

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
CONSENT AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020**

A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

- p. 1 1. Correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing dated November 10, 2020, re: National Disaster Mitigation Program – Intake 6.
- p. 7 2. Resolution from the County of Wellington dated November 11, 2020, re: Assessment Methodologies for Aggregate Resource Properties.
- p. 9 3. AMO Watchfile dated November 12, 2020.
- p. 12 4. Correspondence from Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) dated November 17, 2020, re: Monthly Project Update – October 2020.
- p. 16 5. Correspondence from the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) dated November 18, 2020, re: MPAC:2021 Values and COVID-19.
- p. 18 6. Correspondence from Gravel Watch Ontario dated November 22, 2020, re: AMO, Aggregate and Food Sustainability in Ontario.
- p. 22 7. News Release from Nottawasaga Futures dated November 23, 2020, re: Government of Canada Provides Additional Relief Funding to Nottawasaga Futures.
- p. 25 8. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:
- p. 28 a) November 24, 2020 – Cannabis Related Issues in Simcoe County – Update Report.
- p. 31 b) November 30, 2020 – Cannabis Legislation and Proposed Actions to Assist Municipalities.
- c) November 26, 2020 – Statement from Warden George Cornell – Simcoe County Moves into Level Orange – Restrict.
- p. 33 9. Resolutions re: Bill 229 and the Conservation Authorities:
- p. 36 a) November 25, 2020 – Town of Shelburne.
- b) November 25, 2020 – Town of Mono.
- p. 40 10. Resolution from the County of Frontenac dated November 25, 2020, re: AODA Website Compliance Extension and Funding/Resource Support.
- p. 42 11. Opinion from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, re: How Conservation Authorities Help Create the Perfect Home.
- p. 44 12. 2019-2020 Annual Community Report from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.
- p. 46 13. Article from the Rescue Lake Simcoe Charitable Foundation, re: Increasing Natural Cover and Protections in the Lake Simcoe Watershed.
- p. 50 14. Essa Public Library Report – October 2020.

15. E-mail from Peter Julian, MP, New Westminster-Burnaby dated November 26, 2020, re: Bill C-213 the Canada Pharmacare Act.

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.

From: National Disaster Mitigation Program (MMAH)
<National.Disaster.Mitigation.Program@ontario.ca>
Sent: November 10, 2020 12:25 PM
To: National Disaster Mitigation Program (MMAH) <National.Disaster.Mitigation.Program@ontario.ca>
Subject: National Disaster Mitigation Program - Intake 6 launch

National Disaster Mitigation Program - Intake 6

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is pleased to advise that the federal government is opening a new intake of the **National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)**.

Under this intake, the NDMP may provide up to 50 per cent federal funding, to a maximum of \$1.5 million per project, for the following projects:

- 1) Flood risk assessments
- 2) Flood mapping
- 3) Flood mitigation plans
- 4) Non-structural flood mitigation projects (structural projects are not eligible)

Municipalities, conservation authorities and other eligible organizations in Ontario are invited to submit proposals for projects to be undertaken between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022.

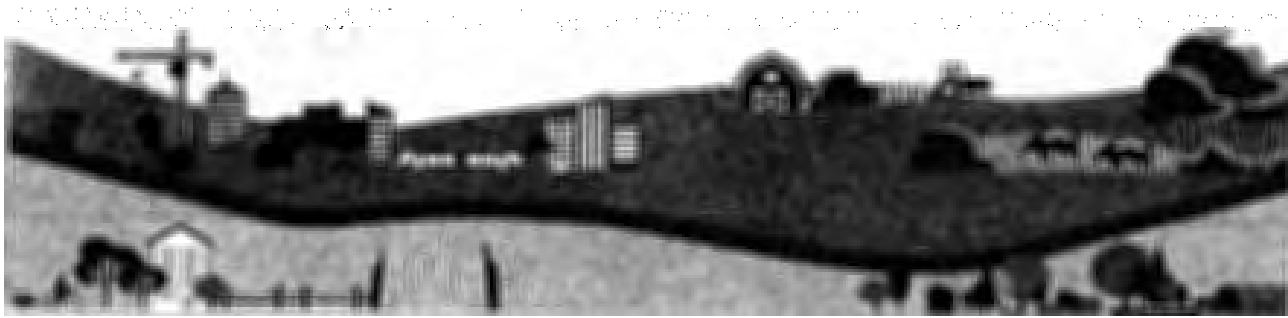
For Ontario applicants, proposal forms and risk assessment information templates must be submitted to National.Disaster.Mitigation.Program@ontario.ca by December 1, 2020. - Forms available through Clerks Dept.

The ministry will review all proposals received. All those that meet program requirements will be submitted to the federal government for funding consideration. Funding decisions are made by the federal government and are subject to federal program approvals and availability of funds.

A high proportion of the projects submitted by Ontario under previous intakes of this program have been approved, so we encourage you to apply to help reduce flood risk in your community. Projects can address any kind of flooding, whether riverine, shoreline or urban.

For more information about the program and how to apply, we invite you to join a webinar hosted by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on Friday, November 13, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. OR Monday, November 16, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. Please register at <https://ndmp-intake6.eventbrite.ca>.

AI



National Disaster Mitigation Program - Intake 6

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Dates and times	Registration
Friday, November 13 at 11:00 am	<u>Register</u>
Monday, November 16 at 3:00 pm	

Ontario 

Annex A

National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) Risk Assessment Information Template (RAIT) Users' Guide

1. Overview

Following severe flooding in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec in 2011, Economic Action Plan 2012 proposed the Government discuss with provinces and territories (P/Ts) the development of a National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP), recognizing that mitigation can lessen the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable communities and reduce the costs associated with these events.

Of the four components of emergency management, mitigation is the most effective means to reduce or eliminate the impacts of disasters. While preparedness, response and recovery help ensure that, once a disaster strikes, the impacts are managed efficiently, mitigation measures can prevent the impacts from occurring at all, or reduce the negative consequences if they do occur.

Investment in disaster mitigation leads to significant relative savings in future response and recovery costs (compared to costs if no mitigation measures were taken). While future disaster costs cannot be predicted with certainty, the relative savings generated by mitigation investments have been demonstrated by governments, international organizations, and private industry world-wide.

A key element of any sound mitigation program is an understanding of both the potential risk of an event occurring, as well as the potential impacts should the risk be realized. Utilizing a risk assessment process, emergency management planners can begin to make proactive, risk-based decisions regarding the potential events that might impact their communities, and determine what priority measures can be taken, if possible, to improve the safety and resilience of their communities.

Risk assessments can be used by federal, provincial/territorial and municipal governments, as well as other stakeholders, to inform emergency management (EM) decision making across all four components of EM. The assessment process allows stakeholders to identify and prioritize those risks that are likely to create the most disruption to them. The assessment also helps decision-makers to identify and describe hazards and assess impacts and consequences based upon the vulnerability or exposure of the local area, or its functions to that hazard.

The risk assessment approach aims to understand the likely impacts of a range of emergency scenarios upon community assets, values and functions. As such, risk assessments provide an opportunity for multiple impacts and consequences to be considered enabling collaborative risk treatment plans and emergency management measures to be described.

A1

The outputs of the assessment process can be used to better inform emergency management planning and priority setting, introduce risk action plans, and ensure that communities are aware of and better informed about hazards and the associated risks that may affect them.

2. NDMP Data and Information Collection for Identified Hazards

The NDMP risk assessment information template (RAIT) is a basic tool that has been developed by Public Safety Canada (PS) in consultation with other government departments, experts in risk assessment best practices, and international leaders in this area, for the input of risk information by funding applicants, based on a completed risk assessment process. The template was designed to allow comparability of information and data outputs from a variety of risk assessment methodologies that may be used.

The risk information will be used to support the application for which mitigation funding is being sought. All applicants must complete a risk assessment information template (RAIT) for funding consideration under streams two, three and four of the NDMP. In addition to the risk assessment information template (RAIT), PS encourages all applicants to submit their detailed risk assessments as supporting documentation, thereby providing PS with a broader understanding of risk across Canada.

The completed risk assessment information template (RAIT) should outline and describe local risk, including an estimate of the likelihood of occurrence, potential magnitude and type of consequences or impacts. This should present factual supporting information.

Risk event descriptions should include, where possible, historical context, which allows for research into trends and longer term analysis. Information based on current risk, as well as future risk such as that brought upon by climate change, should be included.

Applicants should also ensure that prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities for the proposed area take into account existing infrastructure, technologies and community/regional capabilities. Local experts and experts from agencies at other government levels, may be invaluable resources to help gain important information regarding specific risk criteria.

3. Consequence/Impact Assessment

The following section provides a description of the different impact criteria that should be completed within the risk assessment information template (RAIT). In addition, descriptions of the risk ranking and definitions associated with the five-point scale used to define the impacts are presented. The impact risk rating definitions are based on qualitative and quantitative elements referenced from a diverse array of risk and resilience methodologies and external risk management models.

a. People and Societal Impacts

It is a priority at the municipal, provincial and federal levels to protect the health and safety of Canadians. Impacts on people are considered pertinent in the assessment process given that natural hazards can result in significant societal disruptions such as

evacuations and relocations as well as injuries, immediate deaths, and deaths resulting from unattended injuries or displacement. As such, the following impact criteria will be assessed on a 1 to 5 scale:

- number of fatalities;
- ability for local healthcare resources to address injuries; and
- number of individuals displaced and duration of displacement.

b. Environmental Impacts

A priority for municipal, provincial and federal governments is to protect Canada's natural environment for current and future generations. As such, environmental impacts were included in the assessment to measure the risk event in relation to the degree of damage and predicted scope of clean-up and restoration needed following an event. The definitions consider the direct and indirect environmental impacts within the defined geographic area on a 1 to 5 scale, and include an assessment of air quality, water quality and availability (exclusive to on land and in-ground water), and various other nature indicators.

c. Local Economic Impacts

There may be impacts on the local economy that are the result of a risk event occurring. Local economic impacts attempt to capture the value of damages or losses to local economically productive assets, as well as disruptions to the normal functioning of the community/region's local economic system. The definitions consider the local economic impacts within the defined geographic area on a 1 to 5 scale, and should consider direct and indirect economic losses (i.e. productivity losses, capital losses, operating costs, financial institutions and other financial losses).

d. Local Infrastructure Impacts

There are several local infrastructure components, as per a variety of risk assessment and management sources and guidelines that are fundamental to the viability and sustainability of a community/region. Those components that appear most pertinent to assess impacts resulting from natural hazards, such as floods, include: energy and utilities; information and communication technology; transportation; health, food and water; and safety and security. At a minimum, an assessment of the aforementioned components must be completed, defined on a 1 to 5 scale, and should consider both direct and indirect impacts.

