

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
CONSENT AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024**

A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

- p. 1 1. Essa Public Library March 2024 Report.
- p. 3 2. News Article from barrietoday.com dated April 19, 2024, re: Essa Township Library Still One Way for Residents to Save a Buck.
- p. 7 3. Correspondence from the Town of Goderich dated April 10, 2024, re: Resolution - Review of the Ontario Works and Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates.
- p. 10 4. Correspondence from City of Peterborough dated April 11, 2024, re: Jurisdiction of Ontario's Ombudsman.
- p. 26 5. Release from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority dated April 11, 2024, re: Apply for NVCA's 2025 Tree Planting Grants.
- p. 28 6. Correspondence from the South Simcoe 4-H Association dated April 14, 2024, re: Letter of Thanks.
- p. 29 7. Correspondence from Loyalist Township dated April 12, 2024, re: Resolution 2024-77 - Affordability of Water and Wastewater Rates.
- p. 31 8. Correspondence from the Municipality of West Perth dated April 16, 2024, re: Resolution 122/24 – Conservation Authorities Act.
- p. 40 9. Correspondence from Hastings County dated April 17, 2024, re: Motion Regarding Sustainable Infrastructure Funding for Small Rural Municipalities.
- p. 42 10. Advocacy Update from AMCTO dated April 17, 2024, re: Regulatory Registry Postings: Bill 185 Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024.
- p. 46 11. News Release from the Office of the Premier, dated April 18, 2024 re: Ontario Building New and Upgraded Sports and Recreation Facilities.
- p. 49 12. Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter.
- p. 59 13. Correspondence from the City of St. Catharines dated April 23, 2024, re: Motion - Provincial Regulations Needed to Restrict Keeping of Non-native ("Exotic") Wild Animals.
- p. 61 14. Correspondence from Watson and Associates dated April 24, 2024, re: Assessment of Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 and the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, 2024.
- p. 77 15. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe Planning Department dated April 22, 2024, re: Presentation Slide-deck from the Simcoe Area Planners Meeting – Bill 185 and the Proposed Provincial Policy Statement 2024.

-
- p. 95 16. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:
- a) April 16, 2024 – County Council Highlights – Council Meeting (March 26, 2024) /
 - p. 99 Committee of the Whole Meeting (April 9, 2024).
 - b) April 19, 2024 – Media Release – Nomination Period Opens for County of
 - p. 101 Simcoe Age-Friendly Business and Individual Recognition Awards.
 - c) April 22, 2024 – Media Release – County of Simcoe Launches Paramedic for a
 - p. 102 Day Contest.
 - d) April 25, 2024 – Media Release – Compost Available for Purchase at County of
 - Simcoe Waste Facilities May 6 to May 25, 2024.
- p. 104 17. Correspondence from the County of Prince Edward dated March 28, 2024, re:
Resolution 2024-151 – Call to Province for Action – Creation of Municipal
Accessibility Fund.

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.



March 2024 Report

Prepared by: Emily Nakeff

“ I don’t know why everybody doesn’t come to the library.

- Patron comment

Membership

Angus (New)	81
Thornton (New)	2
<hr/>	
<i>Mar 2023 comparison:</i>	96
Year-to-date total	300
Total Active Cards	4,081

MATERIALS CIRCULATED

ANGUS	THORNTON
9,257	1,274
26,808 TOTAL IN 2024	

MATERIALS USED IN HOUSE

ANGUS	THORNTON
425	86
1,747 TOTAL IN 2024	

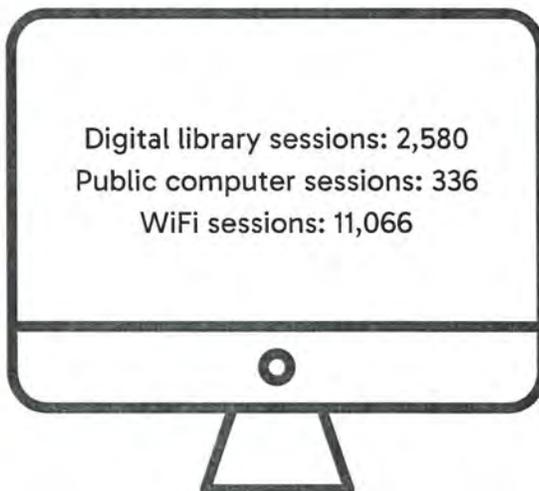
INTERLIBRARY LOANS

75	Items borrowed from other libraries
41	Items sent to other libraries



Fun making bunny pots during a March Senior Social event.

Digital library sessions: 2,580
 Public computer sessions: 336
 WiFi sessions: 11,066



A PLACE TO IMAGINE, DISCOVER AND CONNECT

471 people participated in kids programming at the library during March Break.

KIDS

Leap Frog Search & Find - AN	46
Leap Frog Search & Find - TH	18
Robot Search & Find Contest - AN	116
Robot Search & Find Contest - TH	37
Mighty Makers - AN	24
Tinker Tuesday - AN	10
Wiggles & Giggles - AN	16
Mighty Makers - TH	3
Storytime - AN	24
Parachute Play	19
Storytime - TH	23
Let's Learn French - AN	20
Growing Together - AN	9
Family Movie - AN	32
Family Open Play - AN	4
Kinder Parachute & Gym Play - AN	41
Robots & Tech - AN	27
Skating & Stories - TH	48
Build-A-Bot Craft - TH	33
Robots & Tech - TH	12
Skating & Stories - AN	60
Build-A-Bot - AN	34
Wild Robot Escape Room - AN	31

ADULTS

Cercle de Conversation	16
Book Club - AN	14
Book Club - TH	5
Writers Group - AN	3
Hobby Circle - AN	6
Movie Night for Adults - AN	16

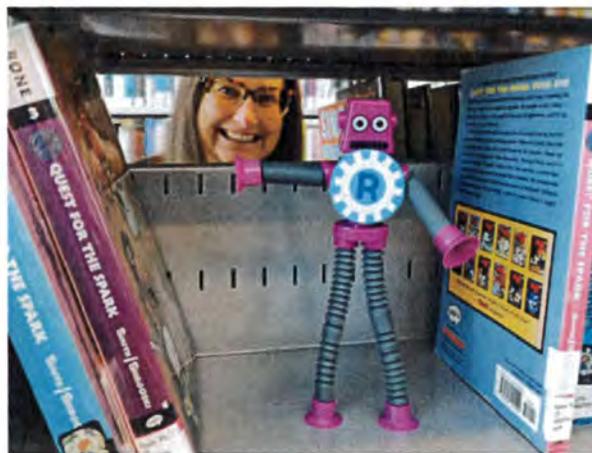
BARRIETODAY.com

Local townships keeping March breakers busy at libraries, arenas



Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Mar 11, 2024 2:05 PM



March Break programming made the news, highlighted in an article by BarrieToday.com and included in a listing of free programming published on Simcoe.com.

TEENS

Teen Social - AN	14
------------------	----

SENIORS

Seniors Social - AN	47
Seniors Social - TH	32
Painting Workshop - AN	12



YouTube - Total Subscribers	778
YouTube - Views	8029
Library Zest - Site Traffic	18
Facebook - Total Followers	1750
Twitter - Total Followers	1030
Instagram - Total Followers	815

Essa Township library still one way for residents to save a buck



[Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter](#)

Apr 19, 2024 7:00 PM



Judith Hunter, chair of the Essa Public Library Board, is currently working on the library's strategic plan. | Wayne Doyle/BarrieToday

[Listen to this article](#)

As the economy continues to wreak havoc with family budgets across the region, local libraries are becoming exponentially more important.

With every 17 cent-per-litre gas increase, families have less money available for recreational or educational needs.

Many of them are turning to their local library for more than just a good book.

"Today's library is so much more than it was when I was growing up," Judith Hunter, chair of the Essa Public Library Board, said during an afternoon chat at the Angus branch. "The modern library is a place where you can read a book, listen to a book, use a computer, discover crafts or learn how to play a musical instrument.

"Teens can get their volunteer hours in here," she added. "And, we have a 3D printer."

According to Hunter, library staff have been working tirelessly to ensure Essa's libraries are welcoming places where visitors are made to feel comfortable and safe.

They reconfigured the space at both branches — Thornton and Angus — to make them more inviting and more efficient.

The space where we're chatting in the Angus branch is open and airy, the colours and finishes bright and contemporary.

Work stations are arranged against a wall of windows.

Charger stations are available for laptops and phones and there's a constant hum of chatter and hushed conversation.

The modern vibe appears to be working.

In the library's annual report to Essa Township council, delivered this past week, more than 12,000 people attended library events — an increase of more than 50 per cent over 2022.

The library offered almost 650 programs and circulated almost 83,000 items.

More importantly, the library saved the community \$1.5 million — the value of the items borrowed.

"In a time of high inflation where so many people are struggling, Essa Public Library is one of the last places where the public can access books, DVDs, games, social activities, and many other programs at no charge," Hunter wrote in the board's annual report.

A member of the library board for 15 years and chair for the past four, Hunter said the Essa Public Library has benefited greatly from the relationship the board has with township council.

"It's not just this one," she said. "We have been blessed to be able to work with councils over the years that have really supported what we want to do.

"Libraries and councils should be looking to do similar things - enrich the lives of the folks who live here," Hunter added. "We've been fortunate and we've been successful by letting each other flourish."

Last year, the Essa Public Library added almost 1,200 new members.

That number is expected to increase annually, as Essa continues to be a destination for younger families trying to find economical housing.

In an effort to ensure those folks moving into the region are accounted for and their needs considered, Hunter and the board is creating a strategic plan that will guide the library's work over the next few years.

It's a daunting task, but they say it has to be done if the library is going to be successful in the future.

A2

"The first thing you have to do is remove ego and say 'what exactly is it that we're doing?'" Hunter said. "We have to remain relevant to the people who use this service. Sometimes that means you have to abandon some of the things you were doing.

"It can be difficult, but we need to be constantly evolving to meet resident needs," she added.

To find out what those needs are, the library will be hosting a community survey from May 1 to 10. More information on the survey will be found on the [library website](#) closer to the start of the survey.

Add to the story

Have a story idea?

Letter to the editor

Report a mistake

Ask a question



About the Author: Wayne Doyle, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Wayne Doyle covers the townships of Springwater, Oro-Medonte and Essa for BarrieToday under the Local Journalism Initiative (LJI), which is funded by the Government of Canada
Read more

6

The Town of Goderich
57 West Street
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 2K5
519-524-8344
townhall@goderich.ca
www.goderich.ca



Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Catalina Blumenberg
Clerk
Prince Edward County
332 Picton Main Street
Picton, Ontario
K0K 2T0

SENT VIA EMAIL: clerks@pecounty.on.ca

RE: Town of Goderich Resolution – Review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates

Dear C. Blumenberg,

Please be advised of the following motion passed at the Monday, March 18, 2024, Goderich Town Council Meeting:

Moved By: Councillor Segeren
Seconded By: Councillor Kelly

WHEREAS poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

WHEREAS the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

WHEREAS people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

WHEREAS Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 percent as of July 2023 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall below their value in 2018 (\$1,376 when adjusted for inflation) and significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month);

A3

The Town of Goderich
57 West Street
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 2K5
519-524-8344
townhall@goderich.ca
www.goderich.ca



WHEREAS OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

WHEREAS designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health-related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Goderich requests the Provincial Government to urgently:

1. At least double Ontario Works and ODSP rates and index rates to inflation, answering calls already made by "Raise the Rates" campaign and the "Income Security Advocacy Centre";
2. Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;
3. Commit to jointly working between the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and the Ministry of Health on the best methods of assessing client needs and then matching those in need to the services they require;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Huron County Social and Property Services, the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 519-524-8344 ext. 210 or afisher@goderich.ca.

Yours truly,

Andrea Fisher

8

The Town of Goderich
57 West Street
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 2K5
519-524-8344
townhall@goderich.ca
www.goderich.ca



Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

/ar

- cc. Premier Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca
- Hon. Paul Calandra Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org
- MPP Lisa Thompson, Huron–Bruce lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org
- Hon. Sylvia Jones Sylvia.Jones@pc.ola.org
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario resolutions@amo.on.ca
- Ontario Municipal Social Services Association dball@omssa.com
- Huron County Social and Property Services
- Western Ontario Wardens Caucus
- Ontario Municipalities



April 11, 2024

Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
via Email:
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Re: Jurisdiction of Ontario's Ombudsman

The following resolution, adopted by City Council at their meeting on April 8, 2024, is forwarded for your information and necessary action.

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report LSOCS24-005, dated April 2, 2024 of the Commissioner, Legislative Services, as follows:

- a) That the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, be requested to introduce a Bill to amend the Ombudsman Act to require the Ontario Ombudsman to provide to each municipality, if requested by the municipality, sufficient particulars of each investigation, matter or case respecting the municipality that is referred to in each of the Ombudsman's Annual Reports to permit the municipality to fully understand and address the subject matter of each such investigation, matter or case including:
 - i) a copy of each complaint, as applicable, redacted only to the extent of individuals' personal information contained therein;
 - ii) the identities of the municipality's employees, officers and members of Council with whom the Ombudsman was consulting in respect of the investigation, matter or case; and
 - iii) particulars of the outcome of the investigation, matter or case including the Ombudsman's findings, conclusions and recommendations, if any.
- b) That the City Clerk forward Council's resolutions resulting from Council's approval of these recommendations to Minister Calandra, MPP David Smith, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and to the municipal Clerks of Ontario's municipalities.

A4

Sincerely,

J. Kennedy

John Kennedy, City Clerk

cc: David Smith, MPP
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the General Committee

From: David J. Potts, Commissioner, Legislative Services

Meeting Date: April 2, 2024

Report: Jurisdiction of Ontario's Ombudsman, Report LSOCS24-005

Subject

This report recommends amendments to the Ombudsman Act that would facilitate the provision of particulars respecting municipal "cases" referred to in the Ombudsman's Annual Reports.

Recommendations

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report LSOCS24-005, dated April 2, 2024 of the Commissioner, Legislative Services, as follows:

- a) That the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, be requested to introduce a Bill to amend the Ombudsman Act to require the Ontario Ombudsman to provide to each municipality, if requested by the municipality, sufficient particulars of each investigation, matter or case respecting the municipality that is referred to in each of the Ombudsman's Annual Reports to permit the municipality to fully understand and address the subject matter of each such investigation, matter or case including:
 - i) a copy of each complaint, as applicable, redacted only to the extent of individuals' personal information contained therein;
 - ii) the identities of the municipality's employees, officers and members of Council with whom the Ombudsman was consulting in respect of the investigation, matter or case; and
 - iii) particulars of the outcome of the investigation, matter or case including the Ombudsman's findings, conclusions and recommendations, if any.

- b) That the City Clerk forward Council's resolutions resulting from Council's approval of these recommendations to Minister Calandra, MPP David Smith, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and to the municipal Clerks of Ontario's municipalities.

Executive Summary

- Notwithstanding Ontario's Ombudsman's broad jurisdiction to undertake investigations respecting municipalities, the Ombudsman publicly reports only 6 municipal investigations since 2016 but almost 25,000 "cases" involving municipalities including several respecting the City of Peterborough.
- Following Council's approval of the recommendation in closed session report LSOCS24-001, the City's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) repeated an earlier staff request to the Ombudsman for particulars of Peterborough "cases" referenced in the Ombudsman's 2023 Annual Report. The Ombudsman again refused to provide the requested particulars.

Background

Ombudsman's Jurisdiction: to "Investigate"

Ontario's Ombudsman has been the default municipal closed meeting investigator since January 1, 2008. On January 1, 2016, Bill 8, the Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act, amended the Ombudsman Act and the Municipal Act, 2001, expanding the Ombudsman's broad investigative powers beyond governmental organizations to include municipalities. Municipal administrations have since been adjusting to the Ombudsman's expanded oversight role. Often, staff in the Ombudsman's Office will call front line municipal staff directly. Following are key issues to consider respecting the Ombudsman's jurisdiction.

First, the Ombudsman's jurisdiction to investigate is defined very broadly:

"The function of the Ombudsman is to investigate any decision or recommendation made or any act done or omitted in the course of the administration of a [municipality] and affecting any person or body of persons in his, her or its personal capacity."¹

¹ *Ombudsman Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.6 (Ombudsman Act), s. 14(1) (underscoring added).

The "Ombudsman may make any such investigation on a complaint made to him or her by any person affected or by any member of the Assembly to whom a complaint is made by any person affected, or of the Ombudsman's own motion."²

The courts have interpreted the Ombudsman's jurisdiction very broadly including the jurisdiction to investigate the merits of decisions made in an adjudicative capacity.³ If the Ombudsman determines to investigate alleged municipal maladministration, the Ombudsman has broad jurisdiction to do so.

