

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
CONSENT AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025**

A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

- p. 1 1. Correspondence from the Town of Orangeville dated May 12, 2025, re: Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5.
- p. 2 2. Correspondence from the Municipality of Chatham - Kent dated May 13, 2025, re: Bill 5 -Risks to your communities and support requested.
- p. 4 3. Correspondence from the Town of Shelburne dated May 14, 2025, re: Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5.
- p. 6 4. Correspondence from AMO:
p. 9 a) May 2025 – Policy Update – Provincial Budget Priorities
b) May 2025 – Policy Update– OPP Billing Review, Strong Mayor Powers Training, Bill 6 Advocacy, New Federal Minister of Housing & Infrastructure, New Ontario TCIP Program.
- p. 11 5. Correspondence from the Town of Blue Mountain dated May 15, 2025, re: Advocating for a Reduced Provincial Tax Rate on Ontario – Made Craft Cider.
- p. 13 6. Correspondence from the Ministry of the Solicitor General dated May 21,2025, re: Ontario Provincial Policing Cost Recovery Model Review and June 2025 Webinars.
- p. 14 7. Correspondence from the NVCA dated May 26, 2025, re: NVCA May 2025 Board Meeting Highlights.
- p. 15 8. Correspondence from The Corporation of The Township of The Archipelago dated May 26, 2025, re: Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025.
- p. 17 9. Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter – 25th Annual South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards.
- p. 33 10. Correspondence from the Minister of Infrastructure dated May 21, 2025, re: 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference Delegation.

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.



Resolution

Meeting Date: May 12, 2025
Resolution No. 2025-093

Moved: Councillor Prendergast
Seconded: Councillor Andrews

Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of “Special Economic Zones” that may override local planning authority; and

Whereas the Town of Orangeville supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes; and

Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario’s natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now therefore be it resolved that Council for the Town of Orangeville:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:
 - The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 - The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
 - The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and MPP for Dufferin–Caledon
 - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration.

Result: Carried Unanimously

May 13, 2025

To all Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:

Re: Bill 5 - Risks to your communities and support requested

As Mayor of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, I am sharing this motion to bring to your attention the potential risks to your communities and ask for your support to oppose this approach. The following motion was approved yesterday, May 12, 2025:

"Whereas 29831 Irish School Road in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is a property approximately 800 metres from the Town of Dresden;

And Whereas the property contain small fill areas used for historic local landfill purposes, and the property has never been properly studied or zoned for any significant landfilling use;

And Whereas the current property owners are attempting to create a new recycling and landfill facility for millions of tonnes of waste, which would result in hundreds of trucks travelling through towns and communities in the area;

And Whereas this approach has been strongly opposed by Council, the Community, neighbouring Indigenous Nations and many other voices, due to impacts to the environment, our homes, the safety of our families and children, and the fabric of our communities;

And Whereas the Provincial government has proposed Bill 5, which includes a section removing the obligation for a full Environmental Assessment for this new landfill and recycling facility;

And Whereas if this limited, historic local landfill use on the edge of Dresden can be expanded into a massive landfill and recycling facility, then this can happen anywhere;

And Whereas there are likely hundreds of properties across the Province that may have had limited, historic waste uses, which could also face this threat;

And Whereas Bill197 established a veto for Municipalities within 3.5 kms of a new landfill, which reflected the need for local government and community approval of landfill sites;

And Whereas the approach being taken for this property disregards the importance of our rural communities, and local voices, in determining appropriate landfill sites within their communities:

Cont'd...

Now Therefore to ensure that other Municipal Councils and communities know about what is happening in Dresden, and the potential risk to their community if this approach is taken by the Province, Council requests that the Mayor's Office write a letter to all other Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:

1. Advising them of this issue and the risks to their community if a similar approach is taken for other historic landfill properties; the possibility of the Ontario government setting a precedence and
2. Requesting their support in opposing this approach and ensuring that full Environmental Assessments are required for all landfills and that municipalities have a strong voice in determining appropriate locations for landfills in their communities."