It is important to note that Critical Infrastructure, in Canada, includes the following ten sectors: energy and utilities, information and communications technology, finance, healthcare, food, water, transportation, safety, government and manufacturing. Currently, the National Disaster Mitigation Program attempts to leverage those elements thought to be most relevant to identify and assess local flood risk to communities while complementing other Government initiatives, such as the *National Strategy and Action Plan for Critical Infrastructure*.

e. Public Sensitivity Impacts

Public sensitivity was included as an impact criterion given that credibility of governments is founded on the public's trust that all levels of government will respond

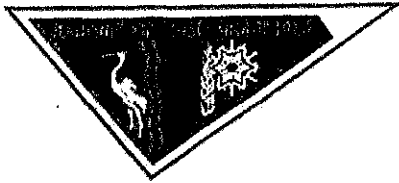
effectively to a disaster event. The definitions consider the impacts on public visibility on a 1 to 5 scale, and include an assessment of public perception of government institutions, and trust and confidence in public institutions.

4. Confidence Levels

The risk assessment process requires confidence levels to be defined, particularly since confidence levels can vary considerably depending on the availability of quality data, availability of relevant expertise to feed the risk assessment process, and the existing Canadian body of knowledge associated with specific natural hazards and natural disaster events.

Confidence levels have been defined using letters ranging from A to E, where 'A' is the highest confidence level and 'E' is the lowest. This approach was taken to ensure all applicants can determine the confidence in their risk assessment in a simplified, straightforward manner, which also ensures that a more consistent representation of confidence levels is being determined across all submissions.

Applicants are required to indicate in the risk assessment information template (RAIT), their level of confidence in the likelihood estimate and impact risk ratings associated with the natural hazard risk event. Applicants can also provide a justification for the confidence level in the risk assessment information template (RAIT), including references and sources to support the assigned confidence level.



TOWNSHIP OF EAST GARAFRAXA
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EAST GARAFRAXA • ON • L9W 7J8
T: 226-259-9400 • TOLL FREE: 877-868-5967 • F: 1-226-212-9812
www.eastgarafraxa.ca

November 11, 2020

County of Wellington
Donna Bryce, Clerk
74 Woolwich Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3T9
donnab@wellington.ca

Attention: Donna Bryce,

RE: Resolution of Support - Assessment Methodologies for Aggregate Resource Properties

At the October 27, 2020 special electronic meeting of Council, the following resolution was passed:

Moved by Pinkney, Seconded by Nevills

Be it Resolved that:

WHEREAS previous assessment methodologies for aggregate resource properties valued areas that were used for aggregate resources or gravel pits at industrial land rates on a per acre basis of the total site and such properties were formally classified and taxed as industrial lands; and

WHEREAS *Township of East Garafraxa* Council supports a fair and equitable assessment system for all aggregate resource properties; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation determined, with the participation only of the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, revised criteria for assessing aggregate resource properties; and

WHEREAS *Township of East Garafraxa* Council has concerns that the revised criteria does not fairly assess the current value of the aggregate resource properties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) That *Township of East Garafraxa* Council does not consider the revised criteria for assessment of aggregate resource properties as a fair method of valuation for these properties; and

(b) That *Township of East Garafraxa* Council believes there is a need to review the current assessment scheme for aggregate resource properties to address the inequity of property values; and

(c) That *Township of East Garafraxa* Council hereby calls upon the Province to work with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation to address the assessment issue so that aggregate resource properties are assessed for their industrial value; and

(d) That *Township of East Garafraxa* Council direct the Clerk to provide a copy of this motion to the Ministers of Finance; Municipal Affairs and Housing; and Natural Resources and Forestry; and to AMO, ROMA, and all Ontario municipalities and local MPP(s). **CARRIED.**

Trusting you will find this satisfactory.

Regards,



Susan M. Stone, AMCT
CAO/Clerk-Treasurer
Corporation of the
Township of East Garafraxa

Cc: Honorable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance rod.phillips@pc.ola.org
Honorable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing steve.clark@pc.ola.org
Honorable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org
Kyle Seeback, Dufferin-Caledon MP Kyle.Seeback@parl.gc.ca
Sylvia Jones, Dufferin-Caledon MPP sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org
AMO amo@amo.on.ca
ROMA roma@roma.on.ca
Ontario Municipalities

From: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>

Sent: November 12, 2020 10:01 AM

To: Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatowship.on.ca>

Subject: AMO WatchFile - November 12, 2020

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



November 12, 2020

In This Issue

- Seeking expressions of interest for 2 municipal staff vacancies on AMO Board.
- Accessible municipal websites.
- New Inclusive Community Grant: Applications open.
- ROMA 2021: Request for delegation meetings is open!
- ROMA 2021: Exhibitor information now available.
- The "Echo" Pandemic: Supporting employee mental health in wake of COVID-19.
- Keeping up with Ontario legislation: Digital solutions to support your municipality.
- LAS procurement goes digital.
- AMO's Business Services help you work better.
- Group Buying Webinars: Last ones for 2020!
- Investments 101 - Online training.
- Technation's Municipal Cybersecurity Best Practices event.
- Career with AMO.

AMO Matters

There are 2 vacancies on the AMO Board: staff positions on Rural and Large Urban Caucuses. Details about qualifications and appointment process are [here](#). Deadline, including Council resolution, is November 30.

Need an AODA compliant municipal website in time for January 1, 2021? AMO's partner [eSolutionsGroup](#) has you covered. eSolutionsGroup is [offering](#) members engaging and accessible websites on a budget. Contact [Karen Mayfield](#), eSolutionsGroup President, for more information.

Provincial Matters

Through the new Inclusive Community Grant, municipalities and local organizations can receive up to \$60,000 for projects that facilitate community involvement for seniors and persons with disabilities. Applications will be accepted until December 21,

2020. For more information and to apply, visit the [Ontario website](#).

Eye on Events

Delegates attending the [2021 ROMA Conference](#) can now [request their virtual delegation meetings](#) with ministers or parliamentary assistants at the ROMA conference. You must be a registered delegate to participate in these meetings.

Put your products and services front and centre at the 2021 ROMA Conference for rural municipal decision makers. Exhibitor information is [now available](#) - register today!

The mental health of your employees is at risk from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Join [AMO's partner BEACON](#) for a [complimentary webinar](#) on November 12 at noon (ET), which will describe the critical principles municipalities should embrace to help employees protect and improve their mental health in a post-COVID reality.

AMO's partner [eSolutionsGroup](#) is hosting a complimentary webinar on available products and services for the AODA legislation deadline of January 1, 2021 and digital solutions to help you screen, track and detect COVID-19. [Join us on November 26](#) at noon for more information.

LAS

LAS is improving its purchasing efficiency by switching to eSolutions' [Bids&Tenders eProcurement](#) platform. LAS bids undertaken on behalf of the municipal sector will now be managed online. We will continue to use MERX when co-posting bids with our sister associations across Canada. Check out our [Bid Opportunities page](#) for more information.

Overburdened by procurement and trying to find the best products? As AMO's business arm, LAS offers municipalities a [range of programs and services](#) designed to help. From Administration and Commodities to Energy, Asset, and Digital services, we've got you covered. Make LAS your go-to municipal partner.

[Municipal Group Buying Program](#) webinars: [Join us November 18](#) to hear from CDW about technology offerings to keep municipalities working efficiently. [Join us December 2](#) when Grainger and Motion Industries present on fire equipment, including bunker gear and rescue equipment. Watch for more webinars in 2021!

ONE Investment

Learn at your pace from your place in 2020 [by registering online](#) for the Investments 101 course. The course is developed to educate municipal staff on the fundamentals of investing and discusses options available to municipalities under the [Legal List and Prudent Investor Standard](#).

Municipal Wire*

If you are a municipal leader interested in improving the cybersecurity resilience of your community, register for Technation's Municipal Cybersecurity Best Practices event on November 20, 1 pm to 4 pm (ET). This is a complimentary event and participation is capped at 100. Save your seat!

Careers

Policy Intern - AMO. Assisting senior advisors and the Director of Policy, the successful candidate will support AMO's policy development process. Please apply in confidence to: careers@amo.on.ca by Friday, December 18, 2020 at 12 noon.

About AMO

AMO is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments. AMO supports strong and effective municipal government in Ontario and promotes the value of municipal government as a vital and essential component of Ontario's and Canada's political system. Follow @AMOPolicy on Twitter!

AMO Contacts

AMO Watch File Tel: 416.971.9856

Conferences/Events

Policy and Funding Programs

LAS Local Authority Services

MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario

ONE Investment

Media Inquiries Tel: 416.729.5425

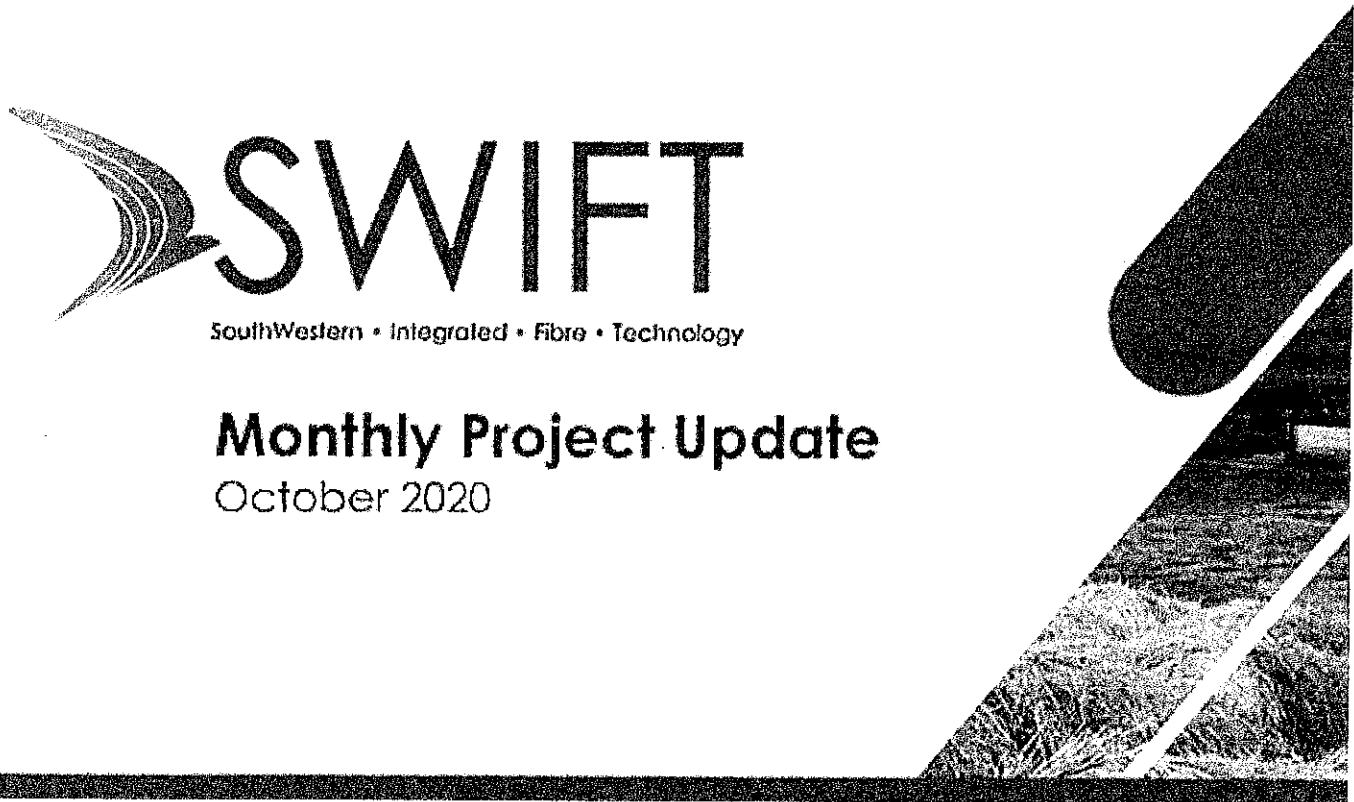
Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions

