map on reverse).

In 2018 we completed an Environmental Assessment and held a series of Community Information Centres to obtain feedback and share information about the project with neighbours. In April 2020 we received Ontario Energy Board approvals and this fall, some construction activity will begin.

Phase 1: October 2020:

In support of this project, we will begin the first phase of this work at each of the stations described below:

Upgrading Barrie TS

Work at this station will include:

- The expansion of the existing station fence by 25 m on the western side on Hydro One owned property. To facilitate the expansion and construction activity, the removal of trees within Hydro One owned property will be required. Once the expansion is complete, existing aging equipment will be replaced and upgraded from 115 kV to 230 kV.

Refurbishing and Upgrading Equipment at Essa TS

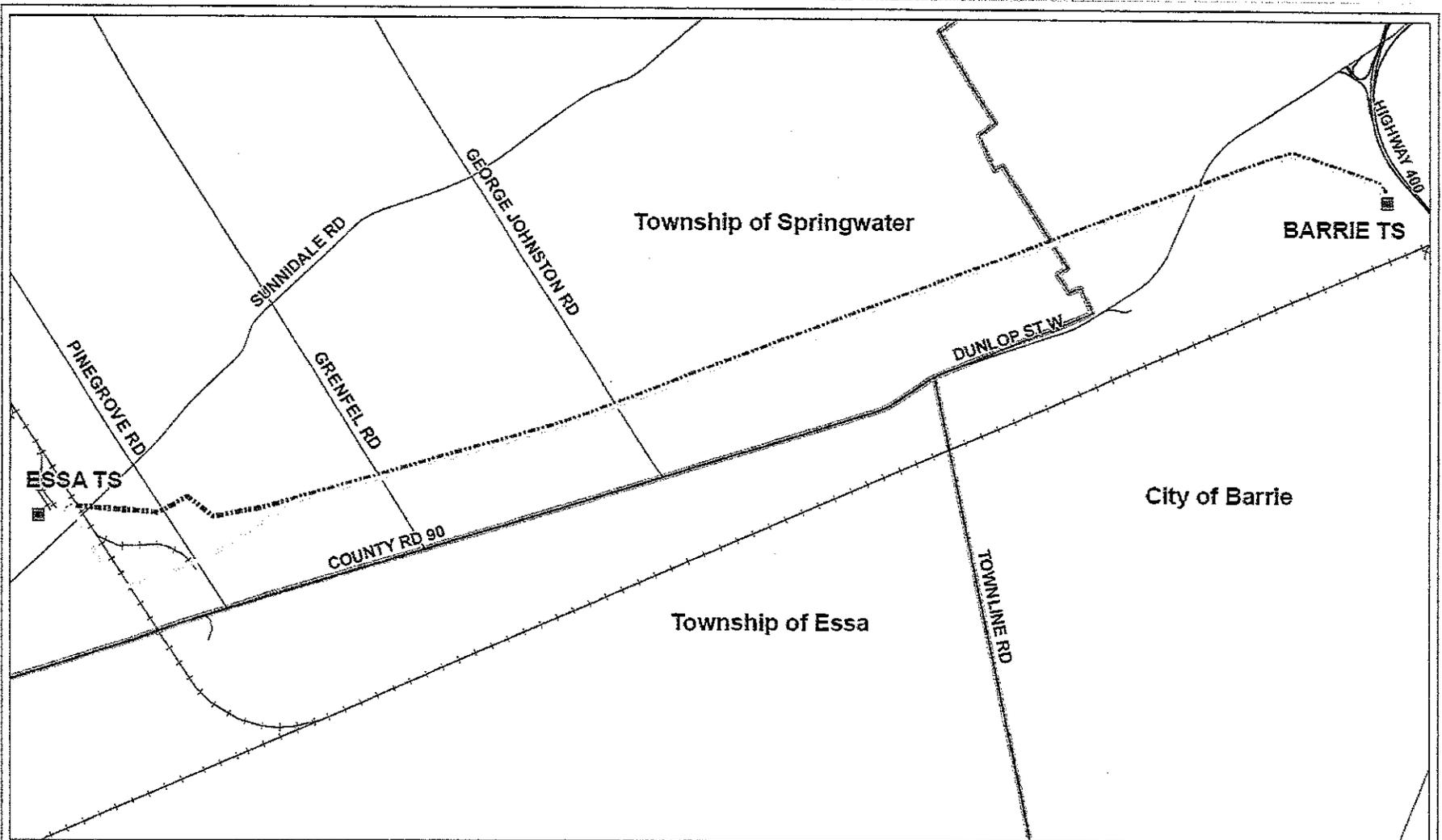
- Work at this site will include installing new equipment and reconfiguring sections of the station to accommodate the upgraded capacity. This work will take place within the current station footprint and Essa TS will not require an expansion.

Neighbours in the vicinity of both stations should expect an increase in activity at these sites. Typical working hours will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday. We expect this portion of work to be complete by spring 2022.

Phase 2: Early 2022:

In 2022, Hydro One will begin work to upgrade the existing transmission lines and structures between Barrie and Essa TS. The two existing rows of wooden 'H' frame structures will be replaced with a single row of new, steel structures along the corridor. These steel structures will be taller to ensure a safe clearance from the ground for the new lines. Prior to this work beginning, Hydro One will hold an information session in late 2021 to share details on what neighbours can expect.

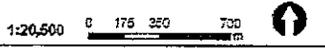
Thank you for your patience as we begin to work on this important project. Please contact Community.Relations@HydroOne.com or 1-877-345-6799 if you would like to speak to the project team.



