

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
CONSENT AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020**

A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

1. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:
 - p. 1 a) April 9, 2020 – County of Simcoe COVID-19 Business Impact Survey Results
 - p. 3 b) County Council Highlights – Committee of the Whole of March 10 and April 14, 2020 and Council Meeting of April 14, 2020
 - p. 5 c) April 28, 2020 – Committee of the Whole Report CCW-2020-156, re: Community Benefit Charges-Bill 108 *More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019*

2. AMO COVID-19 Updates:
 - p. 21 a) April 10, 2020 – Recovery
 - p. 23 b) April 11, 2020 – New Emergency Orders
 - p. 26 c) April 14, 2020 – Bill 189, Coronavirus Support and Protection Act, 2020 Receives Royal Assent
 - p. 28 d) April 15, 2020 – Action Plan for Long-Term Care Homes Released and Planning Update
 - p. 30 e) April 23, 2020 – Municipal Fiscal Issues and Other Items of Municipal Interest
 - p. 34 f) April 27, 2020 – What You Need to Know Today: Provincial Re-Opening Approach, PPE Access, LTC Orders, Increased COVID Pay, Community Gardens

- p. 38 3. Correspondence from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit dated April 15, 2020, re: West Nile Virus Program Planning – 2020.

- p. 40 4. Correspondence from the Town of Oakville dated April 20, 2020, re: Assistance for Businesses.

- p. 41 5. Correspondence from Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) dated April 20, 2020, re: COVID-19 Update.

- p. 42 6. Resolution from the Township of Mapleton dated April 21, 2020, re: Request for Provincial Review of the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program.

- p. 53 7. Resolution from the Town of Gravenhurst dated April 22, 2020, re: Province for Province to Add Community Gardens, Garden Centres and Nurseries as Essential Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- p. 55 8. Correspondence from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks dated April 23, 2020, re: 2020 Day of Action on Litter Update.

- p. 56 9. AMO Watchfile dated April 23, 2020.

- p. 69 10. Resolution from the Township of Armour dated April 29, 2020, re: Support of High Speed Internet Connectivity in Rural Ontario.

- p. 72 11. Essa Public Library Reports - February 2020 and March 2020.

12. Notice of Virtual Public Meetings from the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio:
 - p. 80 a) Zoning By-law Amendment Application – Add a Definition (“Attached”)
 - p. 84 b) Zoning By-law Amendment –Update Agricultural Building/Structure Components

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.



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April 9, 2020

VIA EMAIL

John Brassard, MP Barrie-Innisfil
Terry Dowdall, MP Simcoe-Grey
Doug Shipley, MP Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte
Bruce Stanton, MP Simcoe North
Scot Davidson, MP York-Simcoe

Dear Simcoe County MP's,

Re: County of Simcoe COVID-19 Business Impact Survey Results

On March 19, 2020, the County of Simcoe, in partnership with our member municipalities, the Cities of Orillia and Barrie and regional stakeholders, released the COVID-19 Business Impact Survey. The purpose of the survey is to provide information on how we can best support business and advocate to various levels of government on behalf of our businesses. We hope that sharing this information with you will provide valuable insights into the concerns and needs of Simcoe County businesses.

As of April 8, 2020, we have received 653 survey responses. We have attached a PDF of the survey data along with a summary of the results included below for your consideration. The Top Concerns with respect to the COVID-19 situation include:

- Health
 - Personal/Family (Catching the virus)
 - Community (spreading the virus)
 - Employees (Health and safety of employees)
 - Mental health (Anxiety)
- Lack of work/sales and loss of revenue/income
- Inability to pay bills
 - personal bills (i.e. mortgage, household bills, etc.)
 - business bills (i.e. rent, utilities, taxes, overhead, etc.)
- Inability to recover/have to close it down permanently
- Businesses worry about their Inability to pay employees' salaries/wages
- Uncertainty surrounding the ability for and timing of business being able to re-open/end of pandemic date
- Overall economy (i.e. recession/depression) and its long-term effects on businesses
- Uncertainty surrounding whether individual small businesses are considered "essential"

(Report is 81 pages, for a copy, contact Clerks Dept.)