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

Subject: SWIFT Monthly Project Update - October 2020
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 10:47:01 AM Eastern Standard Time
From: Barry Field
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, Monthly Dashboard - Master.pdf

SWIFT Board Members and CAOs,

Please see the attached monthly project update for October 2020. Any information in this report is not deemed confidential and can be shared with your respective municipalities as you see fit.



Phase 2 Status

- Procurement
 - All contracts executed; implementation is underway.
- Implementation
 - Implementation underway and progressing well with one major delay to report
 - NOR_EXE_06 (Long Point) is expected to be delayed by 11 months due to environmental permitting issues. SWIFT and Norfolk County are working with Execulink to help expedite the permitting process where possible. The ISP has redirected resources to other SWIFT projects in order to bring them in ahead of scheduled and compensate for the delay in Long Point.
 - Construction started/underway in 8 of 12 projects.
 - 135 kilometres of fibre construction has been completed to date
 - 1,821 premises passed to date
 - See attached Monthly Dashboard for details for each project.

Phase 3 Status

- Procurement

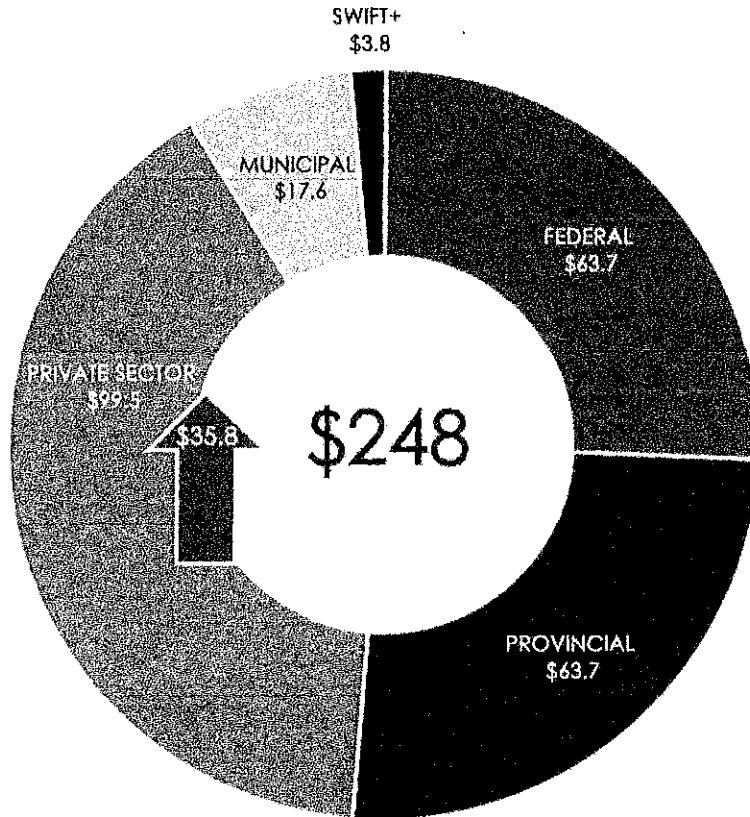
Municipality	RFP Issued	RFP Closed	Evaluation Complete	PAC Approved	Contracts Executed	Projects Announced
Dufferin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Caledon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oxford	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	TBD
Essex	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Windsor	✓	✓	✓	03-Dec-20	03-Dec-20	TBD
Bruce	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	TBD
Simcoe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	TBD
Waterloo	✓	✓	✓	03-Dec-20	10-Dec-20	TBD
Niagara	✓	✓	20-Nov-20	03-Dec-20	10-Dec-20	TBD
Brant	✓	✓	04-Dec-20	17-Dec-20	14-Jan-21	TBD
Middlesex	✓	27-Nov-20	18-Dec-20	14-Jan-21	04-Feb-21	TBD
London	✓	27-Nov-20	18-Dec-20	14-Jan-21	04-Feb-21	TBD
Chatham-Kent	✓	11-Dec-20	15-Jan-21	04-Feb-21	25-Feb-21	TBD
Perth	✓	08-Jan-21	29-Jan-21	18-Feb-21	11-Mar-21	TBD
Elgin	✓	15-Jan-21	05-Feb-21	18-Feb-21	11-Mar-21	TBD
Huron	✓	22-Jan-21	12-Feb-21	04-Mar-21	25-Mar-21	TBD

- Implementation

- Project planning and engineering underway in Dufferin, Caledon, Oxford, Grey, Essex, Bruce and Simcoe (see attached dashboard for details)

Financial/Spending Update

- Private Sector contributions have increased by \$35.8M from budgeted amount (based on first 10 complete procurements).
- SWIFT+ contributions of \$3.8M received (Lambton County and Dufferin County) in order to facilitate the award of an additional projects in those counties.
- Total project funding increased from \$209M to \$248M as a result.
- Note: Federal and Provincial contribution are 'up to' amounts and will depend on the results of the Phase 3 procurements.



Issues and Risks

- Municipal Loan Guarantee
 - \$27.5M short-term bridge financing required in order to fund gap between SWIFT's requirement to pay ISPs per the Construction Act and anticipated reimbursement of claims.
 - SWIFT's current Phase 2 financing agreement with TD Bank is being extended to cover Phase 3.
 - Municipal guarantees are required to guarantee the overall loan and 100% participation is required or else there will be a shortfall the overall loan available.
 - TD Bank and SWIFT have executed the Demand Operating Facility Agreement.
 - Municipal guarantee letters have been provided by TD Bank and are being sent to each municipality.
- COVID-19
 - COVID-19 remains a risk for the SWIFT project
 - Need to keep an eye on potential supply chain issues.

Communications Update

- Key messages:
 - SWIFT is delivering on its commitment and is quickly advancing broadband expansion across Southwestern Ontario.
 - 70% of SWIFT's RFPs (SCF/NON-SCF) are now closed. The project anticipates that 80% of all project contracts are to be awarded by the end of year; 100% awarded by early-2021 and that most of the proposed projects will target construction in 2021 and 2022.
 - SWIFT has now signed 33 project agreements to deliver high-speed internet across 8 project areas.
- Recent Announcements:
 - SWIFT Announces New Broadband Services in Norfolk County

- o [SWIFT Announces \\$19M in Broadband Improvements for Essex County](#)
- o [SWIFT To Bring High-Speed Internet to More Locations in Oxford County](#)
- Website Update:
 - o SWIFT's full tendering schedule is now available on the [website](#) for public consumption, including target project values, closing dates and project status.
 - o The [Approved Project](#) page has been updated to provide a high-level overview of each awarded project that has been announced to-date.
 - o [Interactive 50/10 service map](#) now illustrates both eligible and ineligible funding areas, as well as SWIFT funded project areas. The map will be updated on an ongoing basis as awarded projects are announced.
- Receive SWIFT News Alerts:
 - o [Subscribe](#) to SWIFT's Newsroom to receive project updates directly to your inbox and stay up to date with @SWIFT_Broadband on Twitter or on Facebook at @SWIFTRuralBroadband.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,



Barry Field
Executive Director
Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology
C: [519.319.1112](tel:519.319.1112)
789 Broadway Street, Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0
www.swiftruralbroadband.ca



From: Carmelo Lipsi <carmelo.lipsi@mpac.ca>
Sent: November 18, 2020 11:05 AM
To: Colleen Healey <chealey@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: MPAC: 2021 Values and COVID-19

To: Chief Administrative Officers, Clerks, Treasurers and Tax Administrators

Good morning Colleen,

As you know, the Ontario government postponed our 2020 Assessment Update due to COVID-19 and 2021 property values will continue to be based on the current legislated valuation date, January 1, 2016.

This means all property assessments in Ontario must reflect the price a property would have reasonably been expected to sell for on that day.

The Assessment Act requires that MPAC use the January 1, 2016 date to assess all properties. We are unable to adjust 2020 property assessments for 2021 tax year based on the current impacts of COVID-19, significant as they may be.

We are advising property owners that Requests for Reconsideration filed in 2021 that exclusively cite COVID-19 as the reason for review will not result in a change to the property's value. MPAC understands its municipal partners are looking for certainty as they plan their 2021 budgets. That said, we cannot account for how appeals citing COVID-19 may be handled by the Assessment Review Board, so there always remains some risk that our municipal partners should account for in their planning.

It is our commitment during this challenging time to continue to support your municipalities through the processing of new assessment, sharing of best practices and keeping you up to date with news to help you manage your assessment base.

This includes sharing relevant highlights of the Ontario budget released on November 5, 2020, including:

Postponing the Property Tax Reassessment

The budget mentioned the government's decision to postpone the Assessment Update but did not provide a future date for the next reassessment.

Enabling Property Tax Relief for Small Businesses

In response to concerns about the property tax burden on small businesses, the Province plans to provide municipalities with the flexibility to target property tax relief to small businesses.

To ensure appropriate flexibility, the government is proposing an amendment to the Assessment Act that would allow municipalities to define small business eligibility in a way that best meets local needs and priorities.

Reducing Property Taxes for Employers

The Province announced immediate action to reduce high Business Education Tax (BET) rates by \$450 million in 2021. As a result, the BET will be lowered to a rate of 0.88 per cent for both commercial and industrial properties beginning in 2021.

Property Tax Exemptions

The budget proposes amendments to the Assessment Act to apply the existing property tax exemption for Ontario branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, for 2019 and subsequent tax years, to Ontario units of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada.