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Subject: FW: Town of Shelburne - Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5

Subject: Town of Shelburne - Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5

Good Morning

At the May 12, 2025, meeting of Shelburne Town Council, the following resolution was passed unanimously

Moved By: Councillor Len Guchardi
Seconded By: Councillor Lindsay Wegener

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of "Special Economic Zones" that may override local planning authority;

And Whereas the Town of Shelburne supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes;

And Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario's natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That Council for the Town of Shelburne:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Urges the Province to support municipalities through ensuring responsible growth through infrastructure projects designed to ensure protection of sensitive wildlife and natural resources;

And Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario,
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
- The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks,

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- Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin–Caledon,
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO),
- All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration,
- All Conservation Authorities in Ontario,
- Conservation Ontario

CARRIED; Mayor Wade Mills

Thank You

Jennifer Willoughby, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
Phone: 519-925-2600 ext 223 | Fax: 519-925-6134 | jwilloughby@shelburne.ca
Town of Shelburne | 203 Main Street East, Shelburne ON L9V 3K7
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[EXTERNAL]

Subject: FW: AMO Policy Update - Provincial Budget Priorities

Subject: AMO Policy Update - Provincial Budget Priorities



Policy Update - Provincial Budget Priorities

This afternoon, Ontario's Minister of Finance introduced the 2025 Ontario Budget, [A Plan to Protect Ontario](#).

Today's budget paints a challenging economic outlook for the province with much larger deficits and lower housing starts now projected over the coming years. While we're facing significant economic uncertainty, the government's plan is a solid first step in addressing the challenges posed by U.S. tariffs.

AMO has been working hard to help its members understand how the rapidly changing economic landscape will impact municipalities. We recently released a [2025 Pre-Budget Update](#) building the case for strategic investments in municipal infrastructure and social housing to stimulate the economy in the short-term and support long-term economic productivity. We look forward to working with the provincial government to bring this message to federal leaders.

We are pleased that today's budget includes some important actions for our communities, particularly through new investments in infrastructure, economic development and primary care. However, these uncertain times have only escalated the need to address long-standing municipal priorities. AMO remains committed to our urgent call to revisit the provincial-municipal fiscal framework with the provincial government.

"In the face of global economic and political uncertainty, municipalities stand united with provincial and federal governments. Today's provincial budget investments in critical water infrastructure and industries impacted by tariffs are an important first step in helping Ontario weather the current economic storm. AMO and municipalities are ready to work together to advance solutions that will save jobs in the short-term while building enduring economic prosperity across the province" – Robin Jones, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

Budget Highlight: Responding to Trade and Tariff Uncertainty

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- A new \$40M Trade-Impacted Communities Program (TICP) to help communities and local businesses disproportionately affected by the trade and tariff uncertainty
- A range of investments to diversify Ontario's economy and support local economic development. Highlights include:
 - An additional \$600M for the Invest Ontario Fund to create jobs and attract investment
 - \$1.3B over three years to enhance and expand the Ontario Made Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit
 - \$50M over three years to create the Ontario Together Trade Fund (OTTF) to help local businesses develop new markets and re-shore critical supply chains
- Investing in skills training to improve Ontario's labour market, including:
 - An additional \$1B over three years for the Skills Development Fund
 - \$20M to mobilize new training and support centres for laid-off workers, including those impacted by U.S. tariffs
 - An additional \$50M for the Better Jobs Ontario program, including a fast-track stream for job seekers in trade-impacted sectors

Budget Highlight: Infrastructure & Housing

- Additional \$400M through the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP) and the Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) to build the local infrastructure needed to enable new housing
- \$50M over five years through Invest Ontario to grow capacity in modular housing construction
- Up to a further \$5B in funding to the Building Ontario Fund (BOF) to co-invest in priorities like municipal infrastructure, long-term care, energy infrastructure, and affordable housing
- Increasing annual funding for the Connecting Links Program from \$30M to \$45M to support municipalities to maintain critical road infrastructure

Other Commitments of Interest

- Reconfirming the additional \$50M increase to the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund, bringing the total envelope to \$600M by 2026
- Confirming the previously announced \$20M over two years through the Rural Ontario Development program
- Investing in police training and equipment, including \$1B to expand and renovate two training facilities, \$57M for two new police helicopters, and \$6M through the Preventing Auto Theft Grant
- \$300M over four years to support Primary Care Teaching Clinics, increasing Primary Care Action Plan investments to \$2.1B
- Adding \$260M over three years in the Learn and Stay Grant to increase the number of health care professionals in underserved communities

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- Making the cut to the Gasoline and Fuel Tax rate permanent. This should not impact the portion of the Gas Tax that is allocated to municipalities for public transit
- \$500M in a new Critical Minerals Processing Fund to provide strategic financial support for projects that will accelerate the province's critical minerals processing capacity

An online version of this Policy Update is available on the [AMO Website](#).