However, the Ombudsman is a creature of statute and the Ombudsman's jurisdiction is scoped accordingly. For example, the Ombudsman lacks jurisdiction "to investigate any decision, recommendation, act or omission [...] of any person acting as legal adviser to the [municipality]".⁴

Perhaps the most important point is that the Ombudsman's jurisdiction is to "investigate". It is, therefore, important to determine whether and when the Ombudsman is "investigating".

The Ombudsman is not investigating unless the Ombudsman has given notice of the intention to investigate:

"Before investigating any matter, the Ombudsman shall inform the head of the [municipality] of his or her intention to make the investigation."⁵

For all local municipalities, the "head" is its Council. One communicates with a municipal Council via the municipal Clerk who places the correspondence on the agenda of a properly constituted meeting of the Council. Accordingly, unless the Ombudsman has given an investigation notice to the Council via the municipality's Clerk, the Ombudsman has not commenced an "investigation" for the purposes of the Ombudsman's otherwise broad jurisdiction.

The Ombudsman's investigation notice is important for at least two reasons.

First, municipalities are already the level of government considered closest to the citizens they serve.⁶ Municipal citizens' engagement includes attending and addressing their Council at open Council meetings, direct access to individual Councillors, access to municipal records and standing to lodge complaints respecting alleged members' pecuniary interests and contraventions of municipal Codes of Conduct. This proximity distinguishes municipal governments from other "public sector bodies" to which the Ombudsman's jurisdiction applies. Accordingly, if additional municipal and provincial

² Ombudsman Act, s. 14(2) (underscoring added).

³ See, for example, *Re Ombudsman of Ontario and Ontario Labour Relations Board* (1986), [1987] O.J. No. 7 (C.A.); aff'd (1987), [1987] S.C.C.A. 174.

⁴ Ombudsman Act, s. 14(4)(b).

⁵ Ombudsman Act, s. 18(1) (underscoring added).

⁶ *Toronto (City) v. Ontario (Attorney General)* (2021), [2021] S.C.J. No. 34 at ¶118.

resources are to be consumed by the Ombudsman's oversight, it is in taxpayers' interests that those resources are deployed efficiently.⁷

Second, the Ombudsman's practice of making inquiries directly of individual municipal staff and councillors in advance of an investigation notice is a potential legal risk to the individual and to the municipality to the extent that the protections respecting disclosures of personal information afforded by the Ombudsman Act are scoped to disclosures of personal information relating to a "matter that is being investigated".⁸ That is, unless an investigation has been properly commenced by an investigation notice given to the Clerk, municipal staff and individual members of Council are at risk to the extent of personal information they may disclose in response to a call from someone identifying as being from the Ombudsman's office. Accordingly, unless the City Clerk has advised staff and Council of receipt of an investigation notice, it is best practice for staff and members of Council to refer Ombudsman inquiries to the City Clerk who, in turn, can receive an investigation notice or assist the Ombudsman with any municipal information to confirm a complaint within the scope of the Ombudsman's General Rules.

Ombudsman's Annual Reports: "Cases" v. "Investigations"

Interestingly, the Ombudsman's public Annual Reports describe significant involvement by the Ombudsman in matters described by the Ombudsman as "cases" rather than investigations.

Following is an excerpt from the Ombudsman's Annual Report for the period ending March 31, 2022 (2022 Annual Report):⁹

"This past year, we dealt with **2,877** cases about general municipal issues – up from 2,281 in 2020-2021. None of these resulted in a formal investigation, as we resolve the vast majority of cases by working closely with municipalities to facilitate resolutions and share best practices to help them improve their processes. Since the Ombudsman's mandate was first expanded to this area in 2016, we have received more than 20,000 complaints and inquiries, and conducted **6** formal investigations."

Page 82 of the 2022 Annual Report identified 17 "cases" involving the City of Peterborough.

⁷ The operating and capital spending requirements for Ombudsman Ontario (2023-24) are estimated at \$29,465,000: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/expenditure-estimates-ombudsman-ontario-2023-24>

⁸ Ombudsman Act, s. 19(1) and (3.1).

⁹

https://www.ombudsman.on.ca/Media/ombudsman/ombudsman/resources/Annual%20Reports/Ombudsman_AR_2022-Web-EN_FINAL-s.pdf at p24. Bolded text in original.

On October 5, 2023, the Ombudsman released his Annual Report for the period ending March 31, 2023 (2023 Annual Report). Following is an excerpt:¹⁰

*"In 2022-2023, we received **2,814** cases about general municipal issues. Since the Ombudsman was first given full oversight of municipalities in 2016, we have handled closed to 25,000 cases – and resolved almost all of them by making referrals and dealing with local officials, without the need for formal investigation.*

The Ombudsman has only deemed formal investigations necessary six times since 2016."

Page 87 of the 2023 Annual Report identified 9 "cases" involving the City of Peterborough.

Requests for Particulars of Peterborough "Cases"

Appendix A is a letter dated October 6, 2023 from the City's Deputy Clerk to the Ombudsman requesting particulars of the 9 Peterborough "cases" referenced in the 2023 Annual Report. The letter advised that the particulars were requested so that staff may update Council. The requested particulars for each "case" were:

- a copy of the complaint as it was submitted (redacted, if necessary, to the extent of personal information contained therein);
- the identities of the "local officials" with whom the Ombudsman was consulting in respect of the complaint; and
- particulars of the outcome of the complaint.

Appendix B is a letter dated November 3, 2023 from the Ombudsman's Manager, Early Resolutions, to the City Clerk. The Ombudsman declined to provide the requested particulars citing "complainant confidentiality" notwithstanding that the Deputy Clerk's request suggested redactions to the extent of any personal information.

On January 15, 2024, Council approved the recommendation in closed session Report LSOCS24-001, "Jurisdiction of Ontario's Ombudsman". This open session report responds to Council's approval of the aforementioned recommendation.

Appendix C is a letter dated January 23, 2024 from the City's CAO to the Ombudsman repeating staff's earlier request for particulars of the 9 Peterborough "cases" referenced

10

<https://www.ombudsman.on.ca/Media/ombudsman/ombudsman/resources/Annual%20Reports/2022-2023/Ombudsman-Ontario-2022-2023-Annual-Report-accessible.pdf> at p31. Bolded text in original.

in the 2023 Annual Report. Respecting the Ombudsman's response to staff's earlier request, the City's CAO noted:

"Respectfully, the response does not provide the requested or any particulars that are sufficient for Council to understand the municipal issues that the report advises were handled by your office including how they may have been resolved. Accordingly, Council is hindered in its own role including to ensure the accountability and transparency of the operations of the City."

Appendix D is a letter dated February 13, 2024 from Senior Counsel for the Ombudsman to the City's CAO. The Ombudsman again declined to provide the requested particulars citing "confidentiality" and "secrecy".

Staff remain unable to advise Council respecting the 9 "City of Peterborough" cases referred to in the Ombudsman's 2023 Annual Report except that the majority of them apparently related to "Council/Committees". This report's recommendations seek amendments to the Ombudsman Act to require Ontario's Ombudsman to provide particulars of each municipal investigation, matter or case that is referenced in the Ombudsman's Annual Reports.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: Governance and fiscal sustainability

Strategic Priority: Pursue service excellence in governance to support long-term fiscal sustainability of the city while respecting the impact of decisions on taxpayers.

Securing particulars of the Ombudsman's "cases" respecting Peterborough is consistent with the pursuit of service excellence in governance.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget or financial implications directly related to this report.

Attachments

Appendix A: 2023 10 06 Letter: Garnett to Dubé

Appendix B: 2023 11 03 Letter: Fulford to Garnett

Appendix C: 2024 01 23 Letter: Raina to Dubé (exclusive of its attachments)

Appendix D: 2024 02 13 Letter: Bull to Raina

14

Submitted by,

David J. Potts, B.A., LL.B., C.S.
Commissioner, Legislative Services and City Solicitor

Contact Name:

David J. Potts, B.A., LL.B., C.S.
Commissioner, Legislative Services and City Solicitor
Phone: 705-742-7777 Ext. 1603
Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755
E-Mail: dpotts@peterborough.ca

18

Appendix A: 2023 10 06 Letter: Garnett to Dubé

City of Peterborough
500 George Street North
Peterborough, ON, K9H 3R9
peterborough.ca | 1-855-738-3755

City Clerk's Office
Phone - 705-742-7777 Ext. 1799
Toll Free -1-855-738-3755
Fax - 705-742-4138
E-Mail - clerk@peterborough.ca

October 6, 2023

Paul Dubé, Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario
483 Bay Street
10th Floor, South Tower
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2C9

Dear Sir:

Re: 2022-2023 Annual Report

The table at page 87 of the Annual Report references nine (9) "cases" involving the City of Peterborough. So that staff may update Council, we would appreciate if your staff were to forward to the writer, for each such case:

- a copy of the complaint as it was submitted (redacted, if necessary, to the extent of personal information contained therein);
- the identities of the local officials with whom the Ombudsman was consulting in respect of the complaint; and
- particulars of the outcome of the complaint

Sincere thanks for your anticipated timely response.

Sincerely,

Natalie Garnett
Deputy City Clerk



Appendix B: 2023 11 03 Letter: Fulford to Garnett**BY EMAIL**

November 3, 2023

Natalie Garnett
Deputy Clerk | Clerks Office
500 George Street North
Peterborough, ON
K9H 3R9

Dear Natalie Garnett:

Re: Cases about the City of Peterborough reported in the Ombudsman's 2022-2023 Annual Report

Further to your request, I am pleased to provide you with an overview of the nine cases the Ontario Ombudsman received about the City of Peterborough between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023, as reported in the Ombudsman's 2022-2023 Annual Report.

The Ombudsman's role and function

The Ontario Ombudsman is appointed under the *Ombudsman Act* as an Officer of the Ontario Legislature, independent of political parties and government administrators. Our Office has the authority to conduct impartial reviews and investigations of complaints regarding the administrative conduct of provincial government organizations. We also have the authority to review the administrative conduct of municipal sector entities, publicly funded universities, and school boards, as well as complaints about the provision of French language services, and services to children and youth in care.

The Ombudsman is intended to be an office of last resort. This means that people contacting our Office are first expected to raise their concerns using existing complaint processes and appeal mechanisms before our Office will intervene. Many cases we receive are resolved quickly and efficiently by providing information and referrals, or by reaching out to the public sector body to obtain more information or clarification. In many cases, we are able to assist a complainant without contacting the organization involved.

Depending on the circumstances, Ombudsman staff may share best practices with the organization to address the concerns raised or to improve local administrative processes going forward. If the Ombudsman determines that a formal investigation is necessary, a written notice of investigation is always provided to the organization.

Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario | Bureau de l'Ombudsman de l'Ontario
483 Bay Street / 483, rue Bay
Toronto ON, M5G 2C9
Tel./Tél. : 416-586-3300 / 1-800-263-1830 - Complaints Line | Ligne des plaintes
Facsimile/Télécopieur : 416-586-3485 TTY/ATS: 1-866-411-4211
Email/Courriel : info@ombudsman.on.ca
www.ombudsman.on.ca

Cases about the City of Peterborough

Our Office received nine cases about the City of Peterborough between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023. While I am not able to provide specific details about these cases for reasons of complainant confidentiality, I am happy to share some general information about the nature of the cases. The number and general subject areas of cases we received are as follows:

General subject area	Number of cases
Council/Committees	5
Employment/Labour relations	1
Finance	1
Housing	1
Planning/Zoning/Land use	1

The cases reflected in our Office's 2022-2023 annual report have all been closed.

As we are an office of last resort, complainants who had not already raised their concerns with the municipality are referred to do so. In cases where an issue should be raised with another body outside of the municipality, complainants are provided with information about where to turn next.

You can read more about how we work collaboratively to resolve administrative issues at www.ombudsman.on.ca. If you are interested in receiving our e-newsletter, you can [subscribe to it by clicking here](#).

I trust that this information will be of assistance. If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 416-586-3431 or by email at fulford@ombudsman.on.ca.

Sincerely,



Alison Fulford
Manager, Early Resolutions
Office of the Ontario Ombudsman

Appendix C: 2024 01 23 Letter: Raina to Dubé (exclusive of its attachments)

Chief Administrative Officer
Jasbir Raina
City of Peterborough
500 George Street North
Peterborough, ON, K9H 3R9
705-742-7777 ext. 1810 | 1-855-738-3755 ext. 1810
jraina@peterborough.ca

January 23, 2024

Paul Dubé, Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman of Ontario
483 Bay Street
10th Floor, South Tower
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2C9
info@ombudsman.on.ca

Dear Sir:

Re: 2022-2023 Annual Report

This is further to a letter dated October 6, 2023 from the City's Deputy Clerk to you (Appendix A) respecting the table at page 87 of the Annual Report referencing nine (9) "cases" involving the City of Peterborough and requesting particulars of such cases so that City staff may update Council. Appendix B is a response to that letter dated November 3 from the Manager, Early Resolutions, to the Deputy Clerk.

Respectfully, the response does not provide the requested or any particulars that are sufficient for Council to understand the municipal issues that the report advises were handled by your office including how they may have been resolved. Accordingly, Council is hindered in its own role including to ensure the accountability and transparency of the operations of the City.

In the circumstances, for each of the nine (9) cases, we again respectfully request that you forward to the writer:

- a copy of the complaint as it was submitted (redacted, if necessary, to the extent of personal information contained therein);
- the identities of the local officials with whom the Ombudsman was dealing in respect of the complaint; and
- particulars of the outcome of the complaint.





We will be reporting to Council. Accordingly, we will greatly appreciate the requested particulars by February 16, 2024.

Sincere thanks for your anticipated timely response.

Yours sincerely,

Jasbir Raina

Jasbir Raina (Jan 23, 2024 16:30 EST)

Jasbir Raina
Chief Administrative Officer

CC: Mayor Jeff Leal

Attachments:

- Appendix A – Letter dated October 6th, 2023 from the City's Deputy Clerk
- Appendix B – Letter dated November 3rd, 2023 from the Manager, Early Resolutions



Appendix D: 2024 02 13 Letter: Bull to Raina**BY EMAIL**

February 13, 2024

Jasbir Raina
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Peterborough
500 George St. N.
Peterborough, ON K9H 3R9

Dear Mr. Raina:

**Re: Cases about the City of Peterborough reported in the
Ombudsman's 2022-2023 Annual Report**

Thank you for your letter of January 23, 2024, in which you requested additional details regarding the 9 cases about the City of Peterborough received by the Ontario Ombudsman between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023.

As you note, the Deputy Clerk for the City of Peterborough contacted our Office on October 6, 2023 to ask for information about the 9 cases (complaints and inquiries) regarding the City that were listed in the Ombudsman's 2022-2023 Annual Report. We provided a letter dated November 3, 2023 listing the subject areas of these cases, which included council/committees (5 cases), employment/labour relations (1 case), finance (1 case), housing (1 case), and planning/zoning/land use (1 case).

Our normal process is to provide referral information or contact City staff to resolve a complaint. If there is an issue that cannot be resolved or which we feel requires council's attention, we would send a notice of investigation to the municipality or escalate the matter to senior municipal staff, and send a letter to council setting out the issues raised and any relevant best practices. All 9 cases cited in the Annual Report were resolved and closed; none were the subject of an investigation.

In our letter of November 3, we explained that we are not able to provide the additional information requested due to the confidentiality of our work, which is conducted in private under the *Ombudsman Act*. With the consent of a complainant, we may disclose only the information required to review a complaint when making inquiries with a public sector body, like a municipality. In the case of a formal investigation where notice has been provided to the public sector body under our Act, the Ombudsman decides what information is necessary to disclose in a report or letter to support his findings and recommendations. The Ombudsman's confidentiality obligations are not limited to personal information.

-2-

The confidentiality protections in our Act apply to all information received by the Ombudsman and his delegates during the course of our work. These protections are not limited to cases where the Ombudsman conducts a formal investigation, and apply to the 9 cases received about the City of Peterborough during the last fiscal year.

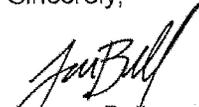
The Ombudsman has broad powers of investigation. Public sector bodies are compelled to co-operate with the Ombudsman's investigations, and our Office has extraordinary access to confidential and sensitive information. Given the unique nature of our mandate, our Office is not subject to provincial access to information legislation and the *Ombudsman Act* contains strong confidentiality provisions.

The Ombudsman takes an oath of secrecy upon taking office (s. 7.3(1)). His staff are required not to disclose information obtained in the course of their duties (O. Reg. 865, s.2). The Ombudsman and his staff cannot be called to give evidence in court in respect of anything coming to their knowledge in the exercise of their functions under the Act (s. 24(2)).