The supports that businesses expressed interest in during the COVID-19 Pandemic include:

- Tax deferrals (i.e. HST, property taxes, etc.)
- Rent forgiveness/deferrals, and working with landlords to discuss supports and alternative arrangements

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- Access to grants/loans/other financial assistance
- Listing of available resources/best practices for safety
- Mortgage deferrals
- Enforcement of social/physical distancing

86% of businesses surveyed have 1-9 full-time employees and 88% have 1-9 part-time employees.

Businesses in agriculture mostly indicated that lack of seasonal agricultural workers will not affect their 2020 production.

62% of respondents indicated that they do not have insurance coverage for the effects of COVID-19.

35% indicated they are not sure whether they have coverage.

67% of businesses indicated they are not equipped to work from home.

On average, businesses indicated they are losing 72% of their regular revenues that are normal for this time of year. Of those who responded, 5% (31 respondents) indicated no decrease in revenue.

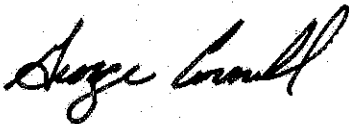
63% indicated they have laid off employees after March 1st. Of those, 75% laid off 1-4 full-time employees.

83% indicated they have or will reduce staff hours in the near future, on average, by 66%. 67% of businesses indicated that they anticipate reducing their number of employees if shutdowns last beyond March 31. 56% anticipate they have 1-3 months before they need to permanently close.

The County has been working closely with businesses to respond to these needs, as well as providing assistance to companies that have re-tooled production in response to COVID-19 essential personal protective equipment needs. We are also working closely with our municipal and economic development partners across the region to identify gaps and business supports needed. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues in more detail and ways that we could work together to provide support to local businesses.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing back from you and developing action plans to address the above concerns. If you have questions or require additional information, do not hesitate to contact me directly at george.cornell@simcoe.ca or 705-529-3604.

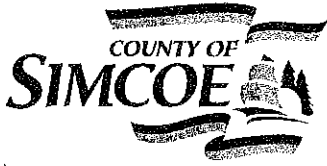
Sincerely,



George Cornell
Warden

enclosure

c: Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation & Trade
Simcoe County MPP's
Simcoe County Council
CAO's, Simcoe County Member Municipalities



COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

2020 Tax Ratios and Tax Rates

Upper-tier municipalities have the responsibility of establishing County wide tax ratios, tax rate reductions and County tax rates. All properties are valued based on a valuation date of January 1, 2016. These updated Current Value Assessment (CVA) values as adjusted under the Province's assessment phase-in program, will have formed the basis of taxation for the 2016 through 2019 taxation years and continue to apply to 2020. Every year, the County is required to establish tax ratios for multi-residential, commercial, landfill, industrial and pipeline classes, within guidelines prescribed by the Province.

Council voted to implement a multi-resident class and an industrial class ratio reduction to address inequities and stimulate growth, while having little impact on other taxpayers.



MZOs for Elmvale Active Seniors Residence and Environmental Resource Recovery Centre

On January 29, 2020, a non-profit corporation called the Elmvale Active Seniors Residence (EASR) submitted a letter to Warden Cornell and members of County Council, requesting the County's support for their application for a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) to facilitate the development of a seniors retirement campus on the border of Elmvale.

Council was also asked to consider an MZO for the County's Environmental Resource Recovery Centre (ERRC), which will provide the necessary waste management infrastructure for our next curbside collection contract in 2022 and support the Province's long-term waste goals. The County is currently awaiting its fourth LPAT case management conference and a hearing date has not been established. The current path for obtaining approvals is likely to take another two years or more without the MZO and has already cost the taxpayer more than \$1.5 million.

Section 47 of the Planning Act gives the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing the same authority as municipal councils to make decisions on certain land use planning matters. An MZO is a very specialized planning instrument given to cover projects important to the public that meet very important and urgent municipal and provincial goals and establishes land use permissions and sets specific requirements for a new development. However, unlike municipal decisions, MZOs are non-appealable.

In keeping with County and Provincial plans, Council voted to support both MZOs to encourage development and significantly reduce the time and cost to bring these projects to reality.



**WE APPLAUD VOLUNTEERS
FOR ALL THEY DO**



Emergency Licensed Child Care

On March 17, 2020, the Province directed closure of Licensed Child Care Centres, under Ontario's declared State of Emergency. On March 21, the Province announced that select Licensed Child Care Centres could be approved as exempt from closure, in order to support health care and other frontline emergency workers in securing care for their children.