As we learn more about these announcements, we will aim to update all of you and identify ways to work

A5

together.

We know these are challenging times and we are here to answer questions from property owners and support you in every way we can.

Please feel free to share this with your staff as appropriate.

Stay well and safe,

Carmelo Lipsi
Vice President, Valuation & Customer Relations
Chief Operating Officer

mpac.ca
Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
1340 Pickering Parkway, Suite 101 L1V 0C4

Copy MPAC Regional and Account Managers

[EXTERNAL]

From: Bryasmit@oxford.net <Bryasmit@oxford.net>
Sent: November 22, 2020 2:59 PM
To: Bryasmit@oxford.net
Subject: AMO, Aggregate and Food Sustainability in Ontario



Hello,

I have attached a letter for your information about Gravel Watch Ontario and recent developments which affect the power of municipalities to apply zoning and to gather revenues, and which also have significant impacts on communities.

As you prepare for an AMO conference in this time of COVID, I offer you, your municipality, your community and your association, Gravel Watch's best wishes for good health. In addition, I offer you Gravel Watch's assistance in working with you and your community on issues related to aggregate extraction, planning and rehabilitation.

Thank you,

Bryan Smith, President,
Gravel Watch Ontario
www.gravelwatch.org
info@gravelwatch.org
Ph: 289 270 7535

AL



To: Mayor and Council
From: Bryan Smith, President Gravel Watch

I am writing you knowing that you work hard in your community for the betterment of residents, both as their local representatives and as members of larger associations, including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. You live in a time of multiple crises – a public health crisis, an economic crisis, a mental health crisis, an addiction crisis, a crisis in community belonging, and a potential crisis in food production and distribution. I do not envy you your position. In fact, I wish you strength, individually and collectively.

Gravel Watch is, like you, concerned with these. We have moved to electronic meetings to avoid the spread of germs. We offer a view of conservation of resources as a solution to economic dislocation. We propose helpful and hopeful solutions to our members and others. We sympathize with those addicted and those affected by it. We unite community groups. We see that the rampant destruction of agricultural lands in Ontario will exacerbate the disruptions of food chains to be expected this winter.

The core of our work, however, is with community groups facing aggregate extraction or living with the impacts of pits and quarries on them. To them we offer advice, mentorship and fellow feeling. We know they often come to you with questions. That is normal and good. On the other hand, we extend our offer of help to any individuals or groups who have concerns about aggregate extraction. You can shift some of your burden of working with community groups to us. We would be pleased to assist.

Further, we know that municipalities are being stripped of their right to vertical zoning under new regulations in the Aggregate Resources Act. We think that is

wrong because it puts municipalities and water sources in danger. You are legally responsible for source water protection, yet below-the-water-table pits and quarries can be vectors for biological and chemical toxicants into drinking water. The MNR's "Pits and Quarries Online" shows just how frequent it is that aggregate extraction happens perilously close or below the water table. Similarly, when extraction is complete, municipalities lose land and as a result lose tax base. We believe that you and Gravel Watch would be wise to ask the Province to enforce a regulation which forbids any extraction below the water table. We would like to work with you on that.

All communities are dependent on food for their survival. In much of Ontario, prime farmland is disappearing. Research being done jointly by Gravel Watch, the National Farmers Union and McMaster University will access data and make it available to you about the danger to food sustainability if pits and quarries and other uses replace Ontario's best fertile land. Like the disappearance of land to water features where the taxes never come back, the loss of land to "interim use" which can extend for decades means soil fertility is irrevocably lost. This is not good for residents hungry for fresh, local, healthy food.

Gravel Watch believes that the Ontario government needs to consult municipalities and communities more broadly to develop and implement regulations which will evaluate and rationalize the supply and demand equation for stone, sand, and gravel. Those regulations need to be applied consistently and clearly; lack of clarity is currently costing municipalities and communities while exposing inconsistencies in the application of rule of law. Rehabilitation of dormant, and abandoned pits to their best possible uses is a promise made at licencing. You see little of it done, and this not just because berms block the view. This too takes land out of available stocks. Finally, Gravel Watch is of the view that the Province needs to be more responsive and more responsible to residents, communities and the municipalities which represent them.

Gravel Watch invites you to do the following:

- Refer community groups to us when they seek information about aggregate extraction. We would be glad to assist them and lighten your load.

AL

- Consider the success of the “demand the right coalition” of municipalities on environmental issues and emulate their work in the interest of your community.
- Invite us, as did the Top Aggregate Producing Municipalities at their recent meeting, to lay out for you some of the joint projects that you, we and our constituent groups can work on together and to share boots-on-the-ground as well as scientific knowledge. That could be collectively or for your specific council
- Build trust between community groups and municipal officials like yourselves who are carrying increasing burdens.

Thank you. Stay healthy.

www.gravelwatch.org

info@gravelwatch.org

ph: 289 270 7535

Regional Relief and Recovery Fund Top-Up Announcement News Release

News Release

For Immediate Release

Government of Canada Provides Additional Relief Funding to Nottawasaga Futures

Businesses in South Simcoe may be eligible to benefit from additional funding through the Government of Canada's Regional Relief and Recovery Fund

November 23, 2020

Today, Nottawasaga Community Futures Development Corporation announced that businesses in South Simcoe may be eligible to benefit from additional relief funding through the Government of Canada's Regional Relief and Recovery Fund.

This additional funding has been made available because of a \$1,085,000 investment by the Government of Canada in **Nottawasaga Futures** through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund. This funding is a top-up to the \$994,888.67 investment by the Government of Canada in May 2020, for a total funding allocation of \$ 2,079,888.67.

Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan has helped to protect millions of jobs, provide emergency support to families and keep businesses afloat as they deal with the impact of COVID-19. A central part of this is the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF), which helps support those who may not be eligible for other programs. Since the Fund was launched in May, over 1,000 businesses have been assisted through the RRRF by the region's Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs), helping them keep their employees, cover costs and play a role in our economic recovery.

Since the launch of the RRRF, CFDCs have provided critical support for southern Ontario's rural businesses, maintaining 3,500 jobs in the region.

For example, Tamras Mini Market, a women-led international grocery retailer located in downtown Alliston, was struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. With RRRF support through the Nottawasaga Futures CFDC, they received liquidity support and have expanded their operations.

Support for workers and businesses across southern Ontario

With the second wave upon us, businesses across southern Ontario need more support – now. That's why the Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages, announced on October 2, an additional \$184 million for FedDev Ontario to help more businesses across southern Ontario through the RRRF.

\$30 million in additional CFDC funding

Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDCs) will deliver \$30 million of FedDev Ontario's additional funding to businesses in rural communities across southern Ontario.

Regional Relief and Recovery Fund Top-Up Announcement News Release

CFDCs are providing financial contributions (interest-free loans) to help support fixed operating costs of SMEs, where business revenues have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding available through Nottawasaga Futures

Nottawasaga Futures has an additional \$1,085,000 available in RRRF funding to distribute to eligible local businesses. In order to provide targeted assistance to the small towns and communities we serve, Nottawasaga Futures is focusing on assisting a range of businesses in our region with loans up to \$40,000.

Please visit our website for more information on eligibility and the application process.

Should you be interested in a loan of \$40,000 or more and meet the [eligibility criteria outlined on FedDev Ontario's website](#), you may wish to apply to FedDev Ontario.

Quotes

"Small- and medium-sized businesses have been hit hard by COVID-19, and the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund is here to help them, protecting over 43,000 jobs across southern Ontario. With the second wave upon us, we've heard clearly from businesses and workers that more support is needed. That's why we're enhancing and expanding the RRRF to help even more Ontarians. Our message to them is clear: we've been here for you with significant measures, we're here for you now and we'll get through this, together. We're working with you to support good, local jobs and help our economy come back strong."

—*The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario*

"The businesses, workers and organizations in southern Ontario's rural communities are a significant part of our region's economic strength. We know they have faced challenges as a result of the pandemic and we are providing support to keep them vital. The resilience of the communities and the local support that our CFDCs are continuing to deliver will mean a strong recovery."

- *Kate Young, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages (FedDev Ontario)*

Quick Facts

- CFDCs deliver a wide variety of programs and services to support community economic development and small business growth. They employ local staff and are each governed by a volunteer board of directors, made up of local residents representing the community.
- Through RRRF, Nottawasaga Futures provided \$994,888.67 in liquidity support to help 30 local businesses impacted by the pandemic to cover fixed operating costs and maintain 55 jobs.

Regional Relief and Recovery Fund Top-Up Announcement News Release

- Local businesses and organizations that have applied for but were unable to access existing federal COVID-19 relief programs are encouraged to contact Nottawasaga Futures for more information.
- Principal repayments can be made at any time and 25% (not to exceed \$10,000) of the loan can be forgiven provided the recipient has paid 75% of the original loan amount prior to March 31, 2023.
- If the recipient is unable to repay the loan by March 31, 2023, the loan will be converted to a three-year term loan with interest rates up to 5%, effective April 1, 2023. The full balance must be repaid by no later than March 31, 2026.

Associated Links

- www.nottawasaga.com
- [FedDev Ontario](#)
- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)

Contacts

CFDC Media Relations Contact
Martin Kuzma
705.435.1540
martin@nottawasaga.com



To: **Committee of the Whole**

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

Item Number: CCW - 2020-255

Meeting Date: November 24, 2020

Subject: Cannabis Related Issues in Simcoe County – Update Report

Recommendation

That Item CCW 2020-255, dated November 24, 2020, regarding Cannabis Related Issues in Simcoe County, be received; and

That comments on Cannabis Legislation, substantively in the form identified in Schedule 1 to Item CCW 2020-255, be provided to Health Canada and to the Ministry of Health; and

That a copy of Item CCW 2020-255 be forwarded to all of the local municipalities within Simcoe County, for information.

Executive Summary

In response to County Council's direction, staff for the County and local municipalities have come together to navigate common issues with the implementation of Federal Cannabis licences. This Item provides a brief overview of municipal issues that local member municipalities are experiencing as a result of the change in cannabis legislation; and an update on how County staff are working with our member municipalities to provide support and navigate solutions to the issues.

This Item requests that a letter be sent to Health Canada and the Ministry of Health. The letter outlines the municipal issues and concerns, and it provides recommendations that will help local municipalities deal with these issues.

Background/Analysis/Options

On October 17, 2018, the *Cannabis License Act* came into force which means full legalization of cannabis use for adults including both medical and recreational access.

Licenses for Cannabis production facilities are regulated and issued by Health Canada. General categories include cultivation, processing, sales for medical use, testing and research, cannabis

drugs for pharmaceutical products, and import/export. In addition to the licencing responsibilities, promotions, packaging, labelling and display are also within the federal jurisdiction. The province via the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) provided a written opinion that growing cannabis is an agricultural use.