*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.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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[EXTERNAL]

Subject: FW: AMO Policy Update - OPP Billing Review, Strong Mayor Powers Training, Bill 6 Advocacy, New Federal Minister of Housing & Infrastructure, New Ontario TCIP Program

Subject: AMO Policy Update - OPP Billing Review, Strong Mayor Powers Training, Bill 6 Advocacy, New Federal Minister of Housing & Infrastructure, New Ontario TCIP Program



Policy Update - OPP Billing Review, Strong Mayor Powers Training, Bill 6 Advocacy, New Federal Minister of Housing & Infrastructure, New Ontario TCIP Program

Provincial Government Launches OPP Billing Review

In a letter to impacted Mayors and CAOs sent yesterday, the Ministry of the Solicitor General announced the launch of a review of the OPP cost recovery model. The review is expected to be finalized in time to inform the issuing of 2026 annual billing statements, with opportunities for engagement with municipalities in June.

AMO understands the impact of rising police costs on municipalities across Ontario, including both those with OPP and municipal police services. AMO looks forward to working closely with SOLGEN on this review and putting it within the context of the need to reform the broader provincial-municipal fiscal relationship.

Provincial Strong Mayor Powers Training

Responding to strong AMO advocacy for provincial guidance, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is [offering training on the strong mayor powers framework](#) that was recently extended to 170 more municipalities.

Two training sessions will be offered in the coming weeks, targeted to elected officials, clerks, treasurers and CAOs.

Bill 6, Safe Municipalities Act, Homelessness Encampments Legislation

Today, AMO sent a [letter to Minister Flack](#), sharing AMO's [submission on Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act, 2025](#).

The legislation includes two key components. If passed by the legislature, a new *Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2025* would further prohibit the consumption of illegal substances in public places. Additionally, amendments to the *Trespass to Property Act* would add aggravating factors to be considered by courts should someone be convicted of a charge under the act.

AMO agrees that urgent action is needed to address the 1400 encampments that now exist in all parts of Ontario across urban, rural and northern communities. While the new police and court tools may be helpful in specific circumstances, we cannot only enforce our way out of the homeless crisis. AMO will continue to advocate for investments in the root causes of homelessness, including deeply affordable housing, access to mental health and addiction supports, and improvements to income security.

New Federal Minister of Housing and Infrastructure

Today, AMO [sent a letter to Minister Robertson](#) congratulating him on his appointment as the Minister of Housing and Infrastructure. AMO will continue working with partners at the province and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to convey the unique role that Ontario municipalities play. We will also look forward to advancing meaningful solutions to improve the current tools and systems municipalities have to build infrastructure and housing, including social housing.

Ontario Launches Trade-Impacted Communities Program

As announced in the 2025 Ontario Budget, the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade is launching a new [Trade-Impacted Communities Program \(TCIP\)](#) to provide up to \$40 million in funding to support communities and local industries that are facing economic challenges arising from ongoing US trade disruptions. Stream 1: Community Economic Development is open for applications on a continuing basis while funding is available. Stream 2: Transformation projects will be open until September 11, 2025.

An online version of this Policy Update is available on the [AMO Website](#).

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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[EXTERNAL]

Subject: FW: Advocating for a Reduced Provincial Tax Rate on Ontario-Made Craft Cider

Subject: Advocating for a Reduced Provincial Tax Rate on Ontario-Made Craft Cider

You don't often get email from cfairley@thebluemountains.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon,

This email is being sent to the attention of Premier Doug Ford, Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Honourable Trevor Jones, MPP Brian Saunderson, MPP Paul Vickers, MPP Nina Tangri, Grey County and to all municipalities in Ontario, with a request to support the following Resolution that was passed by Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains at the May 14, 2025, Special Meeting of Council:

WHEREAS the Town of The Blue Mountains boasts a robust agricultural sector and a thriving agritourism industry, with numerous local cideries contributing significantly to the local economy, employment, and tourism;

AND WHEREAS Ontario's craft cider industry is experiencing substantial growth, with over 60 craft cideries across the province, many of which are situated in rural communities and utilize 100% Ontario-grown apples and are 100% made in Ontario, thereby supporting local agriculture and local economies;

AND WHEREAS under the current provincial tax structure, cider is officially classified and taxed at the same rate as imported wine which results in higher markups and taxes compared to craft beer, despite cider's comparable production processes and market positioning;