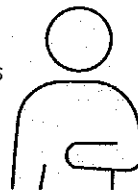
Council received a report on County efforts to reach out to licensed child care operators to develop additional child care spaces for parents who qualify for emergency child care, particularly parents working in front line health care settings. At this time, Licensed Family Home Child Care continues to be available and staff anticipates that one Licensed Child Care Centre, located in Barrie, will be operational by early to mid-April. Similar centre based opportunities continue to be explored for other geographical areas.

What is physical distancing?

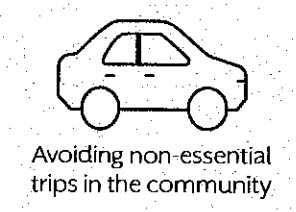
Physical distancing means avoiding close contact with others to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and can include:



Keeping a distance of 6 feet from others when going for walks or shopping for groceries...



and staying home if you are feeling unwell



Social Services Relief Fund and Reaching Home Funding

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the Province has created a \$200-million Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF) for services to help protect the health and safety of the province's most vulnerable people. The SSRF will include two components: funding to individuals for current and non-social assistance clients (\$52 million across the province); and funding to Service Managers to keep frontline critical social services operating (\$148 million across the province).

On April 1, 2020, the Warden received a letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, allocating \$2,440,500 to the County under SSRF, which is the County's portion of the \$148 million.

Additionally, the federal government has provided funding \$157.5 million to support people across Canada experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 outbreak. The 2020-2021 incremental funding allocation for the County of Simcoe under the Designated Communities Funding Stream is \$1,641,353, which is in addition to current Reaching Home funding amounts.

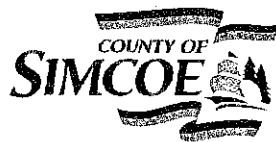
Council approved staff entering into service agreements and providing any other documentation to give effect to the allocation of Social Services Relief Fund and Reaching Home Funding.

Service Simcoe

Communications and Events
 Communications@simcoe.ca
 705-726-9300 Extension 1773

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George Cornell, Warden
Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer

The County Clerk's Dept. maintains the official record for all County government proceedings. This publication is intended to identify highlights of Committee and Council meetings.



To: **Committee of the Whole**

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

Item Number: CCW - 2020-156

Meeting Date: April 28, 2020

Subject: Community Benefit Charges-Bill 108 *More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019*

Recommendation

That Item CCW 2020-156, dated April 28, 2020, regarding comments provided to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing through the Environmental Registry Number: 019-1406, regarding amendments to the *Planning Act and Development Charges Act* for Community Benefits Charges under the authority of *Bill 108 More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019* be received; and

That Schedule 2 to item CCW 2020-156 be forwarded to local Simcoe County municipalities, for information.

Executive Summary

This is a follow-up report to the previous report submitted to County Council on September 10, 2019 as per CCW 2019-298. Comments were submitted to the Environmental Registry Number 019-0183 as a result of this initial report and further comments have been submitted as a result of updated regulations being released.

Bill 108 *More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019*, received Royal Assent on June 6, 2019. On November 6, 2019, amendments to the Community Benefits Charge (CBC) provisions under the *Planning Act* were introduced through the *Plan to Build Ontario Together Act, 2019*. This bill received Royal Assent on December 10, 2019. The proposed amendments to the *Planning Act* set out in Schedule 12 of Bill 108 were available for comment until August 21, 2019. A second regulatory proposal was posted as of February 28, 2020 (Schedule 1) requesting public feedback by April 20, 2020 regarding proposed amendments to the *Planning Act* set out in Schedule 31. These amendments address additional matters for public input to inform the further development of the CBC.

The bill contains initiatives from various ministries in an effort to build more housing and reduce housing costs. The more recent changes made by the *More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019* will provide municipalities with two primary funding streams to pay for the increased need for services due to new development. Development charges would not only provide a mechanism to pay for capital costs of infrastructure like roads and sewers associated with new development, they would also pay for capital costs of certain community services such as public libraries, parks development and recreational facilities. CBC's are intended to fund a range of capital infrastructure for community services that would benefit new development. This latest amendment offers the ability for the CBC to complement Development Charges for soft services rather than previously replacing Development Charges. Soft services include libraries, park amenities, recreation facilities, affordable housing and childcare facilities. The CBC would also establish criteria for parkland dedication and density bonus permissions under the *Planning Act*. The intent of the CBC is to provide municipalities with more flexibility to fund growth-related capital infrastructure costs of other community services as noted above.