In light of these provisions, we will not be providing the City with additional details regarding the cases reported in our Annual Report.

Thank you for reaching out to the Office of the Ontario Ombudsman. If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at jbull@ombudsman.on.ca.

Sincerely,



Joanna Bull
Senior Counsel



Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Apply for NVCA's 2025 tree planting grants

UTOPIA, Ontario (April 11, 2024) – Landowners are invited to apply for the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority's (NVCA) 2025 tree planting grants before next winter.

"As Spring is approaching, many landowners are looking to plant their forests this year," said Rick Grillmayer, Manager of Forestry at NVCA. "However, planting forests takes a lot of planning. We look at soil conditions, the tree species that are suitable for the property, and most importantly, we need to let the nurseries know what species of trees we need so they can start growing the trees."

There are two requirements to qualify for tree planting grants from NVCA: the property must be in the Nottawasaga Watershed, and there is a minimum of 1 hectare of planting space. Depending on the location of the site, NVCA may be able to cover 25% – 95% of tree planting projects. Properties over 4.45 hectares in size may be eligible for the [Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program](#).

"Interested landowners can contact me to schedule a free site visit," continued Grillmayer. "We will discuss the tree planting process, funding structure and feasibility of planting on the site. If everything goes well, I will develop a tree planting plan for the site and schedule the property into the 2025 spring tree plant!"

Landowners who do not meet the minimum requirements for NVCA's tree planting program can purchase seedlings at NVCA's Arbor Day Tree Sale. There will be a variety of bareroot tree and shrub seedlings for sale. Trees and shrubs are sold in bundles of 10 for \$35 each.

Planting trees helps to provide wildlife habitat, shade rivers and streams, produces oxygen, among many other benefits. Well managed forests also contribute to the economy by providing wood for construction and wood fiber for products such as paper.

For more information about NVCA's tree planting program or Arbor Day Tree Sale, visit nvca.on.ca.

To schedule your site assessment, contact Rick Grillmayer at 705-424-1479 x 230 or email rgrillmayer@nvca.on.ca.

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.

Media contact: Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist, 705-424-1479 ext.254, mleung@nvca.on.ca

Ab



CANADA
4-H Ontario

RECEIVED
18-04-2024

SOUTH SIMCOE 4-H ASSOCIATION
Jill Azis, Secretary/Treasurer
16 Birch Grove Drive, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 4Y8
E-mail: southsimcoe4h@gmail.com

April 14, 2024

Corporation of the Township of Essa
5786 County Road 21
Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

Attention: Sarah Corbett, Deputy Clerk

Dear Ms. Corbett and Members of Council:

Thank you so much for your generous support for the South Simcoe 4-H Association. We strive to mentor and provide our local youth with leadership and life skills to become valuable assets in our community. We are not able to do this without generous support from our municipalities.

We are well under way for 2024 with 30 clubs and over 140 members. You can find news and information about all that we have going on in the online Farm View publication or on our social media pages.

Sincerely,

Jill Azis
Secretary/Treasurer
South Simcoe 4-H Association

28

April 12, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: Motion regarding Affordability of Water and Wastewater Rates

Please be advised that at its regular meeting of April 9, 2024, Loyalist Township Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution 2024-77

Moved by Councillor Willis
Seconded by Councillor Parks

WHEREAS a resolution passed by the County of Renfrew regarding the unaffordability of rural and small urban water and wastewater systems has been circulated to all municipalities in Ontario; and

WHEREAS due to the typical geography of rural Ontario, it is not unusual for smaller municipalities to be responsible for several treatment facilities; and

WHEREAS the costs associated with the operations, upkeep and upgrade of a number of treatment facilities and other infrastructure to meet provincial regulations in both environmental and financial planning capacities for smaller urban centers, which typically has a much lower population density per total kilometers of water and sewer as compared to larger municipalities, is a significant financial burden on system users for this essential necessity;



NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Loyalist Township supports the County of Renfrew's request to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to examine if the unaffordability of water and wastewater system operational costs is systemic provincially and nationally;

AND THAT if the unaffordability is determined to be systemic, provincial and federal governments appropriately fund an assistance program for smaller municipalities with financial oversight of drinking water and wastewater systems;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure; the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ric Bresee, MPP Hastings - Lennox & Addington; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Rural Ontario Municipal Association; and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Motion carried.

Sincerely,

Anne Kantharajah

Anne Kantharajah
Township Clerk
akantharajah@loyalist.ca
613-386-7351 Ext. 121

cc: the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ric Bresee, MPP Hastings - Lennox & Addington;
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Jim Hegadorn, Mayor, Loyalist Township
Rebecca Murphy, CAO, Loyalist Township
Councillor Willis, Loyalist Township
Councillor Parks, Loyalist Township

April 16, 2024

Conservation Authorities and
Natural Hazards Section
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Forestry – RPDPB
By E-mail: ca.office@ontario.ca

Matthew Rae
MPP for Perth-Wellington
By E-mail: matthew.rae@pc.ola.org

RE: Conservation Authorities Act

Please note that in response to the attached Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's proposal "Regulation detailing new Minister's Permit and Review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act" on April 5, 2024, Council of the Municipality of West Perth at its Regular Council Meeting held on April 15, 2024, passed the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: 122/24

Moved By: Councillor Trentowsky

Seconded by: Councillor Duck

CARRIED

"That the Council for the Municipality of West Perth recommends to the province that any proposed changes contemplated by the province be put on hold until such time that the planning statement is finalized by the province and communicated to the municipalities and that this motion be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) All Ontario Municipalities for support."

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk's Department.

A8

MUNICIPALITY OF
West Perth



Daniel Hobson
Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk
Municipality of West Perth

cc: Matthew Rae, MPP for Perth-Wellington
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

Regulation detailing new Minister's Permit and Review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act.

ERO.(Environmental Registry of Ontario) number	019-8320
Notice type	Regulation
Act	Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990
Posted by	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Notice stage	Proposal
Proposal posted	April 5, 2024
Comment period	April 5, 2024 - May 6, 2024 (31 days) Open
Last updated	April 5, 2024

This consultation closes at 11:59 p.m.
on:

May 6, 2024

Proposal summary

We are proposing a regulation specifying the circumstances under which the Minister may issue an order to prevent a conservation authority from making a permitting decision and make the permitting decision in the place of a conservation authority or may undertake a review of a conservation authority permitting decision.

Proposal details

Conservation authorities regulate development and other activities through a permitting process under the *Conservation Authorities Act* for the purposes of natural hazard management and to protect people and property from natural hazards, such as flooding and erosion. Each conservation authority implements the permitting framework based on provincial legislation, regulatory

requirements, and technical standards, as well as conservation authority board-approved policies that outline how the conservation authority administers regulations locally.

Recently proclaimed provisions in the *Conservation Authorities Act* and associated regulations came into effect on April 1, 2024, including new powers for the Minister to 1) issue an order to prevent a conservation authority from issuing a permit and to take over the permitting process in the place of a conservation authority, and 2) review a conservation authority permit decision at the request of the applicant.

The Ministry is proposing a regulation which would set out the circumstances under which these powers could be used. If the regulation is approved, public guidance would be made available on the criteria and processes outlined in the regulation.

1. Permits issued by the Minister

Existing requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act* regarding permits issued by the Minister under section 28.1.1 include:

- The Minister may issue an order directing a conservation authority not to issue a permit to a specific individual to engage in a specified activity, or to persons who may wish to engage in a certain type or class of activity, that would be prohibited under section 28 without a permit.
- The Minister's decision to issue an order is discretionary, and it may be issued either before or after an application for a permit has been submitted to the relevant conservation authority.
- Notice of any order must be provided to affected conservation authorities, any person who applied for the permit in question prior to the order and be posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario)) within 30-days.
- If an order made, the Minister has the power to issue a permit in place of the conservation authority. When making a permitting decision, the Minister is required to satisfy the same criteria concerning natural hazards and public safety that are considered by conservation authorities. This includes whether the activity is likely to affect the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil or

bedrock. It also must consider whether the activity is likely to create conditions or circumstances that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property.

- The Minister may refuse the permit or issue a permit subject to such conditions as the Minister determines are appropriate.

Proposed additional requirements that would be set out in regulation include:

- The Minister may make an order to prevent a conservation authority from making a permitting decision and take over the permitting process only if the development activity or type or class of permits pertains to or supports a specified provincial interest, including:
 - Housing (community, affordable and market-based)
 - Community services (health, long-term care, education, recreation socio-cultural, security and safety, environment)
 - Transportation infrastructure
 - Buildings that facilitate economic development or employment
 - Mixed use developments
- If a proponent wishes to petition the Minister to issue an order, the proponent must submit a request to the Minister that would include information on:
 - Overview of proposed development.
 - Why the Minister's involvement is requested (e.g., development of provincial interest, timing/urgency; permitting process to date if applicable; other barriers) and preferable to the standard process in the *Conservation Authorities Act*.
 - Indication of whether the local municipality has endorsed the project and the request for Minister's involvement (e.g., by municipal letter or resolution).
 - Status of other required project approvals including the extent of any engagement with the conservation authority in the permitting process that the applicant has had to date.

2. Permits reviewed by the Minister

Existing requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act* relating to requests for review under section 28.1.2 regarding permits where there is an order made by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing under section 34.1 or 47 of the *Planning Act* and section 28.1 regarding all other conservation authority permits include:

- An applicant who has been refused a permit or had conditions attached to a permit by a conservation authority to which the applicant objects can, within 15-days of receiving reasons for the authority's decision, submit a request to the Minister for the Minister to review the authority's decision. Alternatively, an applicant also has the option to appeal the authority's decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal.
- After receiving a request, the Minister has 30-days in which to decide whether or not they intend to conduct a review. If the Minister decides to conduct the review, a notice shall be posted on the ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) within 30-days of a reply indicating the Minister intends to review the decision by the authority. If the Minister does not reply within 30-days of the request, this is deemed to indicate that the Minister does not intend to conduct a review.
- After conducting a review, the Minister may confirm or vary the authority's decision or make any decision that the Minister considers appropriate, including issuing the permit subject to conditions.
- The Minister is required to base the decision on same criteria concerning natural hazards and public safety that are considered by conservation authorities. This includes whether the activity is likely to affect the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil or bedrock. It also must consider whether the activity is likely to create conditions or circumstances that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property.

Proposed additional requirements that would be set out in regulation include:

- The Minister may conduct a review of a conservation authority permit decision only if the development activity pertains to or supports a development of specified provincial interest, including:
 - Housing (community, affordable and market-based)

- Community services (health, long-term care, education, recreation socio-cultural, security and safety, environment)
- Transportation infrastructure
- Buildings that facilitate economic development or employment
- Mixed use developments

Note: This criteria would not apply to permit reviews under section 28.1.2 regarding permits where there is an order made by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing under section 34.1 or 47 of the *Planning Act*.

- The request submitted to the Minister for a review would include information on:
 - Overview of proposed development.
 - If the request relates to conditions imposed by the conservation authority to which the applicant objects, identification of the specific conditions that are subject to the request for review, the changes requested to the conditions and the rationale in support of the requested changes.
 - If the request relates to an authority's decision to refuse a permit, the rationale in support of requesting that the Minister varies the decision and issues the permit.
 - Why the Minister's involvement is requested (e.g., development of provincial interest, timing/urgency; permitting process to date; other barriers) and preferable to alternative mechanisms in the *Conservation Authorities Act*.
 - Indication of whether the local municipality has endorsed the project and/or the request for Minister's involvement (e.g., by municipal letter or resolution).
 - Status of other required project approvals.

Regulatory impact analysis

By clearly communicating the circumstances under which the Minister would consider whether to issue an order to prevent a conservation authority from making a permitting decision and to make permitting decisions in place of a conservation authority or to review a conservation authority permitting decision, this proposal would ensure that development proponents pursue the appropriate permitting channel. Efficiently navigating the permitting process is

expected to help save proponents time and resources. We expect that there will be some minor administrative costs for development proponents based on the time needed to learn about and understand the proposed changes.

Supporting materials

Related links

[Conservation Authorities Act](#)

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90c27#BK43>

[O. Reg. 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits](#)

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/240041>

View materials in person

Some supporting materials may not be available online. If this is the case, you can request to view the materials in person.

Get in touch with the office listed below to find out if materials are available.

MNRF - RPDPB - Resources Development Section

300 Water Street

2nd Floor South

Peterborough, ON

K9J 3C7

Canada

Comment

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

Have questions? Get in touch with the contact person below. Please include the ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) number for this notice in your email or letter to the contact.

[Read our commenting and privacy policies. \(/page/commenting-privacy\)](#)

Submit by mail

Conservation Authorities and
Natural Hazards Section
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Forestry - RPDPB
300 Water Street
2nd Floor South Tower
Peterborough, ON
K9J 3C7
Canada

Connect with
US

Contact

Conservation Authorities and
Natural Hazards Section

 ca.office@ontario.ca



Office of the Warden, C.A.O. & Clerk
Hastings County

235 Pinnacle St. Postal Bag 4400,
Belleville ON K8N 3A9

Tel: (613) 966-1311
Fax: (613) 966-2574

www.hastingscounty.com

April 17, 2024

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Delivered via email
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
premier@ontario.ca

RE: Hastings County Motion regarding sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities

Please be advised that Hastings County Council, at its meeting held on March 28, 2024, passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS Ontario's small rural municipalities face insurmountable challenges to fund both upfront investments and ongoing maintenance of their capital assets including roads and bridges and water wastewater and municipally owned buildings including recreational facilities and libraries;

WHEREAS in 2018, the Ontario government mandated all Ontario municipalities to develop capital asset management plans with the stipulation that they be considered in the development of the annual budget;

WHEREAS small rural municipalities (of 10,000 people or less) are facing monumental infrastructure deficits that cannot be adequately addressed through property tax revenue alone;

WHEREAS the only application approved through the recently awarded Housing Accelerator Fund to a small rural municipality was to Marathon Ontario, who received an allocation of \$1.9 million dollars while over \$1.369 billion going to Ontario's large urban centres, resulting in a 0.2% investment in rural Ontario;

WHEREAS the Ontario Government has committed \$9.1 billion to Toronto alone to assist with operating deficits and the repatriation of the Don Valley and Gardner Expressway;

WHEREAS small rural Ontario cannot keep pace with the capital investments required over the next 20 years unless both the Provincial and Federal Governments come forward with new sustainable infrastructure funding;

WHEREAS it is apparent that both the Federal and Ontario Governments have neglected to recognize the needs of small rural Ontario;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Hastings County call on the Ontario and Federal Government to implement sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities;

AND THAT small rural municipalities are not overlooked and disregarded on future applications for funding;

AND THAT both the Federal and Ontario Governments begin by acknowledging that there is an insurmountable debt facing small rural municipalities;

AND THAT both the Federal and Ontario Governments immediately commission a Working Group that includes a member of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, to develop a plan on how to deal with the impending debt dilemma;

AND FINALLY THAT this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada; Michel Tremblay Acting President and CEO, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Kinga Surma, Ontario Minister of Infrastructure; The Honourable Paul Calandra, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MP Shelby Kramp-Neuman, Hastings-Lennox Addington; MPP Ric Bresee Hastings-Lennox Addington, AMO, ROMA, FCM, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and all Municipalities in Ontario.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Cathy Bradley
Director of Legislative Services

[Home](#) > [Network & Community](#) > [Policy Blog](#)

> [Regulatory Registry Postings: Bill 185 Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024](#)

Regulatory Registry Postings: Bill 185 Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024

[Log in](#) to post comments

April 17, 2024

On April 10, 2024, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister of Legislative Affairs, Hon. Paul Calandra introduced **Bill 185, *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024***. Presented as part of a red tape reduction package, its stated intent is to streamline approvals and help build more homes and infrastructure faster. The omnibus bill proposes legislative amendments related to development charges (DCs), planning, line fences and more, many of which directly affect municipal fiscal sustainability, service delivery, and staffing.

The Province is seeking comments on several proposed legislative amendments and regulatory proposals coming forward as part of Bill 185. Those most relevant for municipalities are outlined below.