AND WHEREAS this tax disparity places Ontario's craft cider producers at a competitive disadvantage compared to craft brewers, despite the fact that Ontario cider utilizes 100% Ontario-grown apples and is 100% made in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Craft Cider Association (OCCA) has been actively advocating for a tax structure that levels the playing field between craft cider and craft beer, recognizing the potential for job creation, economic growth, and the promotion of local agriculture;

AND WHEREAS the Town acknowledges and appreciates the Province's investment in marketing and promotional support for the craft cider industry, but maintains that long-term sustainability and competitiveness for Ontario cider producers requires an adjustment to the underlying tax framework;

AND WHEREAS this motion is meant to support, not oppose, initiatives for fair taxation of the Ontario Craft Cider industry the Province of Ontario may be considering.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains:

1. Supports the efforts of the Ontario Craft Cider Association in advocating for a fair and equitable tax structure for Ontario-made craft cider.
2. Urges the Province of Ontario to review and amend the current tax regulations to align the tax rate of craft cider with that of craft beer, thereby fostering a more balanced and supportive environment for local cider producers.

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3. Acknowledges the Province of Ontario's recent investment in marketing initiatives for the cider sector, while calling for complementary reform of the tax and markup structure that continues to disadvantage cider producers relative to other craft alcohol categories;
4. Directs the Mayor to forward this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, MPP Brian Saunderson, MPP Paul Vickers and MPP Nina Tangri and the County of Grey requesting their consideration and support.
5. Directs the Mayor to forward this resolution to all municipalities in Ontario, encourages other municipalities with vested interests in agriculture and agri-tourism to adopt similar resolutions, amplifying the collective voice advocating for the prosperity of Ontario's craft cider industry.

Warm regards,



Carrie Fairley

Acting Deputy Clerk

Secretary-Treasurer to Committee of Adjustment

Town of The Blue Mountains, 32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310, Thornbury, ON N0H 2P0

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As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs or require communication support or alternate formats.

[EXTERNAL]

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Ministère du Solliciteur général

Ontario Office of the Deputy Solicitor General
Community SafetyBureau du sous-solliciteur général
Sécurité communautaire25 Grosvenor Street, 11th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6
Tel: 416-326-5060
Fax: 416-327-046925, rue Grosvenor, 11^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6
Tél. : 416-326-5060
Télééc. : 416-327-0469

DATE: May 21, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO: CAOs and Mayors from Municipalities Billed under
O. Reg. 413/23: Amount Payable by Municipalities for
Policing from Ontario Provincial Police

FROM: Mario Di Tommaso
Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety

SUBJECT: Ontario Provincial Policing (OPP) Cost Recovery Model
Review and June 2025 Webinars

In Fall 2024, the Solicitor General announced a commitment to review of the OPP cost recovery model as set out in [O. Reg. 413/23: Amount Payable by Municipalities for Policing from Ontario Provincial Police](#) under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General is pleased to announce that this review has been initiated. The ministry will be working with a third-party vendor to support an evidence-based review and analysis of the OPP cost recovery model.

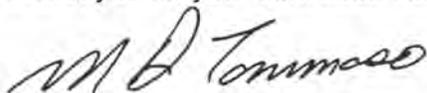
The intent is for the review to be completed in time to inform the issuing of the 2026 annual billing statements and the approach going forward.

I would like to thank you for the extensive feedback you have shared with the ministry to date. This feedback is valuable in shaping the review.

We look forward to the opportunity for continued input from your municipalities. To achieve this goal, engagement webinars will take place in June 2025. More information regarding these webinars will follow as soon as possible. Your participation is encouraged to ensure that your perspectives are heard.

You can expect outreach in the coming weeks with details for the June webinars. Should you have any immediate questions, please reach out to Sheela Subramanian, Director, Community Safety and Intergovernmental Policy Branch at sheela.subramanian@ontario.ca

Thank you for your continued collaboration and future input.



Mario Di Tommaso, O.O.M.
Deputy Solicitor General, Community Safety
Ministry of the Solicitor General



NVCA May 2025 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: June 27, 2025, held in virtually

For the full meeting agenda, including documents and reports, visit [NVCA's website](#).

NVCA Communication Strategy

NVCA's Communications team has developed a communications strategy to support NVCA's mission, vision, Integrated Watershed Management Plan, Watershed-based Resource Management Strategy and will be incorporated into the next set of strategic, business and climate change action plans.