Hydro One
 2014-2015
 Date: 2014-08-21
 Map 14-21_2100_Canada_014
 All information is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used as a legal document. The user assumes all responsibility for the use of this information. The user agrees to hold Hydro One harmless for any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, arising from the use of this information.

-  Transformer Stations (TS)
-  Transmission Line to be Upgraded
-  Transmission Line to be Removed
-  Highways
-  Roads
-  Railway
-  Municipal Boundary

**Barrie Area Transmission Upgrade:
 Project Area Map**



From: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: October 2, 2020 3:02 PM
To: Colleen Healey <chealey@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: AMO Policy Update – COVID-19 Public Health Measures, Municipal Relief Phase 2 Funding, Inspector General of Policing

AMO Update not displaying correctly? [View the online version](#)
Add Communicate@amo.on.ca to your safe list



October 2, 2020

AMO Policy Update – COVID-19 Public Health Measures, Municipal Relief Phase 2 Funding, and an Inspector General of Policing

Additional COVID Public Health Measures

Given the rising number of new COVID cases, the Province has added new public health measures for both across the province as well as some targeted regional measures to prevent the increasing spread and to avoid future lockdowns as we experienced in the spring.

These new restrictions are outlined through the amended order O. Reg 364/20 (Rules for Areas in Stage 3 under the *Reopening Ontario [A Flexible Response to COVID-19] Act, 2020*).

They include mandated use of face coverings in **all** public indoor settings across the province with limited exemptions as of Saturday, October 3rd at 12:01 am. AMO and municipal leaders have been asking for such a provincial order to improve public clarity on requirements which unfortunately has not been possible with the current patchwork of local mandatory mask bylaws and s.22 orders.

Targeted measures will also be implemented in Ottawa, Peel, and Toronto as a result of their higher than average rates of transmission. These include:

- setting an indoor capacity limit to restrict occupancy at restaurants, bars and other food and drink establishments (including nightclubs), and other requirements;
- restricting group exercise classes at gyms and other fitness settings to 10 individuals, as well as restricting the total number of people allowed at these facilities to a maximum of 50; and
- setting a limit on the number of people allowed at meeting and event facilities, including banquet halls, to six people per table and 50 people per facility.

In addition, the government is:

- extending the pause on any further reopening of businesses, facilities, and organizations for an additional 28 days, unless already permitted to open under O. Reg 364/20;
- pausing social circles and advising that all Ontarians allow close contact only with people living in their own household and maintain two metres physical distancing from everyone else; individuals who live alone may consider having close contact with another household; and
- finalizing additional guidance for seniors (70 and over) on how to minimize their risk of acquiring COVID-19, including for upcoming annual gatherings such as Thanksgiving and Remembrance Day.

Note: Municipal leaders have been asking for such public health guidance with these upcoming community events coming soon.

There are also provincial changes to the COVID-19 Testing procedures which include:

- transitioning to appointment-based testing at Ontario assessment centres beginning Tuesday, October 6, 2020, to provide certainty to patients as to when they can receive a test during the winter and allowing assessment centres to conduct enhanced screening to ensure adherence to the guidelines released on September 24, 2020;
- beginning on Sunday, October 4, 2020, assessment centres will discontinue walk-in testing services, so the Province's lab network can make progress in processing tests and to allow assessment centres the necessary time to be prepared for the new appointment-based model;
- continuing mobile testing and pop-up testing centres to reach vulnerable populations and provide targeted testing for long-term care, congregate care, and other vulnerable populations;
- expanding the number of pharmacies where people with no symptoms within provincial testing guidance can get tested; and
- implementing updated testing guidance for children to help parents determine when it is most appropriate for students, children, and their families to seek a test for COVID-19.

Safe Restart Agreement – Phase 2 Funding for Municipal Operating Relief

The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing, wrote to all Heads of Council late yesterday with instructions for the Phase 2 funding as part of the Safe Restart Agreement. This second phase of funding targets municipal governments that require additional financial support to address extraordinary operating expenditures and/or revenues losses arising from the COVID-19 pandemic for 2020.

Phase 1 funding totaled \$695 million and was directly distributed to all municipalities across Ontario. For Phase 2, another \$695 million is available to municipalities through an application process. This will require a Council resolution to request the additional assistance and a formal application completed by a municipal treasurer. To be eligible, the application for this second phase requires municipal governments to demonstrate additional financial pressures that were not alleviated as part of the Phase 1 stream.

To request Phase 2 funding, the Ministry will seek more detailed information through the application forms which need to be submitted using the Transfer Payment Ontario System by the **deadline of October 30th, 2020**. For additional support, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will offer webinars to help better understand the application requirements and process.

AMO is pleased that joint support from the Federal and Provincial government has made \$1.39 billion available to provide operating funding relief for municipalities in Ontario. This unprecedented funding will allow municipal governments to remain financially whole and to continue to provide needed services to their communities during the ongoing pandemic.

Ontario Appoints First Inspector General of Policing

The Ontario government has today appointed Devon Clunis as the Province's first Inspector General of Policing. This arm's length role will seek to provide policing oversight and ensure effective policing services are provided across Ontario.

In addition, an Inspectorate will be created with responsibilities to:

- conduct inspections of police services to ensure compliance with the *Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)* and its regulations;
- conduct inspections of police service boards to prevent police misconduct; and impose measures where necessary;

- investigate complaints related to the provision of adequate and effective policing services;
- conduct analyses regarding compliance with the CSPA and publish inspection results and annual reports.

It should be noted that AMO will continue to request that the Inspector General of Policing have a role in supporting police service boards in fulfilling their mandates.