This website uses cookies to ensure you get the best experience on our website [More info](#)

42

**Got
it!**

- Allow municipalities to give notice of new planning decisions on their website where no local newspaper is available. Comments on **this proposal** are due by May 10, 2024.
- Limit third-party appeals to the Ontario Land Tribunal to those made by key participants (i.e. applicants, public bodies, First Nations and utility providers).
- Allow applicants to appeal a municipality's refusal or failure to make a decision on a privately requested official plan or zoning by-law amendment that would change the boundary of an "area of settlement", outside of the Greenbelt Area.
- Introduce a Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) Framework while eliminating the Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator (CHIA) tool.
- Make pre-application consultation voluntary at the discretion of the applicant.
- Remove fee refund requirements for planning applications.
- Remove the planning responsibilities for several upper-tier municipalities and Conservation Authorities with responsibilities assumed by lower-tiers. Changes will be in effect for Peel, Halton and York as of July 1, 2024, and for Durham, Niagara, Simcoe and Waterloo on a date to be named.
- Exempt publicly-assisted universities from the *Planning Act*.

Housing

- Make it easier to build more residential units, such as garden, laneway or basement suites. Comments on **this proposal** are due by May 10, 2024.
- Allow homebuyers and homebuilders to decide the number of

- Create a regulation-making authority to exempt standardized housing designs from certain sections of the **Planning Act** (e.g. zoning) and under the **City of Toronto Act**.

Infrastructure

- Remove the five-year phase-in for DCs, reinstate studies as an eligible DC cost, reduce the DC freeze timeframe from two years to 18 months; and streamline the process for municipalities to extend existing DC by-laws. Comments on **this proposal** are due by May 10, 2024.
- Reduce delays and costs for utility relocation projects affecting transit and infrastructure. Comments on **this proposal** are due by May 11, 2024.
- Introduce the “use it or lose it” policy, allowing municipalities to impose lapsing conditions on various development projects and reallocate servicing.
- Consider a new expedited approval process for community service facilities including K-12 public schools, long-term care and hospitals.

Some of the above-listed changes can be found consolidated in the following **proposal** open for comment until May 10, 2024.

Alongside these changes coming forward with Bill 185, the Province is also making updates to:

- The proposed Provincial Planning Statement (PPS). Comments on **this proposal** are due by May 12, 2024.
- The Building Code that includes allowing developers to pursue 18-storey mass timber buildings, up from the current 12-storey limit

Municipal Governance

- Require the Peel Transition Board to provide recommendations on the transfer of land use planning, water and wastewater, regional roads (including stormwater), and waste management services. Comments on **this proposal** are due by May 10, 2024.
- New section to the *Municipal Act* and *City of Toronto Act*, which would allow the Province to make regulations to allow a municipality to provide assistance to manufacturing businesses or other industrial or commercial enterprises if there is a provincial interest to attract investments. Comments on **this proposal** are due by May 10, 2024.

Other Legislative Amendments

- Modernize the *Line Fences Act* with proposed amendments on the Regulatory Registry. Comments on **this proposal** are due by May 10, 2024.
- Removing the requirement for an annual resolution for municipal representatives on the Niagara Parks Commission Board, instead requiring one resolution at the beginning of a council term. Comments on **this proposal** are due by May 10, 2024.

We will continue to monitor the proposed changes for impacts to municipalities and opportunities for consultation, and will be consulting with members as we consider feedback to provide through the standing committee and/or regulatory consultation processes.

Related Links

NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Building New and Upgraded Sports and Recreation Facilities

\$200 million investment helping communities provide families and sports fans better access to modern facilities to play and watch

April 18, 2024

[Office of the Premier](#)

OAKVILLE —The Ontario government is investing up to \$200 million over three years to support Ontario's growing communities with new and revitalized local sport and recreation facilities across the province.

The new Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund was [announced as part of the 2024 Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#).

"Ontario's new Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund will transform and expand recreational facilities across the province, creating jobs and fostering healthier and more active lifestyles for families," said Premier Doug Ford. "As our population grows, our government is building the necessary infrastructure so families can live, work, play and thrive right in their local communities."

Funding will be delivered through two streams:

- Repairing and upgrading existing sport and recreation facilities into more accessible, state-of-the-art facilities that better suit the community's needs.
- Building new and transformative sport and recreation facilities, including replacing existing facilities that have reached the end of their lifespan and are beyond repair.

"Our government is listening to Ontarians and we want to ensure that new and upgraded facilities remain the heart of communities across this province for decades to come," said Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. "Not only will families benefit from better access to places to play, modern sport and recreation facilities will allow communities to host provincial, national and international events and competitions, attracting more visitors and good-paying jobs."

All

Applications will be open to municipalities, Indigenous communities, and non-profit organizations. More information about eligibility and application guidelines will be provided in Summer 2024.

“Community centres and recreation facilities give people of all ages a safe place to come together, laugh, play and get the most out of their local community,” said Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance. “Our government will continue building the infrastructure needed to support growing communities, and investing in the well-being of children, families and seniors across the province.”

Investing in new and improved sport and recreation facilities through the [2024 Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#) will continue to support the province’s growing population and ensure that all Ontarians have access to opportunities to thrive.

Quick Facts

- The Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund is a competitive, application-based program open to municipalities, Indigenous communities and non-profit organizations.
- The sport and recreation sector contributed an estimated \$2.6 billion to Ontario’s economy in 2021 and accounted for approximately 38,000 jobs.

Additional Resources

- [2024 Ontario Budget: Building a Better Ontario](#)

Related Topics

Arts and Culture

Learn more about the live performances, cultural institutions and creative grants the province has to offer. [Learn more](#)

Government

Learn about the government services available to you and how government works. [Learn more](#)

Media Contacts

Caitlin Clark

Premier’s Office

Caitlin.Clark2@ontario.ca

Alan Sakach

Minister Lumsden's Office

Alan.Sakach@ontario.ca

Denelle Balfour

Communications Branch

Denelle.Balfour@ontario.ca

Accessibility

Privacy

Contact us

© King's Printer for Ontario, 2012-2024

Sarah Corbett

Subject: FW: Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter

From: Robin Brown <robin@nottawasaga.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 10:41 AM
To: Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: Nottawasaga Futures Newsletter



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

SAVE *the* DATE

**NOTTAWASAGA FUTURES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

—
**TUESDAY MAY 28, 2024 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION TBA**

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO ATTEND

AgKnowledge Forum 2024: Emerging issues in the ag sector



Synopsis and photographs by Lisa Brantley

The lovely and historic Gibson Centre in Alliston was the location of this year's AgKnowledge forum hosted by Nottawasaga Futures. As always, the array of guest speakers was informative and interesting. Catering of beverages and snacks was exceptional and provided by Stephanie at The Cookhouse in Adjala-Tesourette Township.

Following blessings and land acknowledgment, Master of Ceremonies Nicole Cross introduced Member of Provincial Parliament for Simcoe-Grey Brian Sauderson to the podium.

Sauderson recognized the agricultural history of the Gibson Centre which was built in 1889 by the Mercer Manufacturing Company to house their farm implement factory. He brought greetings from Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Lisa Thompson.

He also recognized that farmers represent one of Ontario's largest economic drivers, about 48 billion dollars a year in gross domestic product. "We supply huge demand across Canada as well as internationally." He added "Making sure that your sector is healthy and getting the attention you need is very much a priority for this government".

Warden Clarke
Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke brought greetings as well. He thanked Nottawasaga Futures, the Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and the Economic Development Team of which Ruth Walker Scott would be speaking later, for helping put the day's programme together.

Clarke reminisced about learning how to drive a tractor and the old steel-wheeled seed drill that operated at 1.5 miles an hour. "That was the recommended seeding speed". He spoke of advances since then and how we are now very "Mindful of the environment, on how much fertilizer we're using and how much spray were using. We're also mindful of the cost."

Following Clarke, Cross introduced and welcomed dignitaries in the audience.

Storm water fees
Tina Schankula, Policy Analyst with O.F.A. was the first official guest speaker of the day. Schankula's main topic was storm water.

The legal definition of storm water is very broad. It is rain water from roofs, snow melt, surface run-off and storm management assets. Assets refer to collection, transmission, treatment, retention, infiltration control or disposal of storm water. Basically any drop of water which does not seep into the ground. "Any water that leaves your farm is now storm water that needs to be managed (in some areas)" she explained.

Some municipalities are implementing storm water management fees. There is no one method of applying these fees as municipalities act on their own volition. There are a handful of common approaches; flat fee to tiered rates, as examples. Some municipalities base fees on the impervious areas on a property. Those are hard surfaces, such as paved areas. Those municipalities charge a rate based on the impervious area, regardless of property size.

Run-off so-efficient is also applied in some cases. With agriculture that is generally in the 15% to 20% range. Industry would be closer to 95%.

Schankula did a good job of bringing this concept and all of its variables into perspective. A lengthy question and answer segment followed her presentation as she provided well-informed responses.

Keith Currie, CFA
President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, and 5th generation on his Collingwood family farm spoke to the topic of cap and trade. Before he got into such political aspects, he had complimentary words for the previous speakers and the politicians in attendance, noting their dedication and experience in agriculture. He encouraged farmers to engage with their politicians because "...there is so much coming at you from so many different directions, you need to make sure that you have your voice heard".

He began his talk by addressing the question "Why do we need a price on carbon?"

"I didn't used to think about turning a wheel over in the field until the first day of May" he cited, and added "New, if we're not done by the 10th of May we're freakin' out". Our future trade agreements are going to require us to be engaged in climate concerns, including greenhouse gas emissions.

Currie explained the backstop federal programme in which farmers are charged a tax on fuels. Generally, the federal carbon pricing backstop returns most of the revenue generated back to households in the form of quarterly rebates. People in rural households get a bigger rebate. Meaning most households especially low-income households get more money back than they spend on carbon costs.

Cap and trade, carbon tax, industry, agriculture... it became obvious there is much to understand regarding the variables across the country and businesses. Currie did his best to leave his audience with an appreciation of the intricacies and changes coming along. He acknowledged there are incentives to working "cleaner".

Canada's weather is so diverse that there is no one-size-fits-all solution, be it cap and trade or carbon pricing. Giving credit to first imitators and innovators of carbon sequestration, going back to 2017, is being considered.

The CFA co-chairs, with the government, the Sustainable Ag Strategy. This was announced mid-April with a lot of sustainability initiatives included in the programme.

"Our biggest emissions in agriculture are not behind the farm gate, it's beyond the farm gate" said Currie. "In the transportation and the processing side". He continued "We do sustainability real well, we always have... It starts with good soil structure, good soil health... We need to make sure the government understands that".

Currie made it clear that he would rather see cap and trade, rather than carbon tax. A question and answer period

followed his presentation.

Ruth Walker Scott
Simcoe County Economic Development Officer Ruth Walker Scott addressed the attendees, providing the audience with the economic development strategy and a look at the 2022 labour market research study as it relates to agriculture. She also went over business supports and financial managerial supports available to farmers and producers in Simcoe County.

The first goal of the Simcoe County development strategy is that Simcoe County be recognized as a premier destination for investment in Ontario.

Secondly: Through an excellent quality of life, education and careers, Simcoe County attracts and retains talent to support the needs of its thriving business community.

Thirdly: Businesses will stay and grow in the region supported by a strong and innovative business environment.

Goal four: The county's economic development office is a leader in facilitating and building effective and collaborative relationships that create a strong ecosystem for regional economic development.

The fifth goal states: We will advocate for and support the delivery of infrastructure to meet the needs of a competitive business community.

The labour market research programme was developed to identify and provide recommendations, to resolve challenges that Simcoe County businesses encounter. There were six key factors with agriculture being one of them.

Challenges and recommendations were found which were pertinent to each sector. A general overview of across-sector recommendations which would support workforce development throughout the county.

The study found that in Simcoe County, agriculture and agri-food accounted for a workforce of approximately 14,000. Most of that workforce was concentrated in grocery stores, greenhouse, nursery and horticulture production and specialty food stores.

Walker Scott got into some specifics about programmes available through the county as her talk progressed.

Forest health

Fred Semerville provided a very interesting insight into "Impact of foreign intruders on our forests". In fact, Farm View will have a more detailed report on his presentation in our June edition.

Entrepreneur support

From Nottawasaga Futures, Andie Cole, business loans officer, wrapped up the speakers' portion of the day.

Cole explained that Nottawasaga Futures was developed to identify, develop and co-ordinate initiatives to support economic needs of our community (south Simcoe County). Currently they are involved in 19 community projects and are providing support to ongoing community organizations.

They are part of the South Simcoe Streams Network; present business awards, youth entrepreneur programmes and youth awards and the South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards.

"Our mission is to provide choice and opportunity to our businesses and residents in our region while responding to the challenges of our local community" she explained.

Cole is involved with the Community Futures programme which is a community investment fund. "We lead money to businesses".

They have a film liaison to encourage filmmakers to shoot in South Simcoe County. There is a business coaching and consulting programme too. The opportunities don't seem to end with Nottawasaga Futures.



Nicole Cross
Master of Ceremonies



MPP Sauderson
Simcoe-Grey



Warden Basil Clarke
Simcoe County



Tina Schankula
O.F.A.

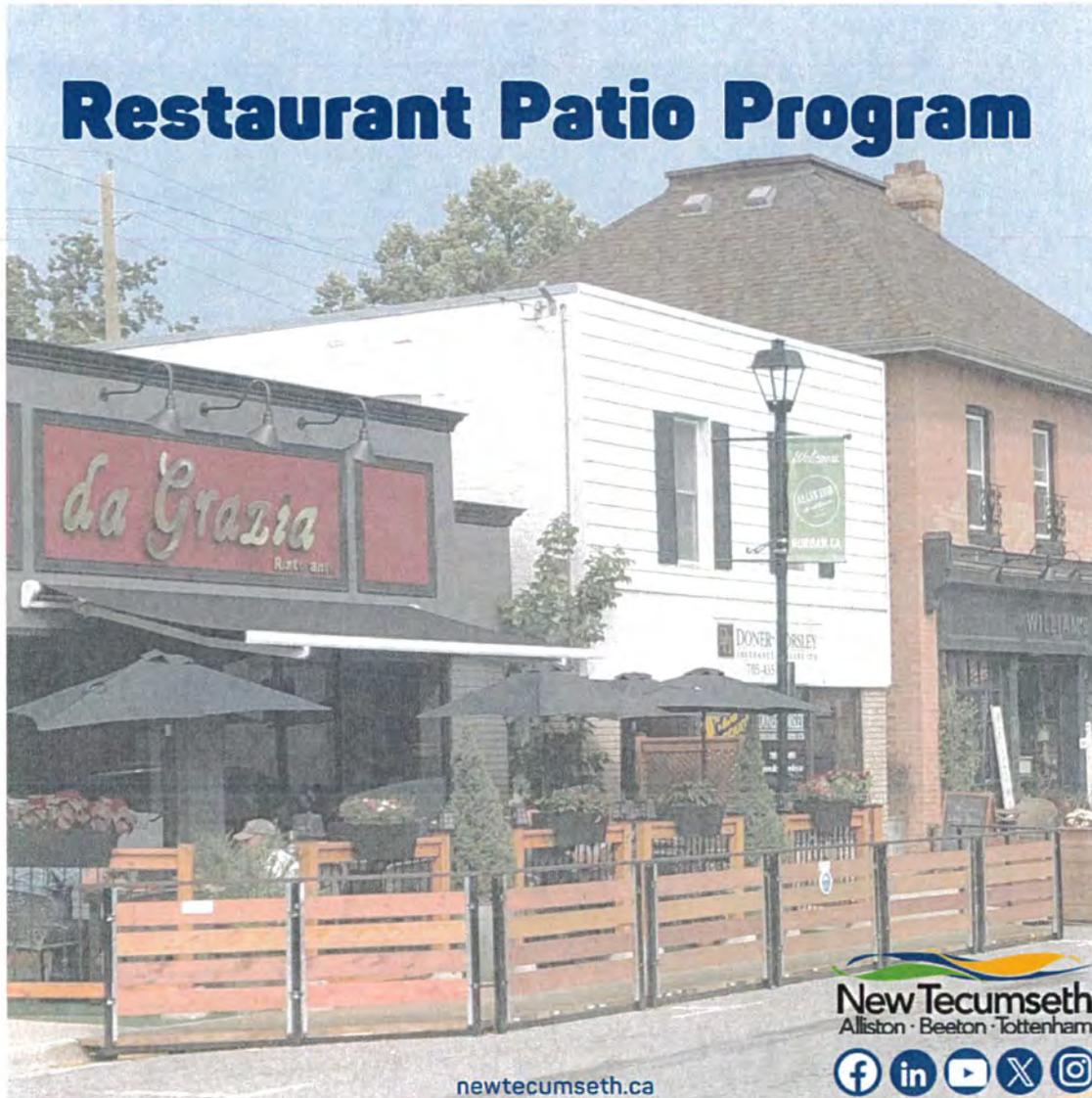


Keith Currie
President CFA



Ruth Walker Scott
ECD Officer

A special thank you to our partners Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario, Holland Marsh Growers Association, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture and The County



Patio season is just around the corner!