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario establishes rules and regulations for retail operations such as: places where product can be used, minimum age of users, personal possession and home growing amounts. In January 2020, the licensing system changed from lottery to open licencing.

Local municipalities are responsible for Building Code compliance, zoning permission/restrictions, site plan control, and local enforcement. While the County has limited jurisdiction under the *Cannabis License Act*, because it is a federal jurisdiction County Planning staff are working with our member municipalities to provide support and navigate solutions to the issues.

On July 9, 2020, County staff facilitated a discussion group with representatives from the planning, building, and enforcement departments of the local member municipalities, as well as school boards, and conservation authorities by way of Microsoft Teams. Through the completion of an electronic survey in advance of the meeting and by way of discussion, the main issues that are reoccurring throughout the lower-tier municipalities are: medical cannabis licenses, odour, noise, drainage, and responding to public inquiries. Staff have continued virtual discussions with our municipal partners on the preparation of a letter as identified as Schedule 1. This item describes these issues in greater detail and requests provincial and federal support on the matter. The following three improvements are suggested to promote appropriate land use planning within our community:

1. Preparation and implementation of Provincial Planning Guidelines
2. Additional Enforcement Tools
3. Improved Communication with Health Canada.

Moving forward, County Planning staff will continue to work with the local member municipalities by acting as the liaison for future discussion groups as an opportunity to share experiences and provide support where requested. While the County's role may be limited, staff will continue to act as a resource and assist the member municipalities where possible. County Planning staff will continue to provide updates to County Council on the progress of these matters as they become available.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this item.

Relationship to Corporate Strategic Plan

No direct relationship to corporate strategies.

Reference Documents

There are no reference documents associated with this item.

Attachments

Schedule 1 – Letter to Health Canada and Ministry of Health

Prepared By Adrianna Spinosa, MCIP, RPP, Planner III

Approvals	Date
David Parks, Director of Planning, Economic Development and Transit	November 13, 2020
Debbie Korolnek, General Manager, Environment, Planning and Environment	November 13, 2020
Trevor Wilcox, General Manager, Corporate Performance	November 16, 2020
Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer	November 16, 2020



County of Simcoe
 Planning Department
 1110 Highway 26,
 Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6

Main Line (705) 726-9300
 Toll Free (866) 893-9300
 Fax (705) 727-4276
 simcoe.ca



November 30, 2020

Mike McGuire
 Director, Office of Medical Access and Specialized Authorizations
 Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch
 Health Canada
 Address Locator 0900C2
 Ottawa, ON. K1A 0K9

Dear Mr. McGuire,

RE: Cannabis Legislation and Proposed Actions to Assist Municipalities

Municipalities within the County of Simcoe have faced emerging challenges as a result of the legalization and regulation of cannabis under the *Cannabis Act*. Ongoing issues experienced are a result of both distinct forms of cannabis production authorized by the *Cannabis Regulations* –being commercial cannabis and personal production. The production of cannabis under current regulations has resulted in the following issues: odour, location issues and medical cannabis licencing issues procedures. The County of Simcoe continues to request additional support on these matters as describe further herein.

Several our member municipalities have implemented an Interim Control By-law (ICB) to study these ongoing issues to determine the appropriate solutions. In some cases, municipalities have brought forth zoning by-law amendments following the ICB moratorium to implement solutions to address the issues identified. However, many of these by-laws have been appealed by cannabis operators to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT).

In order to avoid an overwhelming number of appeals resulting in further costs associated with municipalities defending their by-laws; costs that are straining the system as it is, it would be prudent to review and improve the existing Regulations.

The County of Simcoe suggests the following three improvements to promote appropriate land use planning within our community and to obtain adequate grounds for enforcement:

1. Preparation and Implementation of Provincial Planning Guidelines

The odour and noise that emits from the operations has caused a very significant land use compatibility issue for surrounding residential, agricultural, and institutional land uses. It is recommended that policies like those contained in the Ontario Provincial Policy Statement be implemented federally.

"Sensitive land uses [including residences] shall be planned and developed to avoid, or if avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate any possible adverse effects from odour, noise, and other contaminants, minimize risk to public health and safety and to ensure the long term operation and economic viability of major facilities in accordance with provincial guidelines, standards and procedures (Provincial Policy Statement, policy 1.2.6.1)."

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) classifies cannabis production as an *agricultural use* and is thereby a permitted use as of right within the agricultural zones. New land uses

are required to comply with the *minimum distance separation formulae* (Provincial Policy Statement, policy 2.3.3.3). *Minimum distance separation formulae* (MDS) means' formulae and guidelines developed to reduce incompatibility concerns about odour from livestock facilities. However, MDS is specific to livestock odour and does not apply to the odour produced by cannabis facilities. In addition, it does not consider possible impacts from one agricultural use on another, something that is now being reported from vegetable farmers whereby the odour of adjacent cannabis operations is infiltrating and tainting their vegetable crop.

In the Holland Marsh (Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury), the potential negative effect of odour on farmers and crops is an issue. The Holland Marsh is a provincially designated Specialty Crop Area, and it is protected for growing of food source. The other main issue occurring in the Marsh is drainage and the proliferation of greenhouses that cannot be regulated because of the federal jurisdiction.

In the Township of Oro-Medonte, noise has been a nuisance where electrical generators are being used in lieu of the local electrical utilities for a cannabis operation's long-term power needs. It has been noted that connecting to the local electrical utility can, in some instances, be cost prohibitive and therefore resulting in dependence on noisy generators.

These are only two of many examples heard by municipalities from members of the public regarding land use compatibility issues within the County of Simcoe as a result of cannabis operations.

Agriculture operators are required to demonstrate land use compatibility and mitigation or avoidance of odour nuisances through a nutrient management strategy/plan and minimum distance separation formulae. No such guidelines are currently in place for cannabis operators.

The County of Simcoe requests that Health Canada prepare guidelines which consider noise and odour impacts of cannabis production facilities on surrounding sensitive land uses, like the current *minimum distance separation formulae* that is in place for other agricultural uses.

2. Additional Enforcement Tools Needed

The current legislation has proven very challenging from a municipal law enforcement perspective. In general terms, licences appear to supersede municipal zoning regulations. This has resulted in persons and companies setting up growing operations in locations that are incompatible with adjacent residential and commercial uses. For example, operators have brought in used trailers and shipping containers to residential properties to grow cannabis, and the use of these trailers and containers are not permitted in the relevant property zone.

The County of Simcoe requests that Health Canada amend the existing *Cannabis Act* and *Cannabis Regulations* to provide for a stronger and more effective legislation to ensure proper location criteria. Further, it should be made clear that local policy and zoning by-laws at the municipal level do have the authority to regulate where and how cannabis facilities can operate.

The County encourages Health Canada to provide education and training to law enforcement persons and that Health Canada takes a more active role in the enforcement of both legal and illegal agricultural cultivation operations.

3. Improved Communication with Health Canada

Local municipalities have little to no involvement in the licencing process and therefore face challenges responding to the public regarding permissions.

The County of Simcoe requests that Health Canada amend the existing licencing process to include local municipal approvals earlier in the process. The County further requests that Health Canada provide a point of contact to assist with public inquiries as a direct result of the licences issued. Presently, municipalities are being inundated with questions from the public about rumoured facilities, and various forms of growing operations, as well as the validity and legality of certain existing ones, however, the municipality is not involved in the license review and approval process. The lack of information is leading to a perception of untoward actions being taken by cannabis companies and/or individuals, in cooperation with the government, including local and regional municipalities.

On behalf of the County of Simcoe and our member municipalities, we request additional support on this matter.

Sincerely,
The Corporation of the County of Simcoe

Cc
Ministry of Health

Statement from Warden George Cornell: Simcoe County moves into level **ORANGE - RESTRICT**

Midhurst/ November 26, 2020 – On November 23, Simcoe County was moved by the Province of Ontario to level **ORANGE - RESTRICT**, meaning we must implement enhanced measures, restrictions, and enforcement. The province has also increased restrictions on some of our neighbouring jurisdictions to the south by moving them into levels **RED - CONTROL** or **GREY - LOCKDOWN**.

The County is supporting the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit in their efforts to prevent further spread and restrictions in our region. We are facing a critical period right now and we are on track for much higher disease levels unless we take more action to curb its spread. Our health and emergency resources are limited, so please continue to do your part and follow all requirements to protect yourself, your family, friends and communities.

The key factor contributing to transmission is close contact between individuals in both work and social settings, which then spreads easily within households. We've seen the impacts of this spread on vulnerable populations, having managed and controlled serious outbreaks at our long-term care homes since the second wave started. The virus affects everyone differently and many people feel fine with no symptoms at all. However, asymptomatic carriers can still transmit this deadly virus to vulnerable residents, so please help us contain COVID by following guidelines and monitoring for symptoms. When in doubt, please get tested.

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit guidelines:

Close contact, gatherings and events:

- Limit close contact to your household (the people you live with). Individuals who live alone, including seniors, may consider having exclusive, close contact with another household to help reduce the negative impacts of social isolation
- Maintain two metres of physical distancing from everyone else
- Wear a face covering indoors, outdoors if physical distancing cannot be maintained, or if wearing one is required
- Virtual gatherings or events are the safest way to visit or recognize occasions with people outside your household
- Adhere to provincial and applicable local restrictions on public and private gatherings

Moving Simcoe-Muskoka to level **ORANGE - RESTRICT** means there are new and additional restrictive measures regarding travel within Ontario and Canada, businesses and recreational activities. The Province, the Health Unit, the County and our municipal partners are all strongly recommending and asking that individuals and families with primary residences located in higher transmission areas, such as **RED** or **GREY** zones, to please avoid travel to Simcoe County. Travel advisories also apply to Simcoe County residents. Please avoid non-essential travel.

Our Medical Officer of Health has also issued a letter to municipalities asking them to prohibit access to their recreational facilities to individuals whose primary residence lies within the Red/Control and the Grey/Lockdown areas.

The County and our staff continue to work safely to provide essential services to our residents. From long-term care to paramedic services, to landfills and waste collection, to LINX transit and social supports, to children's services and economic development, to continued investment in infrastructure

ABC

and snow plowing, to supporting tourism businesses and providing customer service to residents in need. These services are vital, and we ask our residents to help keep our staff safe as they continue to serve you each and every day.

Please follow guidelines and help us move in the right direction. Additionally, remember the three w's: wear a mask; wash your hands and watch your distance. Stay safe, stay strong, and look after each other. We will get through this, together and stronger.

For more information on the impacts of these changes, please consult the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit website listed below.