AMO would like to offer our congratulations to Devon Clunis on being appointed Ontario's first Inspector General of Policing.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.

24

Solicitor General

Solliciteur général

Office of the Solicitor General

Bureau de la solliciteure générale

25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6
Tel: 416 325-0408
MCSCS.Feedback@Ontario.ca

25, rue Grosvenor, 18^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6
Tél.: 416 325-0408
MCSCS.Feedback@Ontario.ca



132-2020-3484

By email

October 2, 2020

Dear Head of Council:

The Ministry of the Solicitor General is committed to keeping communities across Ontario safe, supported and protected. I would like to take this opportunity to share some information with your municipality regarding the anti-racism initiatives of my ministry and the Anti-Racism Directorate (ARD), the regulatory work being done to bring the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, into force, new police oversight measures, police training as it relates to de-escalation, mental health and diverse communities, mental health and addictions initiatives and investments, Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Planning and police-hospital transition protocol.

Anti-Racism

Our government has zero tolerance for hate, racism or discrimination in all its forms. We share a responsibility to speak out and act against racism and hate and build a stronger society. Our government is committed to addressing racism and building a stronger, more inclusive province for us all.

I am proud to be the minister responsible for Ontario's Anti-Racism Directorate (ARD), which leads strategic initiatives to advance anti-racism work across government with a plan that is grounded in evidence and research. Through the ARD, the government continues to invest in community-led research, public education and awareness initiatives. This includes investments to the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Ontario to undertake research that seeks to identify key mental health issues impacting survivors of victims of homicide violence in Ontario.

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019

Our government is also committed to addressing racism at a systemic level through the regulatory framework under the *Anti-Racism Act, 2017*, and through the work we are doing to bring the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, into force. As we work to develop regulations under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, we will continue to engage racialized groups, including Black, South Asian, First Nation, Inuit and Métis organizations. We are committed to ensuring that Ontario's communities are well supported and protected by law enforcement and that all interactions between members of the public and police personnel are conducted without bias or discrimination, and in a manner that promotes public confidence and keeps our communities safe.

.../2

8

The *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, which is part of the *Comprehensive Ontario Police Services Act, 2019*, provides policing and police oversight legislation. Once in force, the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, will address a number of recommendations made by Justice Michael H. Tulloch, including:

- Mandatory training for all police service board members, the Inspector General, inspectors, police officers and special constables on human rights, systemic racism as well as training that promotes the diverse, multiracial and multicultural character of Ontario society and the rights and cultures of First Nation, Inuit and Métis Peoples;
- The requirement for each municipality that maintains a municipal board to prepare and publish a diversity plan to ensure members of the board are representative of the diversity of the population of the municipality;
- Not releasing the names of officials and witnesses in SIU investigations;
- Ensuring information made available to the public about an SIU investigation helps them understand the decision made by the SIU director; and
- Ensuring the SIU continues to publish investigative reports on its website.

New Measures for Police Oversight

Inspector General of Policing

The *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, will establish an Inspector General (IG) of Policing who will be required to monitor and conduct inspections related to compliance with the Act and regulations. The IG will work with policing entities to ensure consistent application of policing across the province by measuring compliance with prescribed standards.

Key functions of the IG include:

- Consulting with, advising, monitoring and conducting inspections of police service boards, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) detachment boards, First Nation OPP boards, OPP Advisory Council, chiefs of police, special constable employers, police services and other policing providers regarding compliance with the Act and regulations.
- Receiving and investigating, if warranted, public complaints about members of police service boards, OPP detachment boards, First Nation OPP boards and the OPP Advisory Council regarding misconduct and policing complaints regarding the provision of adequate and effective policing, failure to comply with the Act and regulations, and policies and procedures.
- Reporting inspection findings, issuing directions to remedy or prevent non-compliance with the Act and imposing measures if the direction is not complied with, or, reprimanding, suspending or removing a board member if board member misconduct is identified.
- Conducting analysis regarding compliance with the Act and regulations.
- Reporting on the activities of the IG annually, including inspections conducted, complaints dealt with, directions issued and measures imposed; and compliance with the Act and regulations.

The Act also gives the IG and its inspectors the right to access closed police service board meetings.

Law Enforcement Complaints Agency

The *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019* will continue the office of the Independent Police Review Director as the Law Enforcement Complaints Agency (LECA), headed by the Complaints Director.

The LECA will receive and screen complaints from the public about the conduct of police officers. In addition, the LECA will have the authority to initiate an investigation in the absence of a public complaint if, in the Complaints Director's opinion, it is in the public interest to do so.

The Complaints Director may also undertake reviews of issues of a systemic nature that have been the subject of public complaints or investigations, or that may contribute or otherwise be related to misconduct.

The Special Investigations Unit

The *Special Investigations Unit Act, 2019*, (SIU Act), once in force, will set out a new legal framework for the SIU. The SIU Act will focus and clarify the mandate of the SIU to better ensure more timely, efficient, reasonable and transparent investigations. Key changes contained in the Act will focus the SIU's investigative resources where they are needed most – on criminal activity.

The Ministry of the Attorney General will continue to consult with law enforcement, community organizations and advocates to ensure their input is incorporated into the development of regulations under the SIU Act.

Police Training

Training is developed and delivered in a manner that reinforces principles of fairness, equity and compliance with the *Ontario Human Rights Code* and *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

All Basic Constable Training (BCT) recruits undergo diversity-focused training designed to improve their ability to engage with the public and respond to victims of crime. This training focuses on improving recruits' understanding of the experiences of, and systemic barriers faced by, diverse communities, including racialized, Indigenous, First Nations and Metis, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning and Two-Spirited (LGBTQ2S) people.