Registration is now open for the Town's 2024 Temporary Restaurant Patio Program. Restaurants interested in establishing or expanding a

temporary patio space can find more information and application forms at <https://bit.ly/48zUiLz>.

2024 Trees for Streams Shout-out for Volunteers



Community Tree Planting Events
Saturday, April 27th: East Beeton Creek just off Mill St East in Tottenham 1pm- 4pm
Saturday, May 4th: Fraser Creek Tributary at Henderson Park in Bradford W. Gwillimbury 9am- noon
Saturday, May 11th: Sheldon Creek southwest of Alliston in Adjala-Tosorontio 9am—noon
Tuesday, May 14th: Nottawasaga River south west of Alliston, off County Road 50 9am-noon
Saturday, May 25th: Nottawasaga River at Bob Geddes Park in Essa—Angus 9am—noon

To register scan the QR Code
Or use the included link.

INQUIRIES: theresa@nottawasaga.com
Phone/Text 705 440-9129




Community Events are made possible in part with funding from Dufferin-Simcoe Land Stewardship Network - County of Simcoe Tree Program, Somerville Nurseries Inc., Town of New Tecumseth, Township of Essa, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, and support from Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, municipalities, landowners, industries, and volunteers like you!

Come Plant with us!

Join one of our South Simcoe Streams Network tree planting events this Spring!

A great chance to get outdoors, spend time with friends and family, and students can even earn Community Service hours!

Please register [here](#) and select which date(s) you would like to attend.

Hope to see you out at one of our events!

For inquiries, please contact Theresa@nottawasaga.com

Lakehead University South Simcoe Innovation Week

Hosted by
Innisfil Economic Development **Lakehead UNIVERSITY**

In Partnership With
Nottawasaga Futures **COUNTY OF SIMCOE** **BWG** ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This initiative is funded in part by the County of Simcoe Entrepreneurial Innovation Fund

Adaptive Leadership & Design Thinking Workshop

Unlock your leadership potential. Register now!

Tuesday, April 30
9 AM - 1 PM
DMZ Innisfil, 8000 Yonge Street, Stroud (Rear Entrance)

ADAPTIVE LEADERSHIP & DESIGN WORKSHOP

🔔 Exciting Opportunity for Leaders! 🔔

Join us for an exclusive Adaptive Leadership & Design Thinking Workshop in Innisfil on April 30, 2024 as part of Lakehead University South Simcoe Innovation Week.

📅 Date: April 30, 2024

🕒 Time: 9 am – 1 pm

📍 Location: DMZ Innisfil, 8000 Yonge Street, Stroud

This transformative half-day workshop, led by Kelly Parke, is your chance to master innovative strategies and practical tools in leadership and problem-solving. Engage with real-life case studies, interactive exercises, and leave with a comprehensive toolkit to elevate your business approach.

Plus, a chance to win Kelly Parke's consulting services as a door prize! Limited to 25-30 participants – secure your spot and be at the forefront of change!

For more information and to register visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/883422459357?aff=oddttdtcreator>

This initiative is funded in part by the County of Simcoe Entrepreneurial Innovation Fund.

Lakehead University South Simcoe Innovation Week

Business Model Canvas Workshop

Hosted by
 **Innisfil**  **Lakehead UNIVERSITY**

In Partnership With
 **Nottawasaga Futures**  **COUNTY OF SIMCOE**  **BWG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

This initiative is funded in part by the County of Simcoe Entrepreneurial Innovation Fund



Chart your business's course to success. Register now!

 **Wednesday, May 1**
 **6 PM - 8 PM**
 **DMZ Innisfil, 8000 Yonge Street, Stroud (Rear Entrance) Or Virtually (Online)**

BUSINESS CANVAS

 Exciting News for Entrepreneurs! 

Lakehead University South Simcoe Innovation Week is in Innisfil, and we invite you to the Business Model Canvas Workshop on May 1, 2024. Whether you're just starting out or looking to refine your business plan, this workshop is the perfect opportunity to transform your ideas into action.

 Date: May 1, 2024

 Time: 6 pm – 8 pm

 Location: DMZ Innisfil, 8000 Yonge Street, Stroud & Virtual
(Online)

This hands-on workshop is designed to streamline your business plan and set a solid foundation for your venture.

Don't miss out on this chance to network with fellow entrepreneurs and learn from the best in the business.

This event is part of the inaugural South Simcoe Innovation Week and is hosted by Lakehead University and the Town of Innisfil, in partnership with the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Nottawasaga Futures, and The County of Simcoe.

Register now and take the first step towards bringing your business vision to life!

Business Model Canvas Workshop (In-Person):

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/883398868797?aff=oddtcreator>

Business Model Canvas Workshop (Online):

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/883410854647?aff=oddtcreator>

This initiative is funded in part by the County of Simcoe Entrepreneurial Innovation Fund

Financial Support and Resources

AR

- [Nottawasaga Futures Community Investment Fund](#)
- [Steps to Consider Before Starting a Business](#)
- [Canada - Ontario Job Grant](#)
- [Ontario Business Registry](#)
- [Business Benefits Finder](#)
- [Canada Business App](#)
- [Delia: Funding for Women-owned Enterprises](#)
- [Ontario Automotive Modernization Program](#)
- [Southwestern Ontario Development Fund](#)
- [Business advisory services for small & medium-sized businesses](#)
- [Business Continuity Plan](#)
- [Youth Small Business Program](#)
- [Marketing Ideas to Grow Your Business](#)
- [Starting a Business in Canada](#)

Book a Free Consultation

Click here for information on our projects

Click here for NT Temps Job Listings

Click here to go to our website

[view this email in your browser](#)

58



April 23, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
1 Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

**Re: Provincial Regulations Needed to Restrict Keeping of Non-native ("exotic") Wild Animals
Our File 35.11.2**

Dear Premier Ford,

At its meeting held on April 8, 2024, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

WHEREAS Ontario has more private non-native ("exotic") wild animal keepers, roadside zoos, mobile zoos, wildlife exhibits and other captive wildlife operations than any other province; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has of yet not developed regulations to prohibit or restrict animal possession, breeding, or use of non-native ("exotic") wild animals in captivity; and

WHEREAS non-native ("exotic") wild animals can pose very serious human health and safety risks, and attacks causing human injury and death have occurred in the province; and

WHEREAS the keeping of non-native ("exotic") wild animals can cause poor animal welfare and suffering, and poses risks to local environments and wildlife; and

WHEREAS owners of non-native ("exotic") wild animals can move from one community to another even after their operations have been shut down due to animal welfare or public health and safety concerns; and

WHEREAS municipalities have struggled, often for months or years, to deal with non-native ("exotic") wild animal issues and have experienced substantive regulatory, administrative, enforcement and financial challenges; and

59



WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and the Municipal Law Enforcement Officers' Association (MLEOA) have indicated their support for World Animal Protection's campaign for provincial regulations of non-native ("exotic") wild animals and roadside zoos in letters to the Ontario Solicitor General and Ontario Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Catharines hereby petitions the provincial government to implement provincial regulations to restrict the possession, breeding, and use of non-native ("exotic") wild animals and license zoos in order to guarantee the fair and consistent application of policy throughout Ontario for the safety of Ontario's citizens and the non-native ("exotic") wild animal population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support, the Premier of Ontario, Ontario Solicitor General, Ontario Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry, MPP Jennie Stevens, MPP Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Jeff Burch, AMO, AMCTO, and MLEAO.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1524.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristen Sullivan".

Kristen Sullivan, City Clerk
 Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
 :av

cc: The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General
 The Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
 Local MPPs
 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO)
 Municipal Law Enforcement Officers' Association of Ontario (MLEAO)
 All Municipalities of Ontario

April 24, 2024

To our Municipal clients:

Re: Assessment of Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 and the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, 2024

On behalf of our many municipal clients, we are writing to inform you of the Ontario Legislature's proposed changes to the *Planning Act* under Bill 185 (*Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act*) and the proposed Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 (PPS, 2024). The primary focus of this letter is to provide our assessment of the proposed PPS, 2024 and its potential impacts on growth management in Ontario. The proposed PPS, 2024 was released in coordination with Bill 185 on April 10, 2024, for a 30-day comment period. The comment period on the proposed PPS, 2024 ends on May 12, 2024 (the deadline was extended by two days after the release of the French version of the proposed PPS, 2024). The PPS is provided under section 3 of the *Planning Act* and if the proposed PPS, 2024 is approved, all municipal decisions would be required to be consistent with the PPS, 2024 under subsections 3 (5) and 3 (6) of the *Planning Act*.

1. Proposed Planning Act Changes

With respect to the proposed changes to the *Planning Act* under Bill 185, we have identified the following key impacts as they broadly relate to growth management in Ontario.

Upper-Tier Municipalities with No Planning Responsibilities to Come into Effect on July 1, 2024, for the Regional Municipalities of Halton, Peel, and York

- The Province introduced the concepts of “upper-tier municipalities without planning responsibilities” and “upper-tier municipalities with planning responsibilities” to the *Planning Act* as part of Bill 23. “Upper-tier municipalities without planning responsibilities” includes a list of seven upper-tier municipalities comprising all the upper-tier municipalities in the Greater Toronto Area, as well as the County of Simcoe, the Region of Niagara, and the Region of Waterloo. Bill 185 builds upon this and amends the *Planning Act* to implement changes to certain upper-tier municipalities, “upper-tier municipalities without planning responsibilities.”
- Under Bill 185, the Region of Halton, the Region of Peel, and the Region of York will become “upper-tier municipalities without planning responsibilities” on July 1, 2024. The County of Simcoe, the Region of Durham, the Region of Niagara, and the Region of Waterloo will become “upper-tier municipalities without planning



responsibilities” at a future date to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor.^[1]

- Upon the review of Bill 23, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. (Watson) previously expressed concerns with these significant changes to regional planning. We anticipate that there will continue to be a strong need for impacted upper-tier municipalities to address regional growth management coordination efforts (e.g., coordination of regional growth forecasts and regional urban land needs assessments, assessment of regional infrastructure needs and review of cross-jurisdictional issues) working with their area municipalities.

Elimination of Third-Party Appeal Rights to Include Municipally Approved Official Plans, Official Plan Amendments, Zoning By-Laws and Zoning By-Law Amendments

- As part of Bill 23, the Province amended the *Planning Act* to limit appeals for minor variances, a plan of subdivision, or a consent to sever to the applicant, the municipal authority, the Minister, or a “specified person.” “Specified person” is a new term introduced with the intent to focus appeals on a more focused group, including applicants, public bodies, Indigenous communities, and utilities providers. Appeal rights removed include third-party landowners, ratepayers, and other members of the public that are not the applicant, the Minister, an approval authority, a public body, or a “specified person.” Under Bill 185, it is proposed that the elimination of third-party appeals would be extended to include municipally approved Official Plans, Official Plan Amendments, Zoning By-laws and Zoning By-law Amendments.^[2]
- Bill 185 proposes to remove appeal rights for “upper-tier municipalities with no planning responsibilities”; these upper-tier municipalities will only be able to provide comments on applications. As a result, utility providers will have stronger tools (including appeal rights) to protect their infrastructure relative to upper-tier municipalities who are responsible for managing and building infrastructure, as well as the associated risks (e.g., financial and public safety).^[3]

Restore Appeal Rights for Privately Initiated Settlement Area Boundary Expansions

- Private-sector applications for a boundary of area of settlement (settlement area expansions) can be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) provided that it

^[1] Bill 185, Schedule 1, section 1.

^[2] Bill 185, Schedule 12, section 3 (1).

^[3] The Regional Municipality of York, Report of the Commissioner of Corporate Services and Chief Planner for Regional Council on April 25, 2024 – Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 (Bill 185) – Proposed Changes to Planning Act, 1990, Municipal Act, 2001 and Provincial Planning Statement.



is not within the Greenbelt Area. Under the current *Planning Act*, an applicant cannot appeal an Official Plan Amendment or Zoning By-law Amendment application that would expand or alter an in-force settlement area boundary.^[1] It is important to note that this appeal right does not extend to settlement boundary expansions that have received a Minister's decision as part of an Official Plan and Official Plan Amendment. The Minister's decision is still final.

- Permitting appeals may result in more land being designated through OLT decisions than what was identified by municipalities in Official Plans and would potentially have the impact of undermining local growth management objectives established through an Official Plan Review.

A New “Use it or Lose it” Tool for Municipalities to Tackle Stalled Developments

- Proposed changes to the *Planning Act* include a new “use it or lose it” tool for municipalities to tackle stalled developments that have unused servicing capacity allocation (water and sewage servicing). The proposal as part of Bill 185, includes a framework for the municipality to expand the scope of lapsing provisions, including requiring approval authorities to impose a lapsing condition for all draft subdivision/condominium and site plan control approvals.^[2] Previously, this was an option for municipalities; now it is a requirement. It should be noted that municipalities can provide for lapsing provisions of previous applications, subject to notice to the owner.^[3]
- The new provisions would provide an incentive for developers/builders to move forward on an approved application. From a growth management perspective, this tool would potentially provide more certainty when determining housing and land supply potential to accommodate growth within the short term.

Create a New “Servicing Management” Tool to Facilitate Infrastructure Servicing Re-Allocation to Make More Efficient Use of Municipal Servicing Capacity

- This bill proposes to create a new municipal servicing management tool that would explicitly authorize municipalities to adopt policies by by-law (if they do not already exist) to establish how water and sewage servicing of an approved development is managed. Furthermore, it would enable municipalities to allocate and reallocate servicing capacity to other projects if the approved development has not proceeded after a specified timeline and the servicing is needed elsewhere in the service area. Should municipalities adopt such a by-law, it would not be appealable to the OLT.^[4]

^[1] Bill 185, Schedule 12, section 6 (4).

^[2] Bill 185, Schedule 12, section 10 (3) and section 12.

^[3] Bill 185, Schedule 4, section 2.

^[4] Bill 185, Schedule 12, section 14.



- Currently, the *Planning Act* already provides municipalities with the authority to enact by-laws to establish an allocation system for water and wastewater servicing for lands that are subject to a draft plan of subdivision. Bill 185 proposes to repeal this provision of the *Planning Act* and give municipalities the authority to pass by-laws to create a policy for water and servicing capacity, which may include the tracking of water and wastewater servicing capacity for approved developments and establishing criteria for the allocation to future development applications.^[1] Bill 185 proposes to replace this policy in the *Planning Act* and to add a new section 86.1 to Part III (Specific Municipal Powers) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.^[2]
- These changes will empower municipalities to shift servicing allocation that will deliver the development of homes and employment growth opportunities faster. Furthermore, it provides more transparency on the expectations of servicing for future development applications.

Elimination of Parking Standards in Protected Major Transit Station Areas to Provide More Flexibility

- Proposed changes to the *Planning Act* will include prohibiting municipalities from setting parking minimums in Protected Major Transit Station Areas (PMTSAs). This would allow the market and developers the ability to decide the parking requirements in PMTSAs based on market needs.^[3] This could provide opportunities to increase housing yields in PMTSAs and possibly reduce development costs through potentially lower parking requirements.

A New Minister's Zoning Orders (MZO) Framework

- To provide better transparency at the provincial level, the Province has established a framework setting out how requests for zoning orders will be received and considered. The framework includes intake thresholds, submission requirements, and a process for Ministry assessment and decision-making. The intake requirements would need to demonstrate that the MZO delivers on a provincial priority that is supported by an Ontario government ministry and/or is supported by a single-tier or lower-tier municipality through a municipal council resolution or a letter from a mayor with strong mayor powers. Formal input from upper-tier municipal councils is excluded from the intake requirements. Submission requirements that should be provided with an application include a rationale on why the project requires ministerial zoning relief rather than following

^[1] Based on interpretation by McMillan LLP, Introducing Bill 185, the Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, and an Update on the New Provincial Planning Statement, April 17, 2024.

^[2] Bill 185, Schedule 9 (*Municipal Act, 2001*).

^[3] Bill 185, Schedule 12, section 2.



municipal planning processes; a description of consultation with the public and engagement with Indigenous communities; and information related to how and when servicing (water/wastewater) will be addressed.^[1]

- While the applicant is required to demonstrate that it supports provincial priorities and/or local council support, the MZO framework does not require an applicant to support the need for the application in consideration of existing urban land supply opportunities, the status of other applications within municipalities, or forecast demand for housing within an established planning horizon. Provincial priorities established in the framework are very broad and include addressing housing and economic development opportunities which would not limit many applications, if any.
- We continue to support the recommendations provided to the Province by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to improve the MZO framework that would include MZOs being used in collaboration with municipalities and use MZOs only in situations of extraordinary urgency.^[2]

Remove the Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator Tool from the Planning Act

- The proposed changes would include removing the Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator (CHIA) tool (brought in under Bill 109) from the *Planning Act*.^[3] Instead of the CHIA tool, municipalities can rely on the new MZO framework that provides clarity on how MZO requests from municipalities will be received and considered going forward.
- Proposed transition rules will be provided to permit CHIA orders that have been made to date to continue functioning as municipal zoning by-laws.