*George Cornell
County of Simcoe Warden*

Helpful Links:

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit:

www.simcoemuskokahealth.org

County of Simcoe Coronavirus Service Impacts:

<https://www.simcoe.ca/CorporateCommunications/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>



A People Place, A Change of Pace
SHELBURNE
ONTARIO, CANADA

November 25, 2020

Hon. Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General
George Drew Building, 18th Floor
25 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

RE - Bill 229 and the Conservation Authorities

Dear Honourable Sylvia Jones:

Shelburne Town Council passed the following resolution unanimously at its Council meeting held Monday November 23, 2020:

Moved By Councillor Walter Benotto
Seconded By Councillor Kyle Fegan

WHEREAS the Province has introduced Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act - Schedule 6 - Conservation Authorities Act; and

WHEREAS the Legislation introduces a number of changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder the conservation authority's' role in regulating development, permit appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications; and

WHEREAS we rely on the watershed expertise provided by local conservation authorities to protect residents, property and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the Planning Act; and

WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without conservation authority watershed data and expertise; and



WHEREAS the Legislation suggests that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between the conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs; and

WHEREAS municipalities believe that the appointment of municipal representatives on Conservation Authority Boards should be a municipal decision, and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Conservation Authority Board should be duly elected; and

WHEREAS the changes to the 'Duty of Members' contradicts the fiduciary duty of a Conservation Authority Board member to represent the best interests of the conservation authority and its responsibility to the watershed; and

WHEREAS conservation authorities have already been working with the Province, development sector and municipalities to streamline and speed up permitting and planning approvals through Conservation Ontario's Client Service and Streamlining Initiative; and

WHEREAS changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities, and their municipal partners, and potentially result in delays in the development approval process; and

WHEREAS municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within our jurisdiction for the health and well-being of residents; municipalities value the conservation authorities work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and municipalities value the conservation authority's work to ensure safe drinking water;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Province of Ontario repeal Schedule 6 of the Budget Measures Act (Bill 229);
2. THAT the Province continue to work with conservation authorities to find workable solutions to reduce red tape and create conditions for growth;
3. THAT the Province respect the current conservation authority and municipal relationships; and



4. THAT the Province embrace their long-standing partnership with the conservation authorities and provide them with the tools and financial resources they need to effectively implement their watershed management role.

CARRIED, Mayor Wade Mills

This motion was passed unanimously.

Thank You

J. Willoughby

Jennifer Willoughby
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
Town of Shelburne

CC: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier
Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Andrea Horwath, Leader, Official Opposition
Steven Del Duca, Leader, Ontario Liberal Party
Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario
Sandy Shaw, Critic, Finance and Treasury Board
Ian Arthur, Critic, Environment
Peter Tabuns, Critic, Climate Crisis

Email copies to: NVCA, CVC, TRCA, Canadian Environmental Law Association, AMO & all Ontario municipalities



November 25, 2020

Hon. Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General
George Drew Building, 18th Floor
25 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Re: Schedule 6 of Bill 229 - Open Letter to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon

Dear Honourable Sylvia Jones:

Mono Council unanimously passed a resolution at its meeting of November 24, 2020 and we append a copy of it to this letter. Mono is a member of three conservation authorities – Toronto Region, Credit and the Nottawasaga. We value the services provided – all services but in particular the assistance in making planning decisions that protect our drinking water, that protect us from developing in flood-prone areas and that protect our wetlands and aquifers.

In 2021 Mono will spend \$133,365 on conservation authorities. If we had to hire our own employees – engineers, planners, ecologists, hydrogeologists, foresters, outdoor educational staff, etc. – to do its own work, we would spend much more than \$133,365 for these services.

We were not impressed with Schedule 6 to Bill 229. It undermines the power of conservation authorities to do their job. And we were particularly unimpressed when your government slipped these proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act into a Budget Bill.

We are concerned that Schedule 6 undermines the ability of conservation authorities to make non-political, technical decisions based on science. It does this by allowing the Minister to over-rule the decisions of conservation authorities. Schedule 6 will also interfere with the fiduciary duty of a conservation authority board member. Board members have to think of watershed-wide interests in making decisions. We are also concerned that Schedule 6 limits the enforcement powers of conservation authorities.

We have to agree with the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) assessment of Schedule 6 of Bill 229, *“the package of amendments as proposed are likely to set back watershed planning and implementation of an ecosystem-based approach by decades. As such, CELA recommends*

A9b

that Schedule 6 not be enacted in its present form and instead be withdrawn in its entirety from Bill 229."

Sincerely,

The Council of the Town of Mono

Mayor Laura Ryan

Deputy Mayor John Creelman

Councillor Ralph Manktelow

Councillor Sharon Martin

Councillor Fred Nix

Attachments:

- I. Town of Mono Resolution 6-VC17-2020 passed November 24, 2020

CC: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier
Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance
Hon. Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Andrea Horwath, Leader, Official Opposition
Steven Del Duca, Leader, Ontario Liberal Party
Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario
Sandy Shaw, Critic, Finance and Treasury Board
Ian Arthur, Critic, Environment
Peter Tabuns, Critic, Climate Crisis

Email copies to: NVCA, CVC, TRCA, Canadian Environmental Law Association, AMO & all Ontario municipalities

P: 519.941.3599
F: 519.941.9490

E: info@townofmono.com
W: townofmono.com

347209 Mono Centre Road
Mono, ON L9W 6S3

Resolution #6-VC17-2020

Moved by Ralph Manktelow, Seconded by Fred Nix

WHEREAS the Province has introduced Bill 229, Protect, Support and Recover from COVID 19 Act - Schedule 6 – Conservation Authorities Act;

AND WHEREAS the Legislation introduces several changes and new sections that could remove and/or significantly hinder conservation authorities’ role in regulating development, permit appeal process and engaging in review and appeal of planning applications;

AND WHEREAS we rely on the watershed expertise provided by local conservation authorities to protect residents, property, and local natural resources on a watershed basis by regulating development and engaging in reviews of applications submitted under the Planning Act;

AND WHEREAS the changes allow the Minister to make decisions without conservation authority watershed data and expertise;

AND WHEREAS the Legislation suggests that the Minister will have the ability to establish standards and requirements for non-mandatory programs which are negotiated between the conservation authorities and municipalities to meet local watershed needs;

AND WHEREAS the \$133,365 that Mono spends on three conservation authorities (1% of budget) is a bargain for the services provided and begs the question as to why Mono would have to enter into three separate agreements for services it now happily receives - without further red tape;

AND WHEREAS municipalities believe that the appointment of municipal representatives on conservation authority boards should be a municipal decision; and the Chair and Vice Chair of the conservation authority boards should be duly elected;

AND WHEREAS it is sometimes not practical for the Town of Mono to appoint **only** council members (particularly if this excludes mayors and deputy mayors) to each of the three conservation authorities that service our municipality;

AND WHEREAS it has been the Town of Mono’s experience with the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority that having a chair or vice-chair serve for more than one year has produced experienced individuals;

AND WHEREAS the changes to the ‘Duty of Members’ contradicts the fiduciary duty of a conservation authority board member to represent the best interests of the conservation authority and its responsibility to the watershed;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities have already been working with the Province, development sector and municipalities to streamline and speed up permitting and planning approvals through Conservation Ontario’s Client Service and Streamlining Initiative;



AND WHEREAS changes to the legislation will create more red tape and costs for the conservation authorities, their municipal partners, and potentially result in delays in the development approval process;

AND WHEREAS municipalities value and rely on the natural habitats and water resources within conservation authority jurisdictions for the health and well-being of residents; municipalities value conservation authorities' work to prevent and manage the impacts of flooding and other natural hazards; and municipalities value conservation authorities' work to ensure safe drinking water;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: (i) the Province of Ontario repeal Section 6 of the Budget Measures Act (Bill 229), and (ii) that the Province continue to work with conservation authorities to find workable solutions to reduce red tape and create conditions for growth;

AND FURTHER THAT while we would prefer that Bill 229, Schedule 6 be repealed in its entirety, Council for the Town of Mono recommends the following amendments (in descending order of importance):

1. Delete the option for a person to appeal to LPAT or directly to the Minister;
2. Maintain the proposed stop work orders and property access;
3. Allow non mandatory programs as deemed advisable by each Conservation board;
4. Allow appointment of a member of the public to the Board and specify 'municipally elected official' rather than 'municipal councillor' which may exclude mayors, and continue to allow board chairs and vice chairs to serve more than one consecutive term.

"Carried"

This motion was passed unanimously.

Whereas the County provides accommodations to meet any stated accessibility need, where possible; and,

Whereas the declared pandemic, COVID-19, has impacted the finances and other resources of the County; and,

Whereas the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act contemplates the need to consider technical or economic considerations in the implementation of Accessibility Standards;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Corporation of the County of Frontenac request that the Province of Ontario extend the compliance deadline stated in Section 14(4) of Ontario Regulation 191/11 to require designated public sector organizations to meet the compliance standards, by a minimum of one (1) year to at least January 1, 2022;

And Further That the Corporation of the County of Frontenac requests that the Province of Ontario consider providing funding support and training resources to municipalities to meet these compliance standards;

And Further That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Ian Arthur, M.P.P. Kingston and the Islands, M.P.P. Randy Hillier Lanark—Frontenac—Kingston, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerk's and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried

I trust you will find this in order; however should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 613-548-9400, ext. 302 or via email at jamini@frontenacounty.ca.

Yours Truly,



Jannette Amini, Dipl.M.M., M.A. CMO
Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk

cc. All Ontario Municipalities

Copy: File





Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority

Opinion

How conservation authorities help create the perfect home

By NVCA Planning Staff

There is nothing more idyllic than building a subdivision right beside a river. The perfect family home backing onto the river banks, marketing materials illustrating a young laughing family playing alongside the water, grandparents strolling along a riverside trail.

Enter the storm.

Picture if you will, a storm event that has knocked out power; rains are driving sideways and that river in your backyard has now swelled beyond its banks. The rains continue and the water starts to pick up speed – raging through the subdivision, washing away back yard swing sets, decks, homes and roads. Leaving in its wake a path of destruction of epic proportions. Financial losses, personal trauma and damaged infrastructure.

Not the stuff that fairy tales are made of. Want examples? Google the Calgary Flood of 2013. Check out the images available online. The Province of Alberta does not have conservation authorities – conservation authorities are only in Ontario.

What do Conservation Authorities do?

One of the things that we do is participate in the land use planning process in the province. We provide comments on development applications and help to ensure that a development is designed in a responsible manner – outside of the natural hazards like flood and erosion hazards and their buffers.

Did you know that Schedule 6 in Bill 229 seeks to change the *Conservation Authorities Act*? Changes that could sideline conservation authority staff from the land use Planning process?

Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) staff recently worked with a developer on a subdivision in the Township of Springwater along the Wye River. The landowner and their consulting team worked with our staff to stake the top of bank of the river, complete an erosion hazard and flood hazard study and apply the appropriate buffers to these hazards.

They completed a constraints mapping exercise which took the information from all of the technical studies and turned that information into lines on a map. This allowed NVCA staff

AN

to ensure that the limits to the development were outside of the natural hazards and their appropriate buffers.

What does this mean to a future homeowner in this subdivision?

They can rest assured that using the best available science, conservation authority staff have helped to ensure that their home and property will be safe from any future hazard associated with a storm event; now that is idyllic.

The next time you hear a story about flooding in an area with no conservation authority, think about what it would mean to you and your loved ones if you lost your home, or worse, lost the life of a family member. We may not wear a mask and a cape, but when it comes to responsible development, the plan review staff at your local conservation authority are the true heroes in this story. Silencing our voice in the plan review process may very well allow for a more tragic ending to future stories.

Contact your local MPP and tell them to remove Schedule 6 (Changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*) from Bill 229. Keep the voice of our conservation authorities strong in the land use planning process.

The NVCA Planning Team is comprised of Registered Professional Planners and an Ecological Planner.

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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, Communications Coordinator 705-424-1479 ext.254, mleung@nvca.on.ca

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2019-2020

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH + BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

As reported in the 2018-2019 Annual Report, the Board of Health and the Medical Officer of Health were challenged, like all health units, with the province's plans to transform the public health system.

While we were unclear what the announcement was going to mean for our future, we began to prepare for the possibility of significant change by both reviewing our mandate and operations while mounting a vigorous response highlighting the importance of public health. We could not have foreseen that in just a year the world would be consumed by a pandemic that has disrupted our societies and economies – indeed our entire way of life.

Public health plays a critical and necessary role in the health and well-being of our communities and that has never been more obvious than now. Since the activation of our Incident Management System on January 24, 2020, we have worked full out in an effort to control the spread of COVID-19 in our region. At peak community transmission of COVID-19 in April, the health unit had paused most routine programming and had redeployed about 180 staff to the Infectious Diseases and Health Connection programs. More than 50 other staff remained in their department and program, but devoted 100% of their time to COVID-19 work. As we write this message, the pandemic continues and most of the health unit's employees continue to work on COVID-19, including shifts and weekends for those in the Infectious Diseases, COVID-19 and Health Connection programs.

While the pandemic had dominated our work for most of 2020, it's important to acknowledge that responding to threats to the health of our communities is at the core of what public health does. In 2019 our health unit investigated two Legionella outbreaks, vaccinated hundreds of residents of Muskoka and Barrie in response to a Hepatitis A outbreak and exposure, and worked with our partners in Muskoka to ensure those affected by severe flooding had the information they needed for safe water and food.

What is less visible is our preventive work that sets the stage for good health in the long term, the work that is done in our immunization and dental programs, and our family health teams. That work has been on hold due to the pandemic, and we now have thousands of children who have missed their Grade 7 vaccinations, hundreds of low-income families who have been unable to access our dental clinics, and many more families who have not received the in-home health unit and breastfeeding support to help their children get a healthy start in life. New programs, like in-school vision screening, are still on hold. Sexual health clinics, tobacco cessation workshops, infection prevention and control inspections, prenatal classes, and inspections of restaurants and other food service providers are a few of the other health unit programs and services that will need to resume as our economy and our businesses continue to reopen, while we balance the demands of our COVID-19 response.

Our federal, provincial and municipal governments have done a commendable job responding to the pandemic, as has public health with its support of that response. We have averted thousands of cases and deaths in Simcoe Muskoka, through flattening of the curve, provincial policy, and case and contact management, and have avoided overwhelming our health care system. Our partners in health, in local government, and in our communities have also responded admirably.

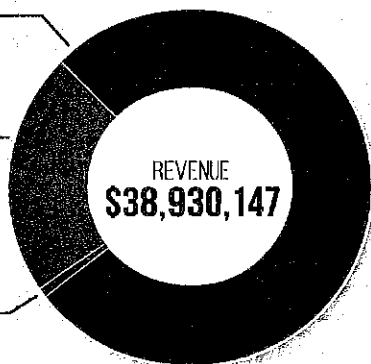
The pandemic is something we are going to live with for some time and the next months and beyond are going to be among the most challenging the people of our communities may ever experience. We will continue to offer the leadership and support that our communities expect, while working to ensure that the excellent public health programs and services so important to the health of our residents are resumed as soon as we are able.

2019 HEALTH UNIT FINANCIALS

PROVINCIAL GRANT **77.5%**

MUNICIPAL LEVY **21%**

OTHER **1.5%**



77.4% COST SHARED MANDATORY & RELATED PROGRAMS

6.4% HEALTHY SMILES ONTARIO

6.3% HEALTHY BABIES HEALTHY CHILDREN

5.3% 100% FUNDED PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

3.4% SMOKE-FREE ONTARIO

0.7% OTHER

0.5% ONTARIO SENIORS DENTAL PROGRAM



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2019 YEAR IN NUMBERS

CLINICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT



Personal service setting and child care inspections
1,307



Client visits to sexual health clinics
3,580



Children screened for tooth decay
23,305



Community and institution outbreak: Hep A investigation
946



Vaccines given at schools
22,256

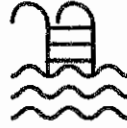


Immunizations administered
869 + 79
adult pediatric

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Food premises inspections
7,916



Recreational water facility inspections
1,097



Rabies exposure investigations
1,719



Tick submissions
380



Number of Smoke-Free Ontario Act inspections for smoking and vaping including retail compliance and test shopping with youth
3,592



Number of large-scale incidents/emergencies or public health community-wide outbreaks requiring IMS activation
5

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Number of expectant parents who registered for online prenatal classes
933



Expectant parents registered in-person prenatal classes
1,061



Total number of parent/caregiver visits to Breastfeeding Place
1,882



Families who received Triple P - Positive Parenting Program support from SMDHU
428



Number of public health nurses supporting school health and well-being with number of schools
30



Home visits by public health nurses and/or family home visitors
4,127

PROGRAM FOUNDATIONS AND FINANCE + HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENTS



Number of times our Facebook posts were seen
1,346,741



Health Connection inquiries
89,321



Visits to SMDHU website (homepage)
88,004



Number of times health unit mentioned in local news
604



Visits to the Simcoe Muskoka HealthSTATS website
100,867



Number of staff as of Dec 31, 2019
304

For more information about **45** programs and services:

T. 705.721.7520 | TF. 1.877.721.7520 | www.simcoemuskokahealth.org

INCREASING NATURAL
COVER AND PROTECTIONS

LAKE SIMCOE WATERSHED



Why?

Protecting natural heritage (forests, wetlands etc.) has many benefits:

- ✓ Storing carbon, creating oxygen, reducing flood impacts.
- ✓ Reducing water quality impairments.
- ✓ Increasing ecosystem resilience.
- ✓ Protecting habitats of species at risk.
- ✓ Erosion control and sediment retention.

Efforts are needed to achieve the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan's (LSPP) natural cover and shoreline targets. The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition suggests how to achieve some of the LSPP's natural cover targets, below.



In the Lake Simcoe watershed, a quality ecosystem supports the **\$420 million/year sustainable recreation sector**, and delivers **\$922 million of dollars in ecosystem services** like clean water, flood control, climate regulation, and water filtration.

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The Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition is a lake-wide member-based organization, representing 26 groups in the Lake Simcoe watershed, which provides leadership and inspires people to take action to protect Lake Simcoe.

www.rescuelakesimcoe.org

Context: Lake Simcoe Protection Plan and Statutory Review, Fall 2020

The *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* was passed in 2008 following a campaign led by the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, Environmental Defence, and Ontario Nature, with the support of the Ladies of the Lake, and over 35 local groups. The passage of the Act, which received unanimous, all-party support in the Ontario Legislature, required the preparation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) which was enacted in 2009.

The *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* and Plan represent the **best watershed-based legislative/policy framework in Canada**. They are used as a model by conservationists and policy-makers seeking stronger environmental policies to reduce phosphorus loading to water bodies and to protect water and watersheds.

The *Lake Simcoe Protection Act* requires that a review of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan be conducted by the Minister of the Environment at least every ten years to determine if the Plan needs to be amended. **That review is scheduled to occur in the fall of 2020.**

Status of Natural Heritage Protection in the Lake Simcoe watershed

The LSPP includes a target of **40% High Quality Natural Cover** in the Lake Simcoe watershed but no policies specifically support this target.

Today, **28% of the watershed qualifies as High Quality Natural Cover** but only **half of that area is well protected** by strong natural heritage policies that do not permit land use changes.

62% of the Lake Simcoe watershed is subject to policies that protect natural features. But **only 21% of the watershed is protected by strong policies that prohibit land use changes and site alteration**. 41% of the watershed's land is subject to weaker natural heritage policies.



The advice herein supports both policy changes and policy implementation actions to move towards achieving this important ecological target.

How?

Coordinated Implementation Recommendations

1. Due to the significance of patch size, it is of utmost importance to protect and maintain the 25 hectare plus patches mapped by the province as **High Quality Natural Cover** using the following steps:

A. Identify and ground truth the quality of the natural features:

- i. The Province should continue to fund scientific research that examines the structure and composition of the High Quality Natural Cover parcels, and the presence of rare or endangered species, and their habitats, by the end of 2020.
- ii. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, along with municipalities, need to map all known forest patches, then categorize by the 4 hectare (south) and 10 hectare (north) thresholds of the province's "Technical Definitions and Criteria for Identifying Key Natural Heritage Features and Key Hydrologic Features for the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan". Any woodlands below these thresholds should then be recommended for evaluation to see if they meet the density/crown cover metrics of the technical guide.
- iii. All levels of government should cooperate on mapping and evaluation of any unevaluated natural cover, including wetlands.

B. Municipalities and Upper tier Region or County put the natural features in Official Plans (maps, policies, definitions, and supportive lower-tier zoning).

C. The Province must review Official Plans to confirm whether the natural features mapped by the Province, and shoreline areas, are in fact protected by Official Plans.

D. Support non-policy initiatives and land trusts that protect features within the 25 hectare patches that do not meet the criteria for strong policy protection.

2. The Province must move past lip service to First Nations by providing meaningful opportunities for **First Nations' to identify priority lands for protection** through a Traditional Ecological Knowledge assessment of the Lake Simcoe watershed.

3. The Province needs to work with municipalities to ensure they map the **Growth Plan Natural Heritage System** and incorporate the associated policies into their Official Plans within the identified time-frame. Once implemented, they will offer the best protection yet for natural heritage features and in particular for the linkage features between the features.