Grounded in four guiding principles, this strategy aims to strengthen engagement with diverse audiences, build awareness of NVCA's programs and services, and promote climate adaptation actions. It is designed to strengthen NVCA's ability to engage and inform its audiences.

Three key desired outcomes include:

- Enhanced understanding of the watershed and climate adaptation,
- Increased awareness of NVCA's programs and services, and
- Increased participation in programs, services, and engagement initiatives.

The strategy also lists action items to be implemented over the next five years. These include crafting organizational and department-specific key messages, developing audience profiles, and establishing baselines and KPIs to assess whether the desired outcomes are met.

Upcoming Events

Weekend Garrison at Historic Fort Willow - Day 1

Join the Historic Military Establishment of Upper Canada for a weekend garrison at Historic Fort Willow.

Date & Time: May 30 – June 1, 2025 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Fort Willow Conservation Area

PA/PD Day

Camp Tiffin encourages outdoor exploration, guided excursions in the forest fueled by student interest. Every day will be guided by student inquiry, seasonal changes, and weather and program availability.

Date: June 6, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation



The Corporation of The Township of The Archipelago
Council Meeting

Agenda Number: 15.7.
Resolution Number 25-086
Title: Bill 5, Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025
Date: Friday, May 23, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Barton
Seconded by: Councillor Manners

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes significant changes to environmental legislation, including the replacement of the Endangered Species Act, 2007 with the significantly weaker Species Conservation Act, 2025, and would grant the Premier and Cabinet unprecedented powers to override provincial and municipal laws – including laws that protect public health, farmland, and the natural systems that safeguard communities from extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS The Township of The Archipelago's strategic priorities include protecting and preserving our unique and high-quality natural environment, and delivering municipal services in a responsible, sustainable, cost-effective, and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS The Township of The Archipelago supports the goals of responsible economic growth and increased housing supply; and

WHEREAS nature is not red tape – it is the economic driver of our region, and is central to Canadian culture, identity, and economy; protecting nature is essential for building resilient communities and upholding the sovereignty and stewardship of Indigenous peoples; and

WHEREAS Bill 5 will undermine critical environmental, species, and heritage protection laws, introducing significant economic, environmental, social, and cultural uncertainty, endangering Ontario's 249 at-risk species, and potentially infringing on the legal and constitutional rights of the Ontario public – especially Indigenous communities that are disproportionately affected by such actions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the Township of The Archipelago hereby

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opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would undermine environmental safeguards, Indigenous rights, or local planning authority, and urge the Province to withdraw the Bill; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Council urges the Province of Ontario to pursue housing and infrastructure development through policies that maintain robust environmental protections and respect local planning regimes; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED THAT this resolution be sent to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier; The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation; The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; The Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka; The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA); and all Ontario municipalities; Chief Adam Pawis, all Township of The Archipelago Ratepayer Associations; and to other environmental organizations.

Carried

Sarah Corbett

Subject:

FW: 25th Annual South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards



Nottawasaga Futures is a community economic development agency serving the South Simcoe Area.



SOUTH SIMCOE CELEBRATES BUSINESS EXCELLENCE

South Simcoe businesses were honoured at the 25th Annual South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards on Thursday, May 22, 2025. Over one hundred people gathered at the Community Hub in Bradford for the event, hosted by the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury in partnership with Nottawasaga Futures. Representatives from the federal and provincial governments, mayors, deputy mayors, councillors and community leaders attended to show their support and recognize the tremendous accomplishments of these businesses.

Nottawasaga Futures, a community economic development agency serving the South Simcoe area, which includes the communities of Adjala-Tosorontio, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Essa, Innisfil and New Tecumseth, is pleased to extend congratulations to all the nominees and the following award recipients.

The Agricultural Award was presented to Lisle Livestock & Fresh Market, Adjala-Tosorontio.

The Business Excellence Award sponsored by NT Temps was presented to Addictive Design, Bradford West Gwillimbury.

Vince's Market, New Tecumseth, received the Community Excellence Award.

Side Door Studio, Essa was presented with the Community Wellness Award.

Two Customer Service Awards were presented. The first, for one to nine employees, was won by Trooper Pet Veterinary Nursing Inc., Innisfil. The second for 10 or more employees was won by Magic in Moments Performing Arts, Bradford West Gwillimbury.

The Entrepreneur of the Year sponsored by Joy Adams of Covenant Wealth Financial Services was won by Coach PK, Innisfil BJJ Inc., Innisfil.