Enhance and Expand Municipal Planning Data Regulation (O. Reg. 73/23) to Include 21 Additional Municipalities (50 Municipalities in Total)

- On April 6, 2023, Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 73/23: Municipal Planning Data Reporting (as part of Bill 109), came into effect. This regulation requires 29 municipalities in Ontario to report information on planning matters to the Ministry on a quarterly and annual basis. The 29 municipalities have already provided reporting on a quarterly basis. Under Bill 185, this would be expanded to 50 municipalities.^[4]

^[1] Province of Ontario – Zoning Order Framework, retrieved online: [Zoning order framework | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca), accessed April 19, 2024.

^[2] Association of Municipalities of Ontario, retrieved online: [Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 | AMO](https://www.amo.on.ca), accessed April 19, 2024.

^[3] *Planning Act*, section, 34.1.

^[4] Environmental Registry of Ontario, ERO 019-8368, Proposed Amendments to Ontario Regulation 73/23: Municipal Planning Data Reporting.



- The reporting requirements include preparing a standardized summary table that outlines key statistics on planning applications for each quarterly report (e.g., total number of submissions, decisions) and documenting changes to settlement area boundaries, Employment Area conversions, and major transit station areas (MTSAs) on an annual basis. Providing geospatial data that identifies designated serviced land supply is also required as part of the reporting. The additional 21 municipalities would be required to publish this summary on their respective municipal webpages and update the summary each quarter, beginning October 1, 2024.^[1]
- It is our opinion that this regulation change is a key step forward in setting minimum standards for municipalities in reporting land supply. This also provides an opportunity for the municipalities to build upon these provincial requirements and proactively track and monitor growth, which will better empower municipalities in making informed decisions on planning for growth.

Enhancing and Broadening the Framework for Additional Residential Units

- Under subsection 35.1 (2) of the *Planning Act*, the Minister is authorized to make regulations regarding Additional Residential Units (ARUs) by establishing requirements and standards with respect to a second or third residential unit in a detached house, semi-detached house, or rowhouse, as well as a residential unit in a building or structure ancillary to such a house.
- Bill 185 proposes to broaden provisions to allow the Minister to regulate any ARUs in an existing home (as noted above) or ancillary structure for the purposes of an ARU. If approved, the Minister will have a new regulation-making power to remove zoning barriers to accommodate ARU developments which may include maximum lot coverage and limits on the number of bedrooms allowed per lot.^[2]

2. Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, 2024

In 2023, the Province set in motion consultation on a Provincial Planning Statement (PPS, 2023) that proposes to integrate the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020 (PPS, 2020) and A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Growth Plan) into a single document. The proposed PPS, 2023 was released for public comment in April 2023 and was introduced as part of Bill 97 – *the Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act*. On April 10, 2024, the Province posted another draft of the PPS. Based on a review by Watson, we note that the PPS, 2024 is not significantly different than the previous PPS, 2023. There are, however, more parameters, additional guidance, and strengthening of policies related to the management of growth

^[1] Ontario Regulation 73/23 filed April 6, 2023, under *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13.

^[2] Bill 185, Schedule 12, section 9.



relative to the proposed PPS, 2023. Provided below are key highlights of the proposed PPS, 2024 with a key focus on growth management in Ontario. Some of the highlights below include policies that are proposed to be carried forward from the PPS, 2023.

A Flexible Growth Forecast Horizon

Compared to the PPS, 2020, the proposed PPS, 2024 provides a more flexible horizon for planning for growth by providing a planning horizon with a minimum of 20 years and a maximum of 30 years. Similar to the proposed PPS, 2023, “planning for infrastructure, public service facilities, strategic growth areas and employment areas may extend beyond this time horizon.”^[1] Based on our interpretation of the proposed PPS, 2024, this would suggest that municipalities are to designate land to accommodate growth over a 20- or 30-year period, with the opportunity to designate additional land beyond the 30-year time horizon for Employment Areas.

Initial Direction on Growth Forecasting

The proposed PPS, 2024 notes that “planning authorities shall base population and employment growth forecasts on Ministry of Finance (MOF) 25-year projections and may modify projections, as appropriate”^[2] (underlining added). It is our interpretation that municipalities are not required to utilize the MOF forecasts and that they are not meant to replace long-term forecasting by municipalities. It is important to note that the MOF population forecasts are provided at the Census division level only, which typically represents upper-tier municipalities, including separated municipalities (e.g., the City of Stratford and the Town of St. Marys are included with the County of Perth Census Division) and large urban single-tier municipalities. The MOF does not provide forecasts at the area municipal level.^[3] Furthermore, the most recent Summer 2023 MOF forecast provides growth estimates to the year 2046. Subsection 2.1.3 of the proposed PPS, 2024 states that urban land needs can be calculated up to 30 years. As such, current MOF forecasts would need to be extended from 2046 to 2054 to accommodate a full 30-year planning horizon. It is our interpretation that the use of the MOF forecasts is not meant to replace long-term forecasting by municipalities but the forecasts are to be used as a starting place in establishing forecasts and testing the reasonableness of alternative regional forecasts and area municipal growth allocations, a practice that Watson currently carries out.

Municipalities within the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GGH) are required to continue to use forecasts issued by the Province through Schedule 3 of the Growth Plan until more

^[1] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.1.3, p. 6

^[2] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.1.1, p. 6

^[3] Census division is the general term for provincially legislated areas (such as municipality, county, region or district) or their equivalents. Census divisions are intermediate geographic areas between the province/territory level and the municipality (Census subdivision).



current forecasts are available to 2051, as informed by guidance provided by the Province.^[2] Forecasts established in Schedule 3 of the Growth Plan and the allocation of growth by lower-tier municipality are to be considered minimum growth forecasts. It is unknown at this time whether this policy of growth forecasts as minimums will be carried forward. We anticipate that future guidance documents will provide direction on this matter.

It should be noted that the proposed PPS, 2024 encourages growth management undertaken by municipalities to be coordinated with adjacent planning authorities when planning is not conducted by an upper-tier municipality.^[3] We envision the need for local municipalities, where planning is not conducted by an upper-tier municipality, to include a consultation process or technical advisory group comprising representatives of adjacent municipalities when conducting Official Plan Reviews and other related comprehensive planning studies.

Minster's Zoning Orders (MZOs) are Considered in Addition to Projected Needs

According to the proposed PPS, 2024, MZOs are to be treated as "in addition to projected needs" over the planning horizon. In planning for MZOs lands, the proposed PPS, 2024 states these lands must be incorporated into the Official Plan and related infrastructure plans.^[4] Since MZO lands are not tied to an assessment of need, it is recommended that when planning for these lands the timing of their buildout is not held to a targeted minimum or maximum planning horizon. As such, it is recognized that full development of MZOs may or may not extend beyond the 30-year maximum planning horizon set out in the proposed PPS, 2024, subject to anticipated economic growth and real estate market demand within the municipality and the broader economic region over the horizon of the plan. It is our opinion that the timing of development regarding approved MZOs should be established through provincial and local phasing policies, municipal servicing plans, and reviewed through regular monitoring.

Providing for an Appropriate Range and Mix of Housing Options

Similar to the proposed PPS, 2023, under subsection 2.1.4 of the proposed PPS, 2024 planning authorities are to:

- a) maintain at all times the ability to accommodate residential growth for a minimum of 15 years through lands which are designated and available for residential development; and

^[2] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.1, p. 6; and Environmental Registry of Ontario, ERO 019-8462: Review of proposed policies for a new provincial planning policy instrument.

^[3] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 6.2.10, p. 36.

^[4] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.1.1, p. 6.



- b) maintain at all times where new development is to occur, land with servicing capacity to provide at least a three-year supply of residential units available through lands suitably zoned, including units in draft approved registered plans.

We recommend that where planning authorities have established minimum targets for intensification and redevelopment, these targets are considered in the assessment of proposed PPS, 2024 policy 2.1.4. a) and b).

Subsection 2.1.5 of the proposed PPS, 2024 identifies that where planning is conducted by an upper-tier municipality, the land and unit supply maintained by the lower-tier municipality shall be based on and reflect the allocation of population and units by the upper-tier municipality. This policy emphasizes the need for urban land and housing needs to be assessed at the local municipal level within two-tier planning systems.

Anticipated Guidance Documents on Growth Forecasting and Land Needs

We anticipate that the Province will release a guidance document on projecting growth and associated land requirements.^[5] On March 12, 2024, the Province re-opened a proposal on Environmental Registry Ontario (ERO) for A Proposed Approach to Update the Projection Methodology Guideline.^[6] This proposal was initially posted in June 2021 following the release of the PPS, 2020. As noted in the ERO proposal summary, the last provincial guidance document on growth projections and land needs for the entire Province was provided in 1995. The 1995 Projection Methodology has been generally used by Watson as a source of best practice for growth forecasting. Since 1995, the Province released a Land Needs Assessment Methodology for the GGH with a few updates.^[7] This document has since been used as a best practice for projecting growth and urban land needs across the GGH.

It should be noted that the Province has not yet updated the document entitled, "Proposed Approach to Implementation of the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement" which accompanied the proposed PPS, 2023 in April 2023.

^[5] The ERO 019-2346 proposal summary notes that "Guidance for projecting population and related land requirements may be updated after finalization of the proposed Provincial Planning Statement to reflect final policy direction and considering feedback received."

^[6] Environmental Registry of Ontario, ERO 019-2346, A Proposed Approach to Update the Projection Methodology Guideline.

^[7] The last update to the methodology came into effect on August 28, 2020. The proposed PPS plans to combined both the PPS and the Growth Plan and if approved, this document would no longer be in force.



No Significant Policy Change and Approach to Planning for Affordable Housing

The proposed PPS, 2024 carries forward a similar definition of affordable housing as established in the PPS, 2020. The definition of affordable housing in the proposed PPS, 2024, however, is based on the municipality instead of the regional market area as defined in the PPS, 2020. The definition of affordable housing was notably missing in the proposed PPS, 2023. Additionally, the proposed PPS, 2024 carries forward the requirement of “establishing and implementing minimum targets for the provision of housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income households.”^[9] The proposed PPS, 2024 does not address the issue of attainable housing, an issue that was also lacking in the PPS, 2020.

Settlement Areas Remain Focus of Growth and Development

The proposed PPS, 2024 identifies that settlement areas shall be the focus of growth and development. Within settlement areas, where applicable, growth should be focused in Strategic Growth Areas (SGAs), including Major Transit Station Areas (MTSAs), and that planning authorities shall support general intensification and redevelopment to promote the achievement of complete communities. Planning authorities are encouraged to establish and implement minimum targets for intensification and development within built-up areas, based on local conditions. Planning authorities are also encouraged to establish density targets for designated growth areas, based on local conditions. Large and fast-growing municipalities are encouraged to plan for a target of 50 residents and jobs per gross hectare in designated growth areas. Large and fast-growing municipalities are identified in Schedule 1 of the proposed PPS, 2024.

Based on our experience, all large and fast-growing municipalities are anticipated to achieve average densities in designated growth areas above 50 residents and jobs per gross hectare. Accordingly, it is recommended that this density target is considered a minimum.

Identifying New Settlement Areas and Settlement Area Boundary Expansions

According to the proposed PPS, 2024, Settlement Area Boundary Expansion (SABE) is allowed at any time and without the requirement of a Municipal Comprehensive Review or Comprehensive Review, provided that all PPS policies under subsection 2.3.4 are considered.^[10] Furthermore, the policies allow for a simplified and flexible approach for municipalities to undertake a SABE which would require a demonstrated need for urban expansion. It should be noted that the criteria in the proposed PPS, 2024 has been expanded compared to the proposed PPS, 2023. Additionally, the language has

^[9] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.2.1, p. 7.

^[10] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.3.4, p. 7. Under the A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019 and the PPS, 2020, SABEs were permitted only through a Municipal Comprehensive Review.



changed from “should consider” in the proposed PPS, 2023 to “shall consider” in the proposed PPS, 2024. The proposed PPS, 2024 does carry over the concept of demonstrating the need for additional land as identified in the PPS, 2020 which was not included in the proposed PPS, 2023.

While the proposed PPS, 2024 does not require a prescriptive approach to determining the need for expansion as provided in the Growth Plan or the PPS, 2020, it does require municipalities to consider infrastructure needs and the phased progression of growth. Furthermore, for new settlement areas, the proposed PPS, 2024 adds a stand-alone policy requiring municipalities to demonstrate that the infrastructure and public service facilities are planned or available for new settlement areas.^[11]

We recommend that a policy is added to subsection 2.3.2.1 of the proposed PPS 2024 that identifies where planning authorities have established minimum targets for intensification and redevelopment within built-up areas and that implementation of these targets shall be considered prior to identifying the need for new settlement areas.

Planning for Growth in Major Transit Station Areas

Under the proposed PPS, 2024, intensification policies have become less prescriptive compared to the PPS, 2020, with a focus on encouraging rather than setting out requirements. As previously noted, according to the proposed PPS, 2024, planning authorities are encouraged (rather than required) to establish minimum targets for intensification and redevelopment within their respective built-up areas. Targets for intensification are encouraged in MTSAs and all municipalities (i.e., not just large and fast-growing municipalities as identified in the proposed PPS, 2023) shall plan to meet minimum density targets.^[12] Minimum density targets for MTSAs are based on the transit service level:

- a) 200 residents and jobs combined per hectare for those that are served by subways;
- b) 160 residents and jobs combined per hectare for those that are served by light rail or bus rapid transit; or
- c) 150 residents and jobs combined per hectare for those that are served by commuter or regional rail.^[13]

[11] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.3.2, p. 8.

[12] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.2.3.1.4, p. 8

[13] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.2.3.1.4, p. 8



Expanded Scope of Strategic Growth Areas, but No Targets on Density

The proposed PPS, 2024 carries over the concept of SGAs from the proposed PPS, 2023. The concept of SGAs was initially introduced in the Growth Plan. According to the proposed PPS, 2024, SGAs include:

major transit station areas, existing and emerging downtowns, lands adjacent to publicly assisted post-secondary institutions and other areas where growth or development will be focused, that may include infill, redevelopment (e.g., underutilized shopping malls and plazas), brownfield sites, the expansion or conversion of existing buildings, or greyfields. Lands along major roads, arterials, or other areas with existing or planned frequent transit service or higher order transit corridors may also be identified as strategic growth areas.^[14]

The proposed PPS, 2024 expands on the description of SGAs to include a greater range of site areas focused for infill and redevelopment, such as underutilized shopping malls and plazas, suggesting that SGAs may include a range of site sizes, with an expanded focus on non-residential sites. It is important to note that, unlike the proposed PPS, 2023, the proposed PPS, 2024 encourages all municipalities (i.e., not just the large and fast-growing municipalities) to focus growth and development in SGAs to achieve higher density outcomes.

Other than minimum density targets for MTSAs, minimum density targets for other SGAs have not been carried forward from the proposed PPS, 2023 and the Growth Plan. Furthermore, Urban Growth Centres, a component of SGAs set out in the proposed PPS, 2023 and the Growth Plan, have not been carried forward in the proposed PPS, 2024. Instead, the proposed PPS, 2024 provides more simplified direction to plan for downtowns as SGAs.

A Narrow Definition of Employment Area

The proposed PPS, 2024 includes an updated definition of Employment Area based on the amendment of the *Planning Act* on June 8, 2023. The *Planning Act* was amended under subsection 1 (1) to include a new definition of "area of employment." The amendment to the *Planning Act* received Royal Assent as part of Bill 97 on June 8, 2023. The definition change in the *Planning Act* would require proclamation before it becomes in effect.

Under the new definition of Employment Area, municipalities are required to plan for, and protect, industrial uses based on a more narrowly scoped definition of Employment Area and are limited to these uses that are primarily industrial in nature or other uses associated or ancillary to the primary use. Employment Area lands and uses that do not

[14] Proposed PPS, 2024, definitions, p. 53.



meet the definition of Employment Area should be removed from Employment Areas. Lands that do not meet the Employment Area definition would not be subject to provincial Employment Area protection policies and would allow for opportunities for residential and other non-employment uses.^[15]

In light of the definition change of Employment Area, a key concern for municipalities will be their ability to provide an urban structure that will support employment uses outside of Employment Areas, particularly non-retail commercial and institutional uses (e.g. office uses, training and education, entertainment, wholesale trade and service repair centres). Traditionally, Employment Areas have been regarded as areas protected for key targeted employment sectors, especially those in the export-based sectors.