Diversity and anti-racism training includes:

- Human rights framework for policing;
- Equity and inclusion;
- Harassment and discrimination;

- Defining police professional;
- Collection of Identifying Information in Certain Circumstances regulation;
- History of profiling in policing and the impact of racial profiling on the community;
- Profiling practices and the mindset behind it;
- Stereotyping;
- Bias free policing – racial profiling vs. criminal profiling;
- Hate crimes and bias incidents of a non-criminal nature; and
- Practical skills scenario that reinforces academic learning on hate crimes.

Training on Indigenous issues includes:

- Indigenous culture;
- Residential schools;
- Land claims and treaties;
- First Nations Policing;
- Cultural appropriation;
- Cultural practices; and
- Practical skills scenario that reinforces academic learning on Indigenous issues.

The Serving with Pride organization attends each intake to deliver a presentation to all recruits entitled "LGBTQ2S 101" which covers a number of issues related to the LGBTQ2S communities including historical events, current and appropriate terminology, gender expression, gender identity and other topics.

In addition to the standalone sessions, the above noted issues are interwoven and reinforced throughout the BCT program. For example, recruits are taught to respond to victims in a trauma-informed manner for all victims of crime acknowledging potentially vulnerable groups.

De-escalation and Mental Health Crisis Response Training

The Ontario Police College's current de-escalation training emphasizes communication techniques such as establishing rapport, threat management and conflict resolution and mediation.

The training specifically addresses scenarios in which police interact with people in crisis with a goal of resolving conflicts in a manner that protects the safety of the public, the person in crisis and police officers. Officers must also undertake follow-up training every 12 months. Police services are also encouraged to have policies and procedures in place as set out in the "Use of Force" Guideline. This includes procedures for impact weapons, aerosol weapons, conducted energy weapons, firearms and use of force reporting.

Training on the BCT program is reviewed and updated to reflect the most current information after every BCT intake.

Once in force, the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*, will require all police officers, special constables and board members to successfully complete training related to human rights, systemic racism and the rights and cultures of Indigenous Peoples. This training will also be required for the new Inspector General of Policing, its inspectors, the Complaints Director at LECA and LECA investigators. This is part of the government's commitment to ensure that all interactions are conducted without bias or discrimination, and in a manner that promotes public confidence and keeps communities safe.

Mental Health and Addictions Initiatives and Investments

Dedicated Funding for Mental Health and Addictions Programs

Ontario's community mental health services include:

- assertive community treatment teams, case management, crisis intervention, early psychosis intervention, eating disorders programs, vocational programs, supportive housing and consumer/survivor initiatives, peer supports and other programs; and
- initiatives to keep people with serious mental health issues out of the criminal justice system which include, but are not limited to, court support and diversion, crisis intervention and safe beds.

In July 2018, Ontario announced its commitment to invest \$3.8 billion over 10 years, with the support of the Government of Canada, to develop and implement a comprehensive and connected mental health and addictions strategy. This includes \$174 million for mental health and addictions programs in 2019-20. As part of the \$174 million commitment of funds to support mental health and addictions in 2019-20, my ministry partnered with the Ministry of Health to announce \$18.3 million in new funding to support those affected by mental health and addictions challenges in the justice sector.

Specifically, in 2019-20, the Ministry of Health provided funding for an integrated set of mobile crisis services that assist in the de-escalation and stabilization of persons in crisis and their connection to community programming and supports to address their physical and mental well-being over the longer term, in order to prevent further crises. Five teams were implemented in 2019-20 with \$6.95 million of the \$174 million in new, annualized funding to develop and enhance mobile crisis services. Mobile crisis services partner police with community mental health organizations to respond to persons in mental health and addictions (MHA) crises and determine if the crisis:

- can be de-escalated and resolved at the scene;
- warrants further psychiatric attention at hospital emergency rooms; or
- requires short-term community stabilization and reintegration.

Part of the \$18.3 million in new funding also includes \$2.5 million for various programs run by the ministry, one of which includes de-escalation training.

Ministry of the Solicitor General Grant Programs

Apart from the dedicated funding for mental health and addictions programs highlighted above, the ministry also offers a number of grant programs that are primarily available to police services, working in collaboration with municipal and community partners, to support local Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) initiatives, including mental health-related programs. For example, under the 2019-20 to 2021-22 Community Safety and Policing Grant local and provincial priorities funding streams, the ministry is providing funding to 27 police services/boards for projects involving an integrated response between police and a mental health worker to respond to situations of crisis (e.g., Mobile Crisis Response Teams).

Community Safety and Well-Being Planning

The ministry developed the *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario* booklet, which includes the CSWB Planning Framework and a toolkit of practical guidance documents to assist municipalities, First Nations and their community partners as they engage in the CSWB planning process. The Framework encourages communities to work with various partners across sectors to proactively identify and address local priority risks in the community before they escalate and result in situations of crisis (e.g., crime, victimization or suicide). This involves reducing the number of incidents that require enforcement by shifting to more proactive, preventative programs and strategies that improve the social determinants of health (e.g., education, housing, mental health).

In support of this work, effective January 1, 2019, the government mandated municipalities lead the development of CSWB plans which identify and address local priority risks to safety and well-being, working in partnership with police services/boards and various other sectors, including health/mental health, education, community/social services and children/youth services.

Complementary to the Framework, a Situation Table is one type of multi-sectoral risk intervention model that is being implemented across our province.