For Simcoe County, and the Regions of Durham, Kawartha Lakes, and York and their lower tier municipalities in the Lake Simcoe Watershed:

4. We encourage all of the municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed to **adopt the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority's Natural Heritage System and Strategy**. If their NHS's recommended remediation and tree planting work were completed, then up to 60% of the Lake Simcoe watershed would be in some form of natural cover.
5. Municipalities should be encouraged to enact an **interim control bylaw** to protect the mapped High Quality Natural Cover parcels of 25 hectare plus from rezoning or land use changes until the research is complete.

For the Province:

The following amendments to the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan would enable the achievement of natural heritage targets:

6. Amend the LSPP to require the establishment of natural cover targets in each subwatershed by 2020.
7. Subwatershed targets should be set for forest cover, wetland cover, and high quality natural cover. Some of these features will overlap.
8. Subwatershed natural cover targets should be based on the LSRCA's Natural Heritage System and Restoration Strategy which, if realized, would result in 60% natural cover across the watershed.
9. Lake Simcoe Protection Plan guidance should be augmented by requiring LSPP decision-makers to have regard to the ecological diversity and function that undeveloped land will provide in the future.



Thank you to the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation for their Support.

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Rescue Lake Simcoe Charitable Foundation

120 Primeau Dr. Aurora, ON L4G 6Z4
rescuelakesimcoecoalition@gmail.com | www.rescuelakesimcoe.org



Essa Public Library Report: October 2020

IMAGINE DISCOVER CONNECT

Outcomes

Help us celebrate #OntarioPublicLibraryWeek by sharing with us your favourite things about the library! We will be sharing new library features with you every day this week #endlesspossibilities #oplw



Kelly
I just love the warm and comfortable feeling I have every time I walk in the door of my library!



Amy
So many things!! Always loved the library as a kid and now my boys love it too. That was one of the hardest things to do without during the lockdown lol. In Essa library especially, the staff are phenomenal and so amazing with my three terrorizing boys when they come in. ❤️



Stephanie
The staff ❤️



Brenda
Taking my grandkids to the library story times.

ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY WEEK

LA SEMAINE DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES PUBLIQUES DE L'ONTARIO



One card, one million possibilities

Une carte, un million de possibilités

#OPLW | OCTOBER 18 - 24, 2020 | DU 18 AU 24 OCTOBRE 2020 | OPLW.CA

@ Essa Public Library

[Faded social media posts from @EssaPublicLibrary]

Adults

[Faded text, likely containing a list of adult programming events and attendance figures.]

Teens & Tweens

[Faded text, likely containing a list of teen and tween programming events and attendance figures.]



Kids

Zoom Online

Zoom Library Storytime: 33

Outreach

Angus - Storytime in the Park: 19

Angus - Wiggles and Giggles in the Park: 26

Angus - Teeny Halloweeny: 99

Thornton - Storytime in the Park: 58

Thornton - Wiggles and Giggles in the Park: 38

Book bundle requests - All ages: 10

Halloween Trivia on Library's website: 15

Beanstack

1,000 Books before Kindergarten -
Active readers: 8
Books read: 432
Badges earned: 59

Fall-A-Palooza -
Active readers: 10
Books read: 375
Badges earned: 20

In-Library

Harry Potter Horcrux Hunt: 3



Scarecrow Grab 'n Go craft workshop: 8
Kits picked up: 30

Thornton - Books of Elsewhere Hunt: offered

Other

Library Zest blog posts/videos/email campaigns: 10

Library Zest blog traffic: 186

Library Zest unique visitors: 40

Makerspace: 3

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Circulation Totals and Analysis: October 2020

CIRCULATION	Oct.2019	Oct.2020	YTD 2020
Angus Branch	9,311	7,093	59,376
Thornton Branch	1,385	1,593	11,962
Angus Branch Computer Use	541	263	1,874
Thornton Branch Computer Use	51	31	208
Angus Branch Wireless Use	1,893	1,455	8,722
Thornton Branch Wireless Use	376	209	2,178
eAudio & eBooks	774	789	9,714
TOTALS:	14,331	11,433	94,034

Circulation Analysis	Oct. 2019	Oct. 2020	YTD 2020
Print	5,302	5,239	38,953
Non-Print	5,263	3,389	31,689
Computer Use/Internet/Wireless	2,861	1,958	12,982
eAudio Books	267	219	2,727
eBooks	507	570	6,987
Interlibrary Loan: Borrowed	105	31	403
Interlibrary Loan: Lent	26	27	293

Materials Used In-Library	Oct. 2020	YTD 2020
Angus Branch	113	960
Thornton Branch	30	496

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Online Resources & New Members: October 2020

Library website visits	YTD 2020	BlueCloud Mobile visits	YTD 2020
2,956	26,685	130	1,363

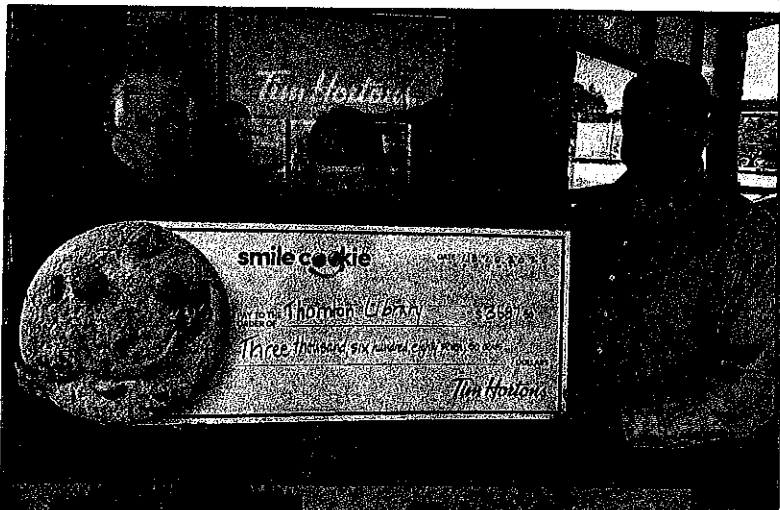
E-resources visits	YTD 2020
1,444	15,897

New Members		YTD 2020
Angus Branch	133	523
Thornton Branch	1	19

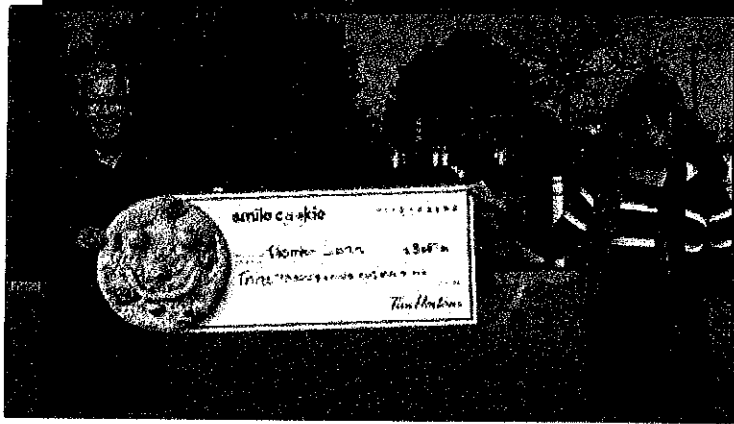
October Library Highlights

Teeny Weeny Halloweeny was an amazing outdoor event for the little ones and their families.





The Cookbook Club meets on Zoom for a fun night filled with food and recipes.



EPL is a recipient of the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie campaign. Pictured with Board Chair, Derek McKeever & CEO Laura Wark is Thornton Tim Hortons' owner, David Blackmore. Thank you Tim Hortons for your generous donation.



Fire Safety Storytime at Thornton

Seniors Connect at the Pumpkin Block workshop.



From: peter.julian@parl.gc.ca <peter.julian@parl.gc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, November 26, 2020 5:55:21 PM
To: Sandie Macdonald <smacdonald@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: Request regarding Bill C-213 The Canada Pharmacare Act

Mayor MACDONALD
ESSA

Dear Mayor MACDONALD,

We are writing to you today seeking the City Council of ESSA’s formal endorsement of Bill C-213, the *Canada Pharmacare Act*.

Introduced in February 2020, the *Canada Pharmacare Act* is ground-breaking new federal legislation based on the recommendations of the Hoskins Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare and modelled on the *Canada Health Act*.

The *Canada Pharmacare Act* specifies the conditions and criteria that provincial and territorial prescription drug insurance programs must meet to receive federal funding. This includes the core principles of public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability, and accessibility.

Universal public drug coverage has been recommended by commissions, committees, and advisory councils dating as far back as the 1940s. Immediately following the last election, the New Democratic Party of Canada began working to draft a legislative framework to enable the implementation of a universal, comprehensive and public pharmacare program. The *Canada Pharmacare Act* is the first piece of legislation introduced by the New Democrat Caucus in the current Parliament.

As you know, across Canada, people are making impossible choices every day because they cannot afford their prescription medications. Over the past year alone, one-in-four Canadians were forced to avoid filling or renewing a prescription due to cost or take measures to extend a prescription because they could not afford to keep the recommended dosage schedule.

Even those with private coverage are seeing their employer-sponsored benefits shrink – a trend that has accelerated due to the economic impacts of COVID-19. In fact, Canadians are twice as likely to have lost prescription drug coverage as to have gained it over the past year.

Simply put, universal public pharmacare will extend prescription drug coverage to every single Canadian, while saving billions every year. The final report of the Hoskins Advisory Council found that, once fully implemented, universal public pharmacare will reduce annual system wide spending on prescription drugs by \$5 billion. Businesses and employees will see their prescription drug costs reduced by \$16.6 billion annually and families will see their out of pocket drug costs reduced by \$6.4 billion a year.

Although a recent study from Angus Reid Institute found near universal support for pharmacare among the Canadian public, powerful vested interests in the drug and insurance industries are lobbying to block this critical program in order to protect their profits.

Indeed, the *Canada Pharmacare Act* is reaching a crucial period in the legislative process. The first hour of debate on this bill took place in Parliament on November 18, 2020. The second hour of debate and the first vote will be held in February 2021. This legislation could be enacted by next spring, allowing millions of Canadians who are struggling to pay for medication to receive the support they desperately need.

That's why we need your help to secure the adoption of the *Canada Pharmacare Act* in Parliament. We are asking your City Council to join other municipalities across Canada to formally endorse Bill C-213. We will be publicizing this support nationally.

For more information on C-213 and to sign the e-petition, please visit our website:

www.pharmacarec213.ca

Thank you very much for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us if you require further detail.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Peter Julian, MP
New Westminster-Burnaby

Jenny Kwan, MP
Vancouver East

Don Davies, MP
Vancouver Kingsway