Background/Analysis/Options

* The proposed regulation establishes a transition date of one year after the date the proposed CBC regulation comes into effect. This transition period would allow municipalities to prepare the required Community Benefits strategy and pass a Community Benefits by-law if they choose to implement a CBC for new development. ~~The previous regulation identified a transition date of January 1, 2021 and maintained that a CBC was mandatory to fund soft services in the future.~~

Funds collected through the CBC could be used to fund capital infrastructure for soft services for community services such as libraries, parkland, daycare facilities, and recreation facilities.

* Based on the latest proposed regulations, a municipality could choose to collect Development charges to fund the development of new park facilities or enhance existing parks such as playgrounds and splash pads. To acquire the land needed to build new parks, a municipality would have the option of using one of the following tools under the *Planning Act*:

1. A municipality could apply the basic parkland dedication rate in which a maximum of either 5% (for example, for a residential development) or 2% (for a commercial or industrial development) of a proposed development is dedicated as parkland or cash-in-lieu is provided.
2. Alternatively, a municipality could establish a CBC by-law to collect funds to acquire land for parks as well as other community services such as affordable housing and childcare. If both a developer and municipality agree, a developer could provide land for parks (rather than a payment). The agreed-upon value attributed to the in-kind parkland contribution would be applied toward the CBC payable.

* If a municipality has a CBC by-law in place, it cannot apply the basic parkland dedication provisions of the *Planning Act*.

To implement the new CBC, the province is seeking feedback on the following regulatory matters under the *Planning Act*, the *Development Charges Act* and the *Building Code Act*:

1. Required content of a CBC strategy
2. Services eligible to be funded through Development charges
3. Percentage of land value for determining a maximum CBC

4. Timeline to transition to the new CBC regime
5. CBC by-law notice
6. Minimum interest rate for CBC refunds where a by-law has been successfully appealed
7. Building code applicable law

1. Community Benefits Charge (CBC) Strategy:

A municipality must prepare a CBC strategy prior to passing a CBC by-law. The strategy must include items that a municipality intends to fund through the CBC's. The strategy would need to include specific components identified in legislation such as; type and location of development, municipal parks plan, excess capacity for specific services and available capital grants.

2. Services eligible to be funded through Development Charges:

Waste diversion and ambulance services will be fully recoverable through Development charges once the *More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019* is proclaimed.

The following list of services would continue to be identified in regulation under the *Development Charges Act*. Previously, CBC legislation had removed these services.

1. Public libraries, including library materials for circulation, reference or information purposes
2. Long-term care
3. Parks development, such as playgrounds, splash pads, equipment and other park amenities (but not the acquisition of land for parks)
4. Public health
5. Recreation, such as community recreation centres and arenas

Staff would be supportive of childcare services, social housing, airports, and municipal masterplans be added to the list of eligible services for Development charges.

If the recommendation is implemented, the Development charges may be imposed to fully recover the capital costs related to the provision of these proposed services due to new growth. However, these proposed services would not be covered through CBC's. In addition, the latest legislation allows 100% of the growth-related capital costs for the above services to be funded by Development Charges. The previous Community Benefits legislation imposed a 10 % discount in the funding for these services.

3. Percentage of land value for determining a maximum Community Benefits Charge (CBC):

The proposed percentages of land value that would be prescribed in regulation under the Planning Act would be structured as follows:

- single-tier municipalities: 15%
- lower-tier municipalities: 10%
- upper-tier municipalities: 5%

The CBC levied by a municipality could not exceed the amount determined by applying the applicable proposed percentage to the value of the land that is subject to development. The land value would be calculated as of the valuation date, being the day before the date the building permit is issued in respect of the development or redevelopment.

The CBC levied by municipalities would support the growth-related capital costs of acquiring land for parks, and other Community Benefits required because of development, such as child care facilities, affordable housing, social services, parking and by-law enforcement. There would

need to be a connection between the CBC levied and the increased need for community services associated with new development.