The ministry also offers the Risk-driven Tracking Database (RTD), which allows for the collection of risk-based data and helps to inform the CSWB planning process, free of charge to communities across Ontario that are engaged in multi-sectoral risk intervention models, such as Situation Tables. As of June 2020, 60 sites have been on-boarded to the RTD and any communities who are interested in being on-boarded to the RTD is encouraged to contact the ministry.

A4

Head of Council
Page 7

Police-Hospital Transition Protocol

Additionally, to improve front-line response to persons experiencing a mental health or addictions-related crisis, my ministry partnered with the Ministry of Health to support the Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee and CMHA of Ontario to develop a framework for local police emergency room transition protocols for persons apprehended under the *Mental Health Act*.

On June 3, 2019, the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Health jointly endorsed the release of *Improving Police-Hospital Transitions: A Framework for Ontario*, as well as the supporting toolkit, *Tools for Developing Police-Hospital Transition Protocols in Ontario*. The purpose of the framework and toolkit is to assist police services and hospitals with developing joint emergency department transition protocols, which are responsive to unique local needs, in order to ensure the seamless transfer of care for persons in a mental health or addictions crisis brought to a hospital by police officers.

I hope you find this information useful and I appreciate your municipality's support during this time of uncertainty.

Sincerely,



Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General
Minister Responsible for Anti-Racism

c: Chief Administrative Officers

Municipal Clerks

COMMUNIQUE

du commissaire des incendies

October 6, 2020

No. 2020-18

Staffing Levels and Firefighter Safety

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) is aware of the Interest Arbitration decision involving the City of Greater Sudbury dated August 31, 2020ⁱ. In light of the discussions arising as a result of the decision, I have determined that it is appropriate to provide an interpretation of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997* ("the Act")ⁱⁱ. These considerations are made in accordance with my Order in Council and fully based on the powers, duties, and responsibilities as set out in the Act. I provide the following information for municipal consideration, as applicable.

The intent of the Act is to establish minimum mandatory service levels with respect to public education and fire prevention, as well as to provide municipal council the authority to determine, based on community needs and circumstances, a desired level of fire protection services beyond the minimum requirements and including emergency response capabilities. As set out in legislation, a fire chief is the person who is ultimately responsible to their municipal council for the delivery of fire protection services. Municipal council sets or amends the fire protection service levels within their respective municipality. The establishment of fire protection service levels for emergency response within a municipality is the legislative responsibility and prerogative of municipal council, informed by the advice and guidance of the fire chief. The OFM has the authority to monitor, review and advise municipalities respecting the provision of fire protection services and to make recommendations to municipal councils for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of those services.

In 2018, Ontario enacted the Community Risk Assessment, a regulation under the Act (O. Reg 378/18)ⁱⁱⁱ. A community risk assessment is a process of identifying, analyzing, evaluating and prioritizing risks to public safety to inform decisions about the provision of fire protection services. Municipalities set the level of service and delivery methods based on their needs and circumstances as informed by the community risk assessment, in consideration of the advice and guidance of the fire chief.

Fire departments are required to respond to numerous types of emergency calls, including (but not limited to), motor vehicle collisions, medical emergencies, rescue, hazardous materials and other technical operations and fire suppression. In terms of appropriate staffing levels on first arriving vehicles, consideration must be given to the following:

- Standard Operating Guidelines/Procedures (SOG/Ps) must be in place and enforced to align with the fire protection services provided under the Establishing and Regulating By-law. These should address, among other things, the issue of firefighter safety.
- Within the SOG/Ps, the discretion of trained and competent Incident Commanders must be empowered and supported to make on-scene decisions based on the specifics of the incident.

- All firefighters must be trained to comply with the SOG/Ps and the direction of the Incident Commander.
- An initial response, with four or more firefighters represents a self-sufficient unit able to perform a substantial number of tasks required at an emergency response without additional resources. Anything less than four firefighters typically requires staffing levels to be augmented to safely perform all required functions based on circumstances.
- Deployment models of fewer than 4 staff members on an initial response apparatus is not necessarily a firefighter safety concern, however actions/capabilities and tasks they can perform will be limited. Local deployment models and procedures are required to establish adequate resources to safely provide fire protection services as set out by the municipal Establishing & Regulating By-law. Therefore, the simultaneous arrival of four firefighters on one apparatus is not required under the Act, regardless of full-time, volunteer or part-time.
- In the case of fire suppression calls, initial crews of less than four firefighters should not attempt interior suppression or rescue operations except in very limited circumstances (such as a victim collapsed in close proximity to a window or exterior doorway, or where the fire is confined to a very small, readily accessible area).

While the council of each municipality is responsible for establishing their respective fire protection service levels, as the employer, they must ensure that employees (under the direction of the fire chief) are provided with SOG/Ps, equipment and training to safely carry out the mandated duties. Council decides if these services are to be delivered by volunteer, composite or full-time departments.

Therefore, in my opinion and considering all of the above factors, the decision to set, alter or adjust fire protection service levels in any municipality lies with the council of that municipality, in consideration of advice and guidance provided by the fire chief.

The OFM remains available to provide advice and assistance to municipal council and fire chiefs, through your local fire protection adviser.