Hitch Haul, Innisfil, was presented with the New Business Award.

The Youth Entrepreneur Award, sponsored by Addictive Design, was presented to Lucas Bobala, owner of Bobala Lawn Care, Bradford West Gwillimbury.

South Simcoe is extremely fortunate to be represented by a wealth of talented business owners and successful business enterprises.

Congratulations to all the nominees, and especially to those who received awards in what was a very competitive field of applicants.

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Thank you for your dedication to our communities!

Agricultural Award

Agricultural Excellence
**Lisle Livestock
&
Fresh Market**



Lisle Livestock & Fresh Market

Bryan and Mel Twiss are passionate about several sectors in agriculture and always knew they wanted to be farmers.

Today they calve cows, cash crop, and operate a produce & meat delivery business from their farm with the help of their friends and family.

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Congratulations to the Twiss family!

Business Excellence Award
Sponsored by NT Temps



Addictive Design

A full-service creative agency that blends small-town heart with big-league impact.

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Rooted in community. Powered by creativity. Built to make waves.
They Bring Brands To Life.

Headquartered in Bradford, they proudly serve local businesses while partnering with clients across North America and beyond.

Whether it's a neighborhood startup or a global brand, their mission remains the same: to deliver creative solutions that make a bold and lasting impression.

Congrats to Michael, Tony and the Addictive Team!

Community Excellence Award



Vince's Market

Founded on the principle that the strength of a business is deeply connected to the strength of its community.

Guided by this belief, they created Vince's Community Support to showcase the vital role businesses play in contributing to the well-being of the communities in which they operate.

As a reflection of this commitment, Vince's Market allocates an annual budget of \$45,000 to support and give back to their local communities.

Their philanthropic efforts are focused on several key areas: charitable organizations, hospitals, house league sports teams, the arts, and community-building activities.

Through these initiatives, they strive to foster meaningful connections and enhance the quality of life within their communities.

Congratulations Giancarlo, Maria and the Vince's Market Team!

Community Wellness Award

Aa



Side Door Studio

Side Door Studios' mission is to bring mindfulness, movement, mental health and self-love to everyone in their community; one yoga class at a time.

The core values at Side Door are inclusivity, community and giving back!

In Laura and Tiffany's words: "We want to foster a level of commitment to health and wellness in our community. We want to create a judgment-free space for everyone to feel comfortable and confident!"

Congratulations Laura and Tiffany!

Customer Service Award



Trooper Pet Veterinary Nursing

A trailblazing mobile veterinary nursing practice proudly serving Simcoe County, Ontario.

Founded by visionary RVT Becky Bartley, Trooper Pet was created to fill a critical gap in veterinary care, offering professional, low-stress, in-home services that improve outcomes for both pets and their people.

As an extension of veterinary clinics, mobile vets, and telemedicine teams, Trooper Pet collaborates seamlessly to deliver essential care: from diabetic monitoring and medication administration to post-operative support, nursing consultations, and

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wellness service.

Every visit is led by skilled RVTs and veterinary assistants who prioritize patient comfort and client trust.

Customer Service Award



Magic in Moments Performing Arts Studio

Lydia and Julia are the proud owners of Magic in Moments, a performing arts

studio rooted in heart, creativity, and community where students are empowered to shine—on stage and in life.

Their commitment to excellence in customer service is matched only by their dedication to making every family feel welcome, supported, and valued.

Magic in Moments is a place where creativity flourishes, possibilities become realities, and everyone can feel seen, celebrated, and inspired.

Congratulations Julia and Lydia!

Entrepreneur of the Year

Sponsored by Joy Adams - [Covenant Wealth Financial Services](#)



[Coach PK - Innisfil Brazilian Jiu-jitsu](#)

Coach PK is the founder of Innisfil BJJ and a lifelong martial arts nerd whose journey started with a childhood obsession with the Ninja Turtles and Power Rangers.

What began as karate classes grew into a passion that's taken him through Muay Thai, MMA, and ultimately Brazilian jiu-jitsu—a discipline he now shares with students of all ages in a fun, inclusive, and deeply human way.

Whether he's teaching meditation, rolling on the mats, PK brings heart, humour, and a clear mission: to help people move better, think sharper, and feel more connected.

At the core of it all is community—building it, supporting it, and growing stronger

together.

Congrats Coach PK!

New Business Award



Hitch Haul

An Innisfil-based cargo, utility and dump trailer rental company that began operating in August 2024.