As previously discussed, municipalities are allowed to forecast beyond a 30-year period for Employment Areas.^[16] Furthermore, it should be noted that the Provincially Significant Employment Zones identified in the Growth Plan are not proposed to be carried forward. The Province has suggested in the PPS, 2024 proposal summary that the policies in the PPS are sufficient for protection for Employment Areas.^[17]

Unlocking Residential Opportunities on Non-Residential Lands and Supporting Mixed-Uses

The proposed PPS, 2024 requires that municipalities unlock more opportunities for housing, stating that municipalities should support redevelopment of commercially designated retail lands (e.g., underutilized shopping malls and plazas) to support mixed-use residential.^[18] Furthermore, the proposed PPS, 2024 notes that Employment Areas that do not meet the definition of Employment Area, referred to as “employment outside of Employment Areas” should support a diverse mix of land uses, including residential uses.^[19] These lands generally would include office business parks, commercial and institutional lands, and employment lands that do not meet the definition of Employment Area. It is also suggested that specific industrial, manufacturing, and small-scale warehousing uses that do not require separation from sensitive land uses are to be encouraged to locate in mixed-use areas or SGAs where frequent transit service is available, outside of Employment Areas.^[20] Again, under the proposed policy framework, municipalities are anticipated to face greater long-term challenges regarding their ability to strike a balance in accommodating mixed-use development and ensuring an adequate supply of non-residential lands to support employment uses outside of

[15] Proposed PPS, 2024, definitions, p. 34.

[16] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.1.3, p. 6.

[17] Environmental Registry of Ontario, ERO 019-8462, Review of Proposed Policies for a New Provincial Planning Policy Instrument, Proposal Summary, Section 2.

[18] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.4.1.3, p. 9.

[19] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.8.1.3, p. 13.

[20] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.1.8.2, p. 11.



Employment Areas, especially with increasing market pressure to accommodate residential development.

Employment Area Conversions Referred to as Removals of Employment Areas

The proposed PPS, 2024 carries forward similar policies on conversions provided in the proposed PPS, 2023. Under the proposed PPS, 2024, municipalities are provided with greater control over Employment Area conversions (now referred to as Employment Area removals) with the ability to remove lands from Employment Areas at any time. Previously, under the PPS, 2020 and the Growth Plan, municipalities were required to review changes to designated Employment Areas during a Municipal Comprehensive Review or Comprehensive Review. Under the proposed PPS, 2024, municipalities are required to demonstrate that there is an identified need for the removal and the land is not required for Employment Area uses over the long term. Furthermore, the Employment Area removal requires consideration of the impact of the produced use on the function of the Employment Area and whether existing infrastructure and public facilities can accommodate the proposed use.^[23]

It is important to recognize that the definition change may result in already developed Employment Area lands not meeting the definition. Based on the proposed PPS, 2024 emphasis on supporting mixed uses, going forward, municipalities will need to assess whether existing Employment Areas meet the new provincial definition and identify areas that should transition into mixed-use areas. While municipalities are required to plan Employment Areas according to the new definition, existing uses that were legally established prior to the *Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023* came into force are allowed the continuation of use, regardless of whether the use meets the definition change.^[24]

Planning for Growth in the Rural Area Directed to Rural Settlement Areas

Compared to the PPS, 2020, the proposed PPS, 2024 does not significantly change the direction of growth within rural areas. As noted in the proposed PPS, 2024, in rural areas, rural settlement areas “shall be the focus of growth and development and their vitality and regeneration shall be promoted.”^[28] A key update in the proposed PPS, 2024 includes permitting more housing on farms to support farmers, farm families, and farm workers without creating new lots (enhanced policy and criteria supporting additional units).^[29] Unlike the proposed PPS, 2023, the proposed PPS, 2024 does not carry forth policies that would have permitted lot creation in prime agricultural areas.

^[23] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.8.2.4, p. 12.

^[24] *Planning Act*, Schedule 6, section 1 (2).

^[28] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.5.2, p. 11.

^[29] Environmental Registry of Ontario, ERO 019-8462, Review of Proposed Policies for a New Provincial Planning Policy Instrument, Proposal Summary, section 1.



No New Direction on Planning for Rural Employment Areas

The proposed PPS, 2024 identifies that development within rural areas needs to be assessed within the rural context in terms of the scale of servicing and character.^[30] No further direction is provided with respect to development within existing or new Rural Employment Areas. Under subsection 2.2.9.5 of the Growth Plan, the Province provided a framework for Rural Employment Area expansions. The framework identified that expansion of Employment Areas outside settlement areas on rural lands that were designated for employment uses may only be permitted if necessary to support the immediate needs of existing business and if compatible with the surrounding uses.^[31] The proposed PPS, 2024 does not carry forward this policy. Based on the proposed PPS, 2024, it appears that expansion of Rural Employment Areas in the GGH is no longer subjected to the policies that prohibited the creation of new Employment Areas in the rural areas.

New Emphasis in Planning for Public Service Facilities

The proposed PPS, 2024 includes a new definition of public service facilities and requires a greater emphasis on coordination with public service providers, as well as planning for emergency management services, health care institutions, schools and post-secondary institutions.^[32] It is noted that municipalities can plan beyond a 30-year period for public service facilities.^[33]

Consideration of a Student Housing Strategy

The proposed PPS, 2024 recognizes the importance of planning for a post-secondary population, especially in municipalities with a post-secondary institution. This is the first time that provincial planning policy has acknowledged the need to consider student housing needs. The word "student" is not mentioned at all in the PPS, 2020. The proposed policies in the PPS, 2024 would require municipalities to collaborate with publicly assisted post-secondary institutions on the development of a student housing strategy that includes consideration of off-campus housing targeted to students.^[34]

^[30] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.5.2, p. 10.

^[31] A Place to Grow, Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, Office Consolidation, policy 2.2.9.5, p. 28.

^[32] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 3.1, p. 16.

^[33] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 2.1.3, p. 6.

^[34] Proposed PPS, 2024, policy 6.2.6, p. 35.

A14



3. Summary Comments on the Proposed Amendments and the PPS, 2024

Watson will be providing a submission through the ERO on these legislative changes. We will continue to monitor the progress of Bill 185 through the legislature, including any guidance documents on implementation, and will continue to keep our clients informed of any changes. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours very truly,

WATSON & ASSOCIATES ECONOMISTS LTD.

Jamie Cook, MCIP, RPP, PLE, Managing Partner

Andrew Grunda, MBA, CPA, CMA, Principal

Peter Simcisko, BA (Hons), MBE, Managing Partner

Sean-Michael Stephen, MBA, Managing Partner

Daryl Abbs, MBE, PLE, Managing Partner

Jack Ammendolia, BES, PLE, Managing Partner

76

Sarah Corbett

Subject: FW: Simcoe Area Planners Meeting -- Bill 185 & Proposed PPS2024
Attachments: PRES Simcoe Area Planners Spring 2024 Prov Changes.pptx

From: Samuel Haniff <shaniff@essatownship.on.ca>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 12:11 PM
To: Michael Mikael <mmikael@essatownship.on.ca>; Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatownship.on.ca>
Cc: Sarah Corbett <scorbett@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: FW: Simcoe Area Planners Meeting -- Bill 185 & Proposed PPS2024

Could this presentation be added to the Consent agenda for next week?

Thanks,
Sam

From: Westendorp, Nathan <Nathan.Westendorp@simcoe.ca>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 4:39 PM
To:
Subject: RE: Simcoe Area Planners Meeting -- Bill 185 & Proposed PPS2024

Hi Everyone,

As promised, attached is the presentation from this morning.

For those of you who have expressed a desire to collaborate on some further discussion to support a joint submission on key common elements, we will connect with you early next week.

Have a great weekend.

Cheers,

Nathan Westendorp, MCIP RPP
Director of Planning/Chief Planner
County of Simcoe - Planning Department

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Westendorp, Nathan
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 10:25 AM
To:
Subject: Simcoe Area Planners Meeting -- Bill 185 & Proposed PPS2024
When: Friday, April 19, 2024 9:00 AM-11:00 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hi Everyone,

A15

This meeting is being offered as an opportunity to review of the highlights of Bill 185 & the proposed Provincial Planning Statement 2024 together (particularly for those who haven't quite been able to finish reviewing it). We hope it will be a good venue for group discussion as well. Please feel free to invite planning staff as available.

AGENDA

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Overview of Bill 185/Provincial Planning Statement (2024)
3. Impacts & Unknowns (MCR, Bill 23, COPA 7, etc.)
4. General Discussion & Roundtable
5. Next Steps

78



Spring 2024 – Provincial Planning Changes

Simcoe Area Planners Meeting
April 19, 2024

79

Introduction

- The Province introduced Bill 185 “Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act” on April 10, 2024. This is the tenth significant bill to impact land use planning since 2021.
 - [Proposed Planning Act, City of Toronto Act, 2006, and Municipal Act, 2001 Changes \(Schedules 4, 9, and 12 of Bill 185 - the proposed Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024\)](#)
 - [Proposed Changes to Regulations under the Planning Act and Development Charges Act, 1997 Relating to the Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 \(Bill 185\): Newspaper Notice Requirements and Consequential Housekeeping Changes](#)
 - [Changes to the Development Charges Act, 1997 to Enhance Municipalities’ Ability to Invest in Housing-Enabling Infrastructure](#)
 - [Review of proposed policies for a new provincial planning policy instrument.](#)
 - [Proposed Regulatory Changes under the Planning Act Relating to the Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 \(Bill 185\): Removing Barriers for Additional Residential Units](#)
 - [Proposed Amendments to Ontario Regulation 73/23: Municipal Planning Data Reporting](#)

80



Planning Act & DC Act Changes

Change to Appeal Rights

- Removal of Third Party Appeals for Official Plan and Zoning Bylaw Amendments
- The proposed change is not limited to applications involving housing approvals. Under previous, recent legislative changes, third party appeals were removed for Plans of Subdivision and Condominium, consents and minor variances. Should the proposed change be approved, the land use planning appeals process in Ontario would transition to primarily addressing disputes between applicants and municipalities.
- Only specified persons would have the ability to appeal
- Reinstates the ability to appeal the refusal of an Official Plan Amendment Application that Proposes a Settlement Area Boundary Expansion. The appeal prohibition was first introduced in 2006.

Discussion: If there was a municipally-initiated change on a private property, would the owner of said property retain an appeal right?



18

A15

Planning Act & DC Act Changes (cont'd)

Removal of Fee Refunds

- Removes a series of fee refunds established by Bill 109 and applied if a municipality did not make a decision within specified time periods.

Update to Notice Requirements

- Changes are proposed to the regulations that govern how notice is given by a municipality to reflect current practices of most municipalities, including on a website if local papers are not available.

Development Charges

- Five-year phase in of increased development charges introduced in Bill 23 revoked.
- The cost of development charge background studies can again be included as a capital costs when calculating the charge.

- Pre-Consultation

- Pre-application consultation with municipalities will be voluntary and not mandatory.

82

Planning Act & DC Act Changes (cont'd)

Parking Standards

- Parking minimums are prohibited in major transit station areas and areas where minimum densities are required by official plans or provincial policies.
- Municipalities permitted to require more than one parking space for primary dwelling unit

Note: but only if those policies are required to be included in the OP to conform with a provincial plan or be consistent with a policy statement issued under subsection 3(1)

§3

Minister Zoning Orders/Community Infrastructure Housing Accelerators

- New framework in place for requesting an MZO including criteria that will consider provincial priorities. The Community Infrastructure Housing Accelerator process introduced by Bill 23 is proposed to be repealed.

Planning Act & DC Act Changes (cont'd)

“Use it or Lose it”

- Developments with approved site plans which do not pull permits within a period of time can have their approvals withdrawn. The time period will be set by regulation, with a default of no less than three years if a regulation does not apply.
- Draft plans of subdivisions will also have mandatory lapsing provisions, with the time frames to be set by regulation.
- Municipalities will be given the authority to enact by-laws under the Municipal Act to track water supply and sewage capacity, and to set criteria for when an approved development can have their allocation withdrawn.
- Draft plans of subdivisions that were approved before March 27, 1995 will lapse if not registered within three years of the bill passing.

84

Planning Act & DC Act Changes (cont'd)

Additional Residential Units

- The minister is proposed to be given a new regulation-making power to remove zoning barriers for small multi-unit residential developments. In addition to restricting parking requirements (Bill 23), the regulation could address matters such as setbacks, lot coverage, angular planes, etc.

Facilitating Standardized Housing Designs

- Create regulation-making authority that would enable:
 - The establishment of criteria to facilitate planning approvals for standardized housing.
 - The proposed changes would only apply on certain specified lands, of a minimum lot size, such as urban residential lands with full municipal servicing outside of the Greenbelt Area.
 - The identification of elements of the Planning Act and/or City of Toronto Act, 2006 that could be overridden and/or certain planning barriers that could be removed if the criteria are met.

Planning Act & DC Act Changes (cont'd)

Upper-Tier Planning Responsibilities

- Provide flexibility for bringing the changes to remove planning responsibilities from specified upper-tier municipalities into force separately.
- Identify July 1, 2024 as the effective date of the upper-tier planning changes for Peel Region, Halton Region and York Region.
- The upper-tier planning changes for the remaining four municipalities (i.e., Waterloo, Durham and Niagara Regions, and Simcoe County) would come into force upon proclamation, at some point in the future.

Expedited Approval Process for Community Service Facility Projects

- Create regulation-making authority to enable a streamlined approvals pathway for prescribed class(es) of “community service facility” projects (public schools K-12, hospitals and long-term care facilities) that support the creation of complete communities.

Exempt Universities from the Planning Act

- Exempt publicly-assisted universities from the Planning Act and planning provisions of the City of Toronto Act, 2006 for university-led student housing projects on- and off-campus.

Municipal Act Changes

Red Tape Reduction - Supporting Municipal Incentives for Economic Growth

- Currently, the Municipal Act, 2001 and City of Toronto Act, 2006 prohibit municipalities from providing direct or indirect assistance to any manufacturing, industrial or commercial businesses.
- MMAH is proposing legislative amendments to the Municipal Act, 2001 and City of Toronto Act, 2006 to streamline the province's process for granting exemptions to municipalities from this prohibition to support provincial investment attraction.
- Specifically, a proposed Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) regulation-making authority would allow the LGIC to authorize a municipality to provide assistance to a particular recipient (i.e., allow a municipality to provide specified assistance to a prescribed recipient, despite certain statutory limits), if the LGIC was of the opinion that it is necessary or desirable in the provincial interest to attract investment in Ontario.
- Establishing a targeted, streamlined exemption process that enables the LGIC to make regulations to support provincial investment attraction would help make Ontario nimble in competing for investment, while still helping to ensure the province safeguards the fiscal health of municipalities.



Other Proposed Legislative Changes

Conservation Authorities Act Changes, Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits

• Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act were made by Bill 129 (Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017) and under Bill 23 (More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022). Ontario Regulation 41/24 now implements the changes proposed and has the following key effects:

1. Regulations – It appears Conservation Authorities are no longer able to make regulations in respect to lands.
2. New Exceptions -- Certain low-risk development activities are now exempt from requiring permissions from CA's including small seasonal or floating docks, fences, erosion control structures and non-habitable structures.

Specific exemptions for certain development activity from requiring a permit where it is in accordance with the CA Regulation or is part of development authorized under the Planning Act and satisfies such conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed for obtaining the exception and on carrying out the activity.

3. Limits the conditions which may be attached to CA Permits.
4. Restricts development within 30m from wetland (reduced from previous limit of 120 m).



Related Regulatory Changes

- O. Reg 73/23: Municipal Planning Data Reporting
 - Expand list of municipalities from 29 to 50
 - BWG, Innisfil, New Tecumseth
 - Update information required to report to improve data
- Building Code
 - Harmonization with National Building Code for some matters
 - Increased permission for Encapsulated Mass Timber Construction from 12 storeys to 18 storeys



Provincial Planning Statement (2024) – Highlights

Agriculture

- Removed proposed lot creation policy in Prime Agricultural Areas.
- Directs that two (2) Additional Residential Units are permitted where residence is permitted use in Prime Agricultural Area (Section 4.3.2.5.)
- Amended criteria for surplus dwelling to clarify that detached ARU can't be severed as second surplus;
- Addition of 'battery storage' as an example of a "land-extensive energy facility' under the "On-farm Diversified Use' definition.