Endnotes

ⁱ Interest Arbitration - The City of Greater Sudbury and the Sudbury Professional Fire Fighters Association Local 527, International Association of Fire Fighters and Ontario Volunteer Firefighters Association, Christian Labour Association of Canada Local 92. Re: Val Therese Staffing Issue

ⁱⁱ Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997

Definitions

1 (1) In this Act,

“fire chief” means a fire chief appointed under subsection 6 (1), (2) or (4); (“chef des pompiers”)

“fire department” means a group of firefighters authorized to provide fire protection services by a municipality, group of municipalities or by an agreement made under section 3; (“service d’incendie”)

“firefighter” means a fire chief and any other person employed in, or appointed to, a fire department and assigned to undertake fire protection services, and includes a volunteer firefighter; (“pompier”)

“Fire Marshal” means the Fire Marshal appointed under subsection 8 (1); (“commissaire des incendies”)

“fire protection services” includes,

- (a) fire suppression, fire prevention and fire safety education,
- (b) mitigation and prevention of the risk created by the presence of unsafe levels of carbon monoxide and safety education related to the presence of those levels,
- (c) rescue and emergency services,
- (d) communication in respect of anything described in clauses (a) to (c),
- (e) training of persons involved in providing anything described in clauses (a) to (d), and
- (f) the delivery of any service described in clauses (a) to (e); (“services de protection contre les incendies”)

Municipal responsibilities

2 (1) Every municipality shall,

- (a) establish a program in the municipality which must include public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention; and
- (b) provide such other fire protection services as it determines may be necessary in accordance with its needs and circumstances.

Services to be provided

(3) In determining the form and content of the program that it must offer under clause (1) (a) and the other fire protection services that it may offer under clause (1) (b), a municipality may seek the advice of the Fire Marshal.

Fire chief, municipalities

6 (1) If a fire department is established for the whole or a part of a municipality or for more than one municipality, the council of the municipality or the councils of the municipalities, as the case may be, shall appoint a fire chief for the fire department.

Responsibility to council

(3) A fire chief is the person who is ultimately responsible to the council of a municipality that appointed him or her for the delivery of fire protection services.

Appointment of Fire Marshal

8 (1) There shall be a Fire Marshal who shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Powers of Fire Marshal

9 (1) The Fire Marshal has the power,

- (a) to monitor, review and advise municipalities respecting the provision of fire protection services and to make recommendations to municipal councils for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of those services;
- (c) to advise and assist ministries and agencies of government respecting fire protection services and related matters;

Duties of Fire Marshal

(2) It is the duty of the Fire Marshal,

- (b) to advise municipalities in the interpretation and enforcement of this Act and the regulations;

iii O. Reg. 378/18 Community Risk Assessments

AL



**Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority**

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Some good news & a call for healthy waters projects

Funding available for farm & rural environmental projects!

UTOPIA, Ontario (October 6, 2020) – Thanks to the support of hundreds of volunteers, farmers, rural landowners and other charitable donations, the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) has some great news to share.

Last year, NVCA’s stewardship program received \$138,777 from the Environmental Damages Fund to help fund habitat restoration and water quality protection projects between 2019 and 2022. This fund uses the fines collected from environmental violations to support projects that help improve the environment. Many other partners and donors also helped support NVCA’s stewardship and forestry programs.

The results are impressive. In 2019, projects completed under the fund:

- Restored over 51 ha of habitat in environmentally sensitive areas. Over ten years, the trees planted will sequester nearly 2,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂), equivalent to taking 43 cars off the road. The native trees and plants will also shade creeks and stabilize bank erosion.
- Reduced 182 kg per year of phosphorus runoff to rivers and lakes. Too much phosphorus can cause potentially toxic algae blooms and fish kills. This amount of phosphorus could have grown up to 45 tonnes of algae!
- Reduced 115 tonnes per year of farmland top-soil erosion
- Over 10 km of streams and shorelines were enhanced
- Over 56 landowners participated in projects and free site visits
- Over 2,013 volunteers and students spent over 6,600 hours helping restore habitat

“We’re looking for more landowners, farmers and volunteers to help continue and expand on these successes,” said Shannon Stephens, NVCA’s Healthy Water Program Coordinator.

“Residents in the Nottawasaga Valley watershed (eligibility map) can apply for financial and technical assistance to help plant trees, restore habitat, reduce agricultural runoff, and protect our rivers, lakes and drinking water sources.”

Eligible water quality projects include: decommissioning unused wells, fencing livestock out of streams and wetlands, erosion control structures and wetland creation to improve water quality. Dufferin County residents can also apply for the Dufferin Rural Water Quality Program. Project cost-share range from 30-100% to a maximum of \$10,000 depending on project type.

The application is short and easy, and staff can help with any questions. Applications are accepted year round, but must be approved before projects begin. Stewardship staff are available for free site to discuss projects. Additionally, NVCA's permit fee is waived for eligible projects that require permits,

For more information about NVCA's Healthy Waters Program, please refer to the [program brochure](#), or contact Shannon Stephens at 705-424-1479 ext 239 or ssstephens@nvca.on.ca

- 30 -

About NVCA: The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands. www.nvca.on.ca

Media Contact: Maria Leung, Communications Coordinator, 705-424-1479 ext. 254 or mleung@nvca.on.ca



In a year like no other, volunteers help restore natural channel geomorphology to an impaired section of the Willow Creek.



Multi-species cover crop on a Dufferin farm. Cover crops help protect soil over the winter from erosion and reduce runoff. They also help build healthy, productive soils and are resilient to both drought and flood.