Good financial planning relies on stable and secure funding sources and staff are concerned that collecting CBC based on the value of development sites which can vary from site to site and rise and fall with market conditions, rather than clear unit count and building areas would make municipal financial planning efforts less predictable. Staff are concerned that, based on this model, there could be inequities in the revenue generated and the soft services that could be afforded between municipalities with varying land values unless the range of prescribed percentages can account for differences in land values across the province.

In order to ensure that the CBC formula accounts for varying land values and achieves revenue neutrality, staff have previously noted in correspondence through the Environmental Registry that the County could be supportive of regulations that:

- Establish separate percentages for residential and non-residential development and distinguish between high density residential and other residential built forms.
- Prescribe revenue caps and permit municipalities to impose different charges by types of development provided they do not exceed their cap.
- Where mixed use development is proposed, allowing a municipality to establish rules where land values can be assigned to specific portions of a site based on the type of development.
- Permit municipalities to establish rules to determine the land area to which the charges are to apply and when a CBC is payable.
- Include provisions for monitoring revenues and updating the applicable prescribed percentages.

4. Timeline to Transition:

The proposed date for municipalities to transition to the CBC regime would be one year after the date the proposed CBC regulation comes into effect. This transition period would allow municipalities to prepare CBC strategies and pass by-laws if they choose to implement a CBC regime. It is proposed that this period-of-time be extended to two years.

5. Community Benefits Charge (CBC) by-law notice – to allow appeals from the public:

To implement the appeal mechanism, it is proposed that upon passage of a CBC by-law, a municipality would be required to comply with specific notice provisions. These provisions are similar to the notice provisions under the *Development Charges Act* regarding the passage of a Development charges by-law:

6. Minimum interest rate for Community Benefits Charge (CBC) refunds:

It is proposed that the minimum interest rate a municipality would be required to pay on amounts refunded after successful appeals would be the Bank of Canada rate on the date the by-law comes into force. This proposal aligns with the prescribed minimum interest rate for refunds of Development charges after successful appeals under the *Development Charges Act*.

7. Building Code applicable law:

It is proposed that the Building Code be amended to add the CBC authority to the list of items of Applicable Law. This amendment would establish a mechanism for ensuring the payment of CBC prior to the issuance of a building permit.

The recently proposed regulatory changes pertaining to the Community Benefits authority were posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario under ERO number 019-1406. The consultation

Alc

period closed on April 20, 2020 and staff provided comments to the Environmental Registry of Ontario in the form identified in Schedule 2 to Item CCW 2020-156. The final proclamation of the Community Benefits legislation will repeal Section 37 of the Planning Act.

Financial and Resource Implications

The new regulation could make long range municipal financial planning more challenging and affect municipalities' abilities to finance growth-related capital costs.

Relationship to Corporate Strategic Plan

Culture of Workplace and Operational Excellence

- Provides services to residents in a fiscally sustainable and responsible manner

Reference Documents

- CCW 2019-298 Community Benefits Charge Report dated September 10, 2019
- Environmental Registry summary, Proposed new regulation pertaining to the Community Benefits authority under the Planning Act
- Hemson Consulting Ltd. letter dated February 28, 2020
- Watson & Associates Ltd. letter dated February 28, 2020

Attachments

- Schedule 1- Bill 108 *More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019* proposed regulations, Feb. 28, 2020
- Schedule 2- Staff comments on the new Community Benefits authority, April 20, 2020

Prepared By Kristin D. Pechkovsky, Senior Policy Advisor

Approvals

Date

David Parks, Director of Planning, Economic Development and Transit

Debbie Korolnek, General Manager of Engineering, Planning and Environment

Trevor Wilcox, General Manager, Corporate Performance

Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer

April 21, 2020

April 21, 2020

9

Proposed regulatory matters pertaining to community benefits authority under the Planning Act, the Development Charges Act, and the Building Code Act

ERO number

019-1406

Update Announcement

This notice was originally published on February 28, 2020 for a 31 day comment period ending March 30, 2020. The notice was republished on March 20, 2020 to extend the deadline to submit comments to April 20, 2020.