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Hitch Haul provides its customers with a unique digital 24/7 self-serve experience by using a complex smart lock and booking system, which allows customers to enjoy top quality rental trailers, at fair prices, at the time of day that works best for them.

Customer experience and value are among the top priorities and objectives for Hitch Haul.

Congratulations Mario and Lisa!

Youth Entrepreneur Award
Sponsored by Addictive Design



Lucas Bobala - [Bobala Lawn Care](#)

Over 6 years of experience helping residential and commercial property owners maintain beautiful, functional outdoor spaces.

Specializing in seasonal property maintenance, Lucas delivers dependable services.

Lucas has built a trusted brand by fostering strong customer relationships with attentiveness, professionalism, and honesty.

Community involvement is key to his approach, helping strengthen the local economy, build relationships, and support local businesses and charities.

Through strong partnerships with subcontractors, local businesses, and charities, Lucas ensures that Bobala Lawn Care remains rooted in the community, contributing to the company's long-term success

Congratulations Lucas!

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Celebrating the 25th Annual South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards!

Thank you MPP Saunderson for presenting this certificate to the NF Board members and staff.

Financial Support and Resources

- [Nottawasaga Futures Community Investment Fund](#)
- [Steps to Consider Before Starting a Business](#)
- [Canada - Ontario Job Grant](#)
- [Ontario Business Registry](#)
- [Business Benefits Finder](#)

Ministry of Infrastructure

Office of the Minister

5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
 Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1
 Telephone: 416-327-4412

Ministère de l'Infrastructure

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 5^e étage
 Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2E1
 Téléphone: 416-327-4412



May 21, 2025

Michael Mikael
 CAO
 Township of Essa
 mmikael@essatownship.on.ca

Dear Michael Mikael:

On behalf of the Ministry of Infrastructure, I would like to thank you for attending the 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference. It was a pleasure to meet with you and your delegation.

As part of the Ministry of Infrastructure's (MOI) disposition process, as outlined in the Realty Ontario Directive, the Essa - Angus Tree Seed Plant surplus property has been assessed and circulated internally (through Stage 1 and 2 circulation) for potential use. As a next step, select entities, including the municipality, will have a chance to express interest during stage 3 circulation. If no interest is expressed at that stage, the property will be made available on the open market.

Our government remains committed to implementing a more efficient process for selling government buildings and properties that are no longer required for program delivery. The disposition process of surplus properties, launched in 2018, is a key component of the broader restructuring of the General Real Estate Portfolio.

The Province of Ontario is investing nearly \$2.3 billion in housing and community-enabling infrastructure as part of its over \$200 billion capital plan to build critical infrastructure and support growing communities. This funding is being delivered through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) and the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program (MHIP), complementing existing provincial investments such as the Building Faster Fund (BFF) led by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Through HEWSF, the province is investing nearly \$1.3 billion, which includes \$120 million from the BFF to assist small, rural, and northern municipalities without housing targets. In its first intake, HEWSF allocated \$970 million to 54 municipal water projects across 61 municipalities. To address oversubscription and expand funding opportunities, the government launched a second intake, which has now allocated \$325M to another 23 municipal water projects. In total, these 77 water infrastructure projects will enable municipalities to build approximately 600,000 new homes. Notably, the Ontario government is investing \$700 million through HEWSF to help build up to 160,000 new homes in 54 small, rural and northern municipalities without provincially-assigned housing targets.

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Building on this, the 2024 Ontario Budget introduced MHIP, a \$1 billion program to support core infrastructure projects that unlock housing opportunities and promote growth. Under MHIP, Ontario is investing \$400 million in 58 projects across 60 municipalities through the Housing-Enabling Core Servicing (HECS) Stream. This stream focuses on constructing, repairing, and expanding essential assets such as roads, bridges, and culverts. In addition, the government announced the \$175 million Health and Safety Water Stream to help municipalities and First Nations address aging and at-risk water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. Applications for this stream will open on April 17, 2025 and will close on June 26, 2025.

Ontario recognizes that upgrading community infrastructure is vital to support a growing population as well as to provide dependable services people rely on. It also recognizes that the need for municipal infrastructure investment is far from fully met. We encourage all municipalities to call on the federal government to request more infrastructure funding to help address local needs of municipalities across the province.

Thank you again for meeting with the Ministry of Infrastructure. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Kinga Surma
Minister of Infrastructure