Office of the Mayor
Rodger Bonneau

October 7, 2020

Sent via E-mail

Re: Cannabis Production

Dear Ministers, Members of Parliament, and Members of Provincial Parliament,

Please be advised that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood passed the following resolution at its regular meeting of September 22, 2020:

Motion No. 239/20 | Moved by: Councillor Walsh | Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Burt

WHEREAS the Ontario Federation of Agriculture has adopted the position that licenced cannabis production for medical and/or recreational-use purposes should be considered a farming activity;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada introduced Bill C-45 (the Cannabis Act) to create the foundation for a comprehensive national framework to provide restricted access to regulated cannabis, and to control its production, distribution, sale, importation, exportation, and possession;

AND WHEREAS Section 7 of the Cannabis Act requires that any person who intends to submit an application for a licence for cultivation, a licence for processing, or a licence for sale that authorizes the possession of cannabis must provide written notice to: a) The local government, b) The local fire authority, and c) The local police force or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment responsible for providing policing services to the area in which the site is referred to in the application;

AND WHEREAS Section 35(1) of the Act requires a holder of a licence for cultivation, a licence for processing, or a licence for sale that authorizes the possession of cannabis to provide a written notice to the local authorities within 30 days of issuance, amendment, suspension, reinstatement or revocation of a licence and provide a copy of said notice to the Minister; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Asphodel-Norwood requests a governing body in cannabis production that:

1. Takes a unified approach to land use planning restrictions;
2. Enforces the regulations under the Cannabis Act on behalf of the licencing agency and ensures local authorities are in fact provided with notification of any licence issuance, amendment, suspension, reinstatement, or revocation within their region;
3. Communicates more readily with local governments; and
4. Provides local governments with more support.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Asphodel-Norwood will forward this motion to the following partners: All municipalities in Ontario, the MP and MPP of Northumberland-Peterborough South, the MP and MPP of Peterborough-Kawartha, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food with the request that they enact legislation to support local governments with land use management and enforcement issues.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Rodger Bonneau, Mayor
Township of Asphodel-Norwood

- c. E. Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
 M. Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
 D. Piccini, MPP Northumberland-Petrborough South
 P. Lawrence, MP Northumberland-Petrborough South
 D. Smith, MPP Peterborough –Kawartha
 M. Monsef, MP Peterborough-Kawartha
 All municipalities in Ontario



**LAKE
OF BAYS**
• MUSKOKA •

T 705-635-2272
TF 1-877-566-0005
F 705-635-2132

TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS
1012 Dwight Beach Rd
Dwight, ON P0A 1H0

October 9, 2020

Via Email

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON 1A1

Dear Honourable Premier Doug Ford:

RE: Reform to the Municipal Insurance Policy

On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays, please be advised that Council would like to express their concern and request a reform to the Municipal Insurance Policy.

As outlined in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) report entitled, "Towards a Reasonable Balance: Addressing Growing Municipal Liability and Insurance Costs", dated October 1, 2019, joint and several liability creates a higher insurance cost for municipalities. Local municipalities within Muskoka have experienced a 20% increase in municipal liability for 2019 and are expecting at least 20% increase for 2020.

Throughout the Township of Lake of Bays, the area of concern is the Errors and Omissions for building code claims. There is a much higher value of newly built cottages/seasonal residences within Lake of Bays and it is populated by a commanding number of ratepayers who possess the financial means to sue and will endure the protracted legal process. The Township has a lower than average number of building claims, however a higher than average payout.

Please consider an amendment to Bill 124 to make it a requirement that the building contractor name be disclosed and that the contractor must provide proof of insurance, thus providing greater accountability and responsibility and ensuring that municipalities will not bear the burden alone.

...2



**LAKE
OF BAYS**
• MUSKOKA •

T 705-635-2272
TF 1-877-566-0005
F 705-635-2132

TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS
1012 Dwight Beach Rd
Dwight, ON POA 1H0

Page 2

Kindly review and consider the recommendations as outlined in the above-noted AMO report. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Municipal Office at 705-635-2272.

Sincerely,

Carrie Sykes, *Dipl. M.A., CMO, AOMC,*
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk.

CS/cw

Copy to: MP, Scott Aitchison
MPP, Norm Miller
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Municipalities in Ontario



Township of Blandford-Blenheim

47 Wilmot Street South
Drumbo, Ontario N0J 1G0

Phone: 519-463-5347
Fax: 519-463-5881
Web: www.blandfordblenheim.ca

October 13, 2020

Emailed to the Federal Minister of Health, Federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Federal Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Oxford MP, Oxford MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all municipalities in Ontario.

Re: **Unlicensed and unmonitored cannabis grow operations**

Please be advised that at the Regular Meeting of Council on October 7th, 2020, the Council of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim passed the following resolution:

Resolution Number: 2020-14

Moved by: Councillor Nancy Demarest

Seconded by: Councillor Bruce Banbury

“That Whereas unlicensed and unmonitored cannabis grow operations have increasingly become a problem in communities in Ontario as well as across the Country; and,

Whereas these operations are allowed to establish with little or no consultation with the local community and municipalities are often only made aware of their existence after conflicts arise with neighboring land owners; and,

Whereas loopholes in existing Federal legislation allow these large scale grow op’s to establish and operate without any of the regulations or protocols that licensed and monitored operations need to adhere to,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Blandford-Blenheim urges the Federal Government to amend the legislation under which these facilities operate to ensure the safety and rights of the local communities in which they are situated are respected; and,

That this resolution be forwarded to the Federal Minister of Health, Federal Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Federal Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Oxford MP, Oxford MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all municipalities in Ontario.”

Regards,

Sarah Matheson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Blandford-Blenheim

Consent
A10



To: **Committee of the Whole**

Agenda Section: Corporate Services
 Division: Engineering, Planning and Environment
 Department: Planning

Item Number: CCW - 2020-299

Meeting Date: October 13, 2020

Subject: Update on Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019) and Updated Land Needs Assessment Methodology

Recommendation

That Item CCW-2020-299, dated October 13, 2020, regarding Amendment 1 to A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019) and an updated Land Needs Assessment Methodology, be received; and

That Item CCW-2020-299 be forwarded to all of the local municipalities within Simcoe County, for information.