91

DISCUSSION – Need clarity RE: severance of surplus dwelling cluster (i.e. Primary + ARU's)?

Mineral Aggregate

- New language for Extraction in Prime Agricultural Area (4.5.4)
Complete rehabilitation to an agricultural condition is not required if a) the depth of planned extraction makes restoration of pre-extraction agricultural capability unfeasible; and b) agricultural rehabilitation in remaining areas is maximized.

Provincial Planning Statement (2024) – Highlights

Natural Environment

- Removal of reference to Provincial direction for Natural Hazards (5.2) including hazardous lands adjacent to the shoreline of the Great Lakes – St Lawrence River System, adjacent to river, stream and small inland lake systems which are impacted by flooding hazards and/or erosion hazards; and, hazardous sites.
- Little to no changes identified for Natural Heritage

Water

- Enhanced direction for stormwater management planning (Section 3.6.8)
 - *“align with any comprehensive municipal plans for stormwater management that consider cumulative impacts of stormwater from development on a watershed scale”.*
- New definition ‘sensitive surface water features (4.2.2.)’
 - Addresses ‘water withdrawals and addition of pollutants’.

Discussion: Responsibility for watershed planning shifting more of a CA role to more of a municipal role. Short/long term ramifications?



92

A15

Provincial Planning Statement (2024) – Highlights

Urban

- 93
- Amended criteria for Settlement Area Boundary Expansions
 - New criteria including avoiding impacts on the ‘agricultural system’, need for agricultural impact assessments, and providing for phased progression of urban development.
 - Removed all references to ‘comprehensive reviews’ (Section 2.3.2.)
 - Population and employment growth forecasts required to be based on Ministry of Finance 25-year projections in the future (Section 2.1.1)
 - Planning horizon shifted from 25 years to “at least 20 years but not more than 30 years” (Section 2.1.3.)
 - Planning for infrastructure, public service facilities, strategic growth areas, and employment areas may extend beyond 30 years; MZO’s are in addition to forecasts until next OP update
 - Revised Housing Section (Section 2.2)
 - Requires that all housing options be permitted and facilitated, including ‘additional needs housing’. New support for redevelopment of underutilized commercial and institutional sites (eg. shopping malls) and mixed use areas.
 - Strategic Growth Areas (Section 2.4)
 - New definition and section to promote intensification of defined geographic areas within settlement areas.
 - Enhanced direction to protect Employment Areas (industrial uses) (Section 2.8.2.3)
 - New settlement areas may be identified subject to meeting criteria

DISCUSSION – Thoughts on suggested changes to how and when S.A boundaries are changed? New

Wrap-Up & Next Steps

- Timing of County Response
- Roundtable of Local reports/comments
- Coordinated Submission?
- Impact on County MCR (Boundary Expansion work, etc.)



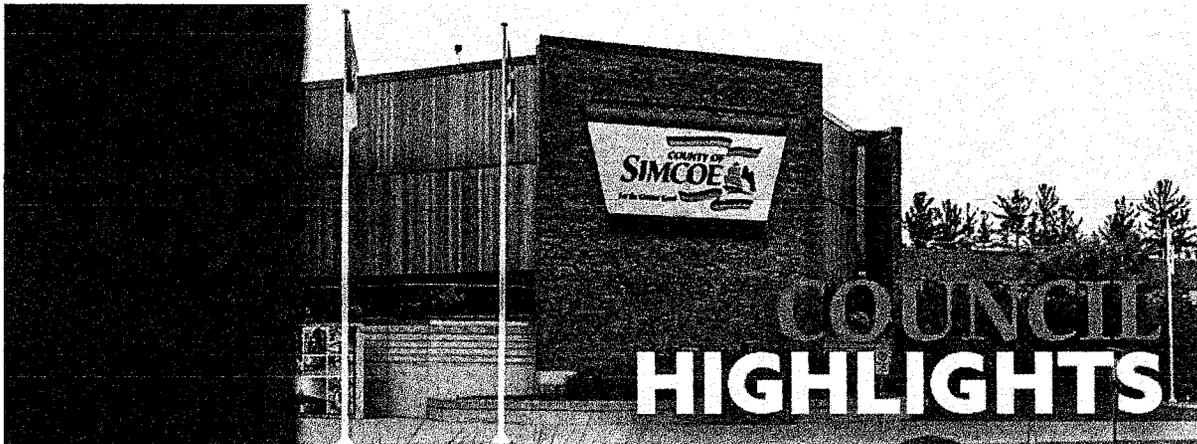
hb

AK

Lisa Lehr

From: County Of Simcoe Communications <Communications@simcoe.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 11:47 AM
To: Lisa Lehr
Subject: County Council Highlights - Meeting Held April 9, 2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed



Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based on approved material from within the associated agenda packages, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agendas from the **Council Meeting on March 26, 2024** and the **Committee of the Whole Meeting on April 9, 2024**. For more information on any item covered in the Highlights, each article is hyperlinked to the appropriate report, which can be accessed by clicking on the title. Images are also linked to relevant resources.

A recording of these sessions is also available for public viewing on the [County's YouTube channel](#).

- Service Simcoe



Solid Waste Management By-law and Set Fines

This provides details regarding the updated Solid Waste Management By-law and associated set fines. Existing by-law 6256 will be replaced in a form similar to the Solid Waste Management By-law. Updates to the by-law include a limit to the quantity of waste (recycling, organics, and special waste materials) collected from a serviced unit per collection event, an update to the Waste Collection Design Standards including cart set out specifications, stipulations for the implementation of service for units in new subdivisions, accessibility accommodations and the establishment of agreements for locations not mandated for collection.

Solid Waste Management by-law officers do not currently have a method to enforce the by-law other than approval by the Director of Solid Waste Management for the removal of service which in many cases is too stringent. Set fines would not be used unless absolutely necessary, however do provide incentive for residents to comply with the by-law and allows for by-law officers to issue a penalty should a resident refuse to comply. The set fines will need to be approved through the Attorney General's office prior to implementation. The Attorney General's Office will review the set fines in comparison with other municipalities to ensure the monetary value set is appropriate.

The approach for the by-law is to educate, rather than punish.

Municipal Insurance Pool

The County of Simcoe, member municipalities and the City of Orillia participated in an insurance pooling feasibility study. The study assessed the feasibility of establishing an insurance pool solution.

In February 2024, Axxima presented the feasibility study results to the participating CAOs and Treasurers. The study showed a positive financial outcome for Simcoe County, all member municipalities and the City of Orillia with a total projected savings of approximately \$2.6M to \$3.7M during the set-up phase and \$4.1 to \$5.2M at maturity.

Given the positive outcome of the feasibility study all participants agreed to take the next step which is to develop a detailed implementation plan. The study results will be used to help determine the organizational structure, administration, program costs and claims handling functions. Additional components to be completed for the implementation plan include:

- Prepare a formal business plan
- Determine which lines of coverage will be included in the pool
- Conduct an RFP to solicit a proposal for excess and/or stop loss protection
- Develop an insurance pooling agreement
- Determine operational requirements
- Determine pool funding allocation
- Design policy wordings
- Present final terms and conditions for council approval

This will take approximately 6-8 months to complete with the assistance of Axxima and the continued involvement of participant member's CAOs, Treasurers and staff. The Implementation Plan is estimated to cost up to \$200,000. Staff are requesting Council approval and financial support to create an Insurance Pool Implementation Plan.

Once completed, staff will return with the proposed Implementation Plan, which if endorsed, will then be presented to each potential participant with a request for commitment.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Funding Opportunity

In fall 2023, Council approved the County's Corporate Climate Action (CCAP) plan which includes recommendations to add fee-for-service electric

Alba

vehicle charging stations to workplace and public facilities to support the transition to electric vehicles.

Staff will include funds in the draft 2025 budget and future budgets to support EV Charger installations at identified locations. Staff also continue to monitor for all CCAP related funding opportunities that may arise.

Staff have three identified locations that would immediately benefit from new EV charging stations:

- Bradford Paramedic Station
- Stayner Station Park
- Washago Public Parking Lot

The scope of the project includes the installation of two Level 3 fast charging stations (Stayner and Washago) and a dual-port Level 2 station at the Bradford Paramedic Station.

With Council approval, staff will proceed with the project at a cost of \$140K in order to avoid supply chain and installation delays. Should funding be approved, 50% of the cost or approximately \$70K will be returned to the General Contingency Reserve.

Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - March 26, 2024

Council Meeting Agenda - April 9, 2024

Follow Us



[EXTERNAL]

98



Release

County of Simcoe, Office of the Warden and CAO
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6
simcoe.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nomination period opens for County of Simcoe Age-Friendly Business and Individual Recognition Awards

Midhurst/April 19, 2024 – The nomination period for the County of Simcoe’s Age-Friendly Business and Age-Friendly Individual Recognition and Achievement Awards is now open until June 30, 2024.

Awards recognize those who have taken action to create more accessible and welcoming age-friendly communities.

This year, the ceremony to recognize all award recipients will be held in the fall.

Age-Friendly Business Recognition Awards

The Age-Friendly Business Recognition Awards celebrate those who have recognized the growing older adult population within Simcoe County (including the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia) and have made progress to improve services for older adults.

Businesses and organizations are encouraged to participate in the Age-Friendly Business Recognition program. Assess your age-friendliness using our Self-Assessment Checklist within the [business/organization guide](#). Those looking to improve their rating can take advantage of in-person and online [County services and resources](#).

Age-Friendly Business Recognition Award winners will receive a one-time complimentary digital marketing package valued at over \$350 (*conditions apply, [click here for full details](#)*) a certificate, decal for their door, along with being recognized through a County press release, social media and on the County website. Complete an Age-friendly Business Recognition [nomination form](#) today.

Age-Friendly Individual Recognition and Achievement Awards

The Age-Friendly Individual Recognition and Achievement Awards recognize Age-Friendly Champions and older adults who have shown an outstanding commitment towards enriching the lives of older adults in their communities. Individuals are invited to submit a [nomination form](#) that will be reviewed by a sub-committee. Visit the [Awards page](#) for more details.

The Age-Friendly Individual Recognition and Achievement Award winners will receive recognition through a County press release, social media and on the County website. They will also receive a framed award certificate.

Quotes

“County Council is committed to building up regional age-friendly initiatives and supporting our communities, individuals and businesses to ensure that we meet the needs of our older adults now and in the future. Please participate and nominate a champion in your community.” - *County of Simcoe Warden Basil Clarke*

“Simcoe County is home to an ever-growing population of older adults, each with unique needs. Through our Age-Friendly Business and Individual Recognition programs, we celebrate the efforts of companies and individuals that have already taken action, while also providing businesses with the

resources they need to learn how they can better meet the needs of older adults throughout the community." – Jane Sinclair, General Manger, Health and Emergency Services, Simcoe County

About the Simcoe County Age-Friendly Community Program

The Age-Friendly Community Program was established in 2016 to increase awareness of the County's aging population and help businesses and organizations evaluate their environment and service delivery. The County continues to provide resources and assessment tools to help organizations implement age-friendly goals and strategies and adapt to our aging population. For more information on our Age-Friendly Community program, Business Guide and Recognition Awards, visit www.simcoe.ca/agefriendly, email agefriendly@simcoe.ca or call 705-726-9300 ext. 3127.

About County of Simcoe

County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at simcoe.ca.

- 30 -

Jennifer Straw
Senior Public Relations Consultant
County of Simcoe, Service Simcoe Department
705-790-5979 (mobile)
Jennifer.Straw@simcoe.ca

Collin Matanowitsch
Manager, Public Relations
County of Simcoe, Service Simcoe Department
705-734-8386 (mobile)
Collin.Matanowitsch@simcoe.ca



Advisory

County of Simcoe, Office of the Warden and CAO
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6
simcoe.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County of Simcoe launches Paramedic for a Day Contest

Midhurst/April 22, 2024 – County of Simcoe Paramedic Services are once again hosting the Paramedic for a Day Contest in commemoration of Paramedic Services Week (May 19 to 25, 2024). Grade 5 and 6 students residing in Simcoe County are asked to write a short essay (maximum 250 words) that speaks to the theme “Help Us Help You”, highlighting the many ways that callers can prepare for a Paramedic to attend a call.

The deadline to enter is May 14, 2024, at 8 p.m. The winning entry will be announced during Paramedic Services Week, with the winner receiving a visit to their home/school from a Paramedic crew, along with an ambulance tour. The crew will also present the winner with a First-Aid Kit and take part in a mock scenario and photo opportunity.

To enter, please email your essay to paramedic4aday@simcoe.ca. Be sure to include the student's name, name of parent/guardian, home phone number, and what school the student attends.

Full contest details can be found at <https://www.simcoe.ca/paramedicforaday>.

The County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at simcoe.ca.

- 30 -

Collin Matanowitsch
Manager, Public Relations
County of Simcoe, Service Simcoe Department
705-734-8386 (mobile)
Collin.Matanowitsch@simcoe.ca

Jennifer Straw
Senior Public Relations Consultant
County of Simcoe, Service Simcoe Department
705-790-5979 (mobile)
Jennifer.Straw@simcoe.ca



Alb d

Release

County of Simcoe, Office of the Warden and CAO
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6
simcoe.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Compost available for purchase at County of Simcoe waste facilities May 6 to May 25, 2024

Midhurst/April 25, 2024 – County of Simcoe residents will once again be able to purchase compost at all [County waste facilities](#) from May 6 to 25, 2024 (excluding residents from the cities of Barrie and Orillia).

Compost is a soil amendment used in gardens to add nutrients, or as top dressing for lawns to help retain moisture and is produced in-house using leaf and yard waste material generated throughout the County of Simcoe. [Learn more about how the County uses your yard waste to make compost.](#)

Compost sales are self-service, and residents should bring their shovels to load bins, truck beds, or trailers. Cost is \$5 per carload or \$20 per truck or trailer load, while quantities last.

Mulch is also available while quantities last at County waste facilities. Mulch can be applied to soil surfaces, around trees, paths, flower beds, slopes and erosion prone areas, and as top dressing for flower and vegetable gardens. Mulch retains moisture, regulates soil temperatures, and suppresses weed growth.

County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at [simcoe.ca](#).

- 30 -

Jennifer Straw
Senior Public Relations Consultant
County of Simcoe, Service Simcoe Branch
705-790-5979 (mobile)
Jennifer.Straw@simcoe.ca

Collin Matanowitsch
Manager, Public Relations
County of Simcoe, Service Simcoe Branch
705-734-8386 (mobile)
Collin.Matanowitsch@simcoe.ca

102



From the Office of the Clerk
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

March 28, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of March 26, 2024 the following resolution regarding support for 'a call to action' to meet the deadline of an Accessible Ontario by 2025 was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-151

DATE: March 26, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

SECONDED BY: Councillor Pennell

WHEREAS the Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act (AODA) is ground-breaking legislation, created to help people with disabilities fully participate in society, bring them to the table in crafting regulations, and build mechanisms to enforce standards;

WHEREAS Rich Donovan, an expert in accessibility issues, was appointed as the Independent Reviewer of the Act in 2022, and in his 2023 legislative review declared a crisis as a necessary catalyst to get Ontario back on track for accessibility;

WHEREAS at least 2.9 million Ontarians currently live with a disability, representing at least 22% of the consumer base and the workforce, but due to barriers, Ontarians with disabilities are too often falling short of their full potential;

WHEREAS the AODA aims to develop, implement and enforce standards related to goods, services, accommodation, employment and buildings before Jan. 1, 2025, and municipalities, as the level of government closest to the people are at the front lines, developing, implementing and enforcing these standards without meaningful guidance on its implementation and/or enforcement by the Province;

WHEREAS people with disabilities and advocates, including Prince Edward County's Accessibility Advisory Committee, note the slow pace of current and previous Ontario governments in implementing the AODA and there are growing concerns there will be no renewed push to keep accessibility issues at the forefront after 2025;

WHEREAS Prince Edward County is dedicated and committed to creating a welcoming environment so that all people may have equitable access to programs, goods, services and facilities, but making investments to achieve the AODA



From the Office of the Clerk
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

standards has been challenging given the lack of consistent and stable funding for municipalities to remove accessibility barriers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Prince Edward County strongly encourages action on the part of the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a) create a "Municipal Accessibility Fund" for municipalities to develop, implement and enforce AODA standards related to goods, services, accommodation, employment and buildings. Such a fund could be modeled after the Canada Community-Building Fund or the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund on a per household basis;
- b) to commit to working with municipalities to implement the Donovan Review immediate crisis recommendations;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor write a letter in support of this resolution to the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Yours truly,

Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor MacNaughton, Councillor Pennell, and Marcia Wallace, CAO