March 20, 2020

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

April 20, 2020

Proposal summary

Proposed Regulatory Matters Pertaining to Community Benefits Authority Under the *Planning Act*, the *Development Charges Act*, and the *Building Code Act*.

Proposal details

Introduction

In May 2019, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing released *More Homes, More Choice: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan*. In support of the Action Plan, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing introduced the *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019* (Bill 108) which received Royal Assent on June 6, 2019. Schedule 12 of the Act, once proclaimed, establishes a new authority under the *Planning Act* for municipalities to charge for community benefits with respect to land to be developed or redeveloped. Community benefits charges are intended to fund municipal infrastructure for community services, such as land for parks, affordable housing and child care facilities, that are needed to support new residents and businesses associated with new development.

On November 6, 2019, amendments to the community benefits charge provisions under the *Planning Act* were introduced through the *Plan to Build Ontario Together Act, 2019*. The Bill received Royal Assent on December 10, 2019. The amendments, set out under Schedule 31 of the Act, include new transition provisions for alternative parkland dedication and a

mechanism to appeal a municipality's community benefits charge by-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

The community benefits charge authority has not been proclaimed and is not in effect at this time.

This is the second regulatory proposal that the government has posted for public feedback on the proposed components of a new community benefits charge authority. The initial regulatory proposal was posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario on June 21, 2019 ("Proposed new regulation pertaining to the community benefits authority under the Planning Act", ERO 019-0183).

This proposal outlines additional matters for public input to inform the further development of the community benefits charge authority and regulation under the Planning Act.

Proposal for public comment

This proposal outlines several matters related to the community benefits charge authority under the *Planning Act*.

The changes made by the *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019* will mean that municipalities will have two primary funding streams to pay for the increased need for services due to new development.

Development charges are a mechanism for municipalities to pay for the capital costs of infrastructure like roads and sewers associated with new development. The government is also seeking feedback in this proposal on changes to the types of services that could be funded through development charges. It is proposed that development charges could also pay for the capital costs of certain community services such as public libraries, parks development (other than acquiring land for parks) and recreational facilities (see Section #2).

The new community benefits charge would complement development charges by giving municipalities the flexibility to fund growth-related capital infrastructure costs of other community services. For example, funds generated through community benefits charges could be used to support community priorities such as acquiring land for parks, supporting affordable housing or building child care facilities which will be needed due to growth.

A municipality could choose to collect development charges to fund the development of new park facilities or enhance existing parks such as playgrounds and splash pads. To acquire the land needed to build new parks, a municipality would have the option of using one of the following tools under the *Planning Act*:

1. A municipality could apply the basic parkland dedication rate in which a maximum of either 5% (for example, for a residential development) or 2% (for a commercial or industrial development) of a proposed development is dedicated as parkland or cash-in-

lieu is provided (section 42 "Conveyance of land for park purposes" and section 51.1 "Parkland" under the *Planning Act*).

2. Alternatively, a municipality could establish a community benefits charge by-law to collect funds to acquire land for parks as well as other community services such as affordable housing and child care. If both a developer and municipality agree, a developer could provide land for parks (rather than a payment). The agreed-upon value attributed to the in-kind parkland contribution would be applied toward the community benefits charge payable.

If a municipality has a community benefits charge by-law in place it cannot apply the basic parkland dedication provisions of the *Planning Act*.

To implement the new community benefits charge authority, the province is seeking feedback on the following regulatory matters under the *Planning Act*, the *Development Charges Act* and the *Building Code Act*:

1. Required content of a community benefits charge strategy
2. Services eligible to be funded through development charges
3. Percentage of land value for determining a maximum community benefits charge
4. Timeline to transition to the new community benefits charge regime
5. Community benefits charge by-law notice
6. Minimum interest rate for community benefits charge refunds where a by-law has been successfully appealed
7. Building code applicable law

1. Required content of a community benefits charge strategy

Before passing a community benefits charge by-law, a municipality must prepare a community benefits charge strategy. The strategy must identify the items that a municipality intends to fund through community benefits charges. It must also comply with any requirements that may be prescribed in regulation regarding the mandatory content that a strategy should address. In preparing a community benefits charge strategy, a municipality must consult, but has the flexibility to determine their consultation approach.