Executive Summary

The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006 (Growth Plan) was the first Growth Plan to provide a framework for implementing Ontario's vision for building stronger, prosperous communities by better managing growth in the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH). The County of Simcoe has a dedicated sub-section within the Growth Plan which is unique to all other areas within the GGH, resulting in the County having some specific policies to consider.

The Growth Plan has been updated multiple times since 2006, including recently in 2017 and 2019. On June 16, 2020, the Province released new proposed updates to the Growth Plan (2019) and an outline for an updated Land Needs Assessment Methodology for comment. The Land Needs Assessment Methodology is an integral part of the Municipal Comprehensive Review exercise required by the Growth Plan. As discussed in CCW-2020-259, County planning staff provided comment on the proposed changes.

The updated Growth Plan and Land Needs Assessment Methodology came into effect on August 28, 2020. This report provides an overview of the key changes to these documents for Council's information.

Background/Analysis/Options

On June 16, 2020, the Province released proposed updates to A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Growth Plan) (2019) (ERO 019-1680) and an outline for an updated Land Needs Assessments Methodology (ERO 019-1679) for comment. County planning staff provided comment on the proposed changes as discussed in Committee of the Whole Item CCW-2020-259.

The Minister's decision on the proposed changes was posted on August 28, 2020, and the updated Growth Plan is now in effect as of that date. The new Land Needs Assessment Methodology is also in effect.

Many of the proposed changes discussed in planning staff's previous report have been incorporated into the updated Growth Plan. Some of the notable aspects of the updated Growth Plan include the following:

1. Removal of Schedule 7
2. Updates to Schedule 3
3. Land Needs Assessment Methodology Update
4. MCR Completion Deadline
5. Mineral Aggregate Operations

1. Removal of Schedule 7

Schedule 7 was the Simcoe County specific population and employment allocation that was distributed to each lower-tier municipality by the Province until 2031. County planning staff had requested that Schedule 7 remain in the Growth Plan to provide certainty for the County and lower-tier municipalities in the ongoing planning and official plan updates that are currently in progress. Despite this, Schedule 7 has been removed from the updated Growth Plan. The removal of the Schedule 7 2031 population and employment forecasts from the Growth Plan renders the corresponding numbers and policies in the County Official Plan (2016) obsolete. Further, the new Growth Plan forecasts to 2051 (as discussed below) are not applicable to lower-tier municipalities until the County's municipal comprehensive review (MCR) is completed. In that regard, County planning staff will continue to work with our lower-tier municipalities to continue to update their official plans to ensure conformity with all relevant Provincial and County policies except for growth management. Once the MCR is completed and population and employment forecasts are allocated amongst the lower-tier municipalities, it is anticipated that minor updates to the plans would be initiated to include the growth management element.

2. Updates to Schedule 3

The Growth Plan horizon has been extended from 2041 to the year 2051. Schedule 3 has been updated to include forecasted population and employment numbers to 2051 and has eliminated reference to 2031 and 2041 forecasts. The update incorporates the 'Reference Forecast', which according to the Ministry's analysis was the most probable forecast, as opposed to the less likely 'low' and 'high' forecasts presented for comment. Under the Reference Forecast, the County of Simcoe is expected to have a population of 555,000 and 198,000 jobs by the year 2051. The forecasts are considered minimums and the County is now required to use these updated forecasts or use higher forecasts as determined through the MCR.

3. Land Needs Assessment

As discussed in Item CCW-2020-259, recent amendments to the Growth Plan have made it necessary to update the Land Needs Assessment Methodology (LNA) (originally released on May 4, 2018) document to be in conformity with the current, amended Growth Plan.

On August 28, 2020 the Province released its updated LNA simultaneously with an amended Growth Plan. Upper and single-tier municipalities in both the inner ring and outer ring are required to utilize this methodology to assess land needs to the Growth Plan horizon (2051) as a component of the MCR exercise. Additionally, the methodology provides upper and single-tier municipalities across the Greater Golden Horseshoe with greater flexibility for assessing community and employment area land needs. Specifically, municipalities now have greater flexibility in the data that they can utilize when completing certain components of the LNA, the order in which they can complete the individual components, and how recommendations are implemented into official plan amendments or a new upper-tier official plan. The County will be utilizing this methodology to determine both community and employment area land needs as part of its MCR exercise.

4. MCR Deadline for Completion

The deadline for conformity with the Growth Plan remains July 1, 2022. With the updates to the Growth Plan and the updated LNA, the County is pleased to now have the certainty needed to move forward with the MCR program. This timeline will be challenging but this remains the County's target for completion.

5. Mineral Aggregate Operations

Due to a significant number of comments expressing concerns with the proposed removal of the policy restricting mineral aggregate operations within habitats of endangered species within the Natural Heritage System, this policy has not been removed and the section of the Plan remains as is.

Financial and Resource Implications

The studies and projects that are associated with these changes are included in the County's on-going MCR, which has an assigned budget.

Relationship to Corporate Strategic Plan

The intent of the Provincial Growth Plan is aligned with County of Simcoe Strategic Plan Goal of "Building Vibrant and Healthy Sustainable Communities".

Reference Documents

- CCW-2020-250

Attachments

There are no attachments to this item.

Prepared By Maryann Hunt, MCIP RPP, Senior Policy Advisor
Calvin Dempster, Planner II

Approvals

Date

David Parks, Director of Planning, Economic Development and Transit	September 22, 2020
Debbie Korolnek, General Manager, Environment, Planning and Environment	September 22, 2020
Trevor Wilcox, General Manager, Corporate Performance	October 4, 2020
Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer	October 5, 2020