Proposal

To provide greater clarity about the components of a community benefits charge strategy, it is proposed that a municipality would need to include the following content in their strategy:

1. The anticipated type, amount and location of development or redevelopment that would be subject to a community benefits charge
2. The anticipated increase in the need for a specific community service (for example, the acquisition of land for parks, affordable housing, child care, etc.) resulting from new development or redevelopment
3. A parks plan that examines the need for parkland in the municipality
4. The amount of parkland per person currently being provided in the municipality, and if this is planned to increase, decrease or stay the same

5. The capital costs associated with the increased need for a specific community service resulting from new development or redevelopment
6. The excess capacity that exists in those specific services (for example, the extra capacity that exists in a service that is not currently being used)
7. Whether the increased provision of those specific services would also serve existing residents (for example, existing residents may also benefit from new child care facilities that are needed as a result of new development or redevelopment)
8. Any capital grants, subsidies, or contributions from other levels of government or other sources like donations that are anticipated to be made to support those specific services

2. Services eligible to be funded through development charges

The *Development Charges Act* provides authority for municipalities to impose development charges to pay for the increased capital costs of specific services that are needed as a result of new growth.

The services that are eligible to be funded through development charges are listed under subsection 2(4) of the *Development Charges Act*. The list includes a provision for other services that may be prescribed in regulation. The *Planning Act* stipulates that services funded by development charges may not be funded by community benefits charges.

When proclaimed, the *More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019* will make waste diversion and ambulance services fully recoverable through development charges.

The government is proposing to prescribe additional services to be funded under the *Development Charges Act*, through regulation.

Proposal

It is proposed that the following services would be identified in regulation under subsection 2(4) of the *Development Charges Act*:

1. Public libraries, including library materials for circulation, reference or information purposes
2. Long-term care
3. Parks development, such as playgrounds, splash pads, equipment and other park amenities (but not the acquisition of land for parks)
4. Public health
5. Recreation, such as community recreation centres and arenas

Development charges may be imposed to fully recover the capital costs related to the provision of these proposed services due to new growth. These proposed services would be ineligible to be funded through community benefits charges.

3. Percentage of land value for determining a maximum community benefits charge

The community benefits charge authority established through the *More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019*, includes a mechanism to determine the maximum community benefits charge payable for any particular development. The community benefits charge payable cannot exceed the amount determined by applying a prescribed percentage to the value of the land under development.

The ministry is seeking feedback on the proposed prescribed percentages through this posting.

Proposal

The proposed percentages of land value that would be prescribed in regulation under the Planning Act would be structured as follows:

- single-tier municipalities: 15%
- lower-tier municipalities: 10%
- upper-tier municipalities: 5%

In any particular case, the community benefits charge levied by a municipality could not exceed the amount determined by applying the applicable proposed percentage to the value of the land that is subject to development. The land value would be calculated as of the valuation date, which is the day before the date the building permit is issued in respect of the development or redevelopment.

The community benefits charges levied by municipalities would support the growth-related capital costs of acquiring land for parks, and other community benefits required because of development, such as child care facilities, affordable housing, social services, parking and by-law enforcement. There would need to be a connection between the community benefits charge levied and the increased need for community services associated with new development.

Different percentages are being proposed for single, upper and lower-tier municipalities to reflect the varying service delivery requirements of each tier of municipality to service new growth with community amenities. This percentage structure ensures that the combined percentage for upper and lower-tier municipalities would be equal to the percentage for single tier municipalities.

4. Timeline to transition to the new community benefits charge regime

The date by which municipalities must transition to the community benefits charge authority, if they wish to collect funds for community benefits, would be prescribed in regulation under the Development Charges Act, 1997. The prescribed date would be the deadline for establishing a community benefits charge strategy and by-law in order to charge for the capital costs of services funded through community benefits charges.

The community benefits charge by-law would set out the charge payable in any particular instance, any municipal exemptions, and other details.

Proposal

It is proposed that the specified date for municipalities to transition to the community benefits charges regime would be one year after the date the proposed community benefits charge regulation comes into effect.

This transition period would allow municipalities to prepare community benefits charge strategies and pass by-laws if they choose to implement a community benefits charge regime.

5. Community benefits charge by-law notice

The *Plan to Build Ontario Together Act, 2019* amended the *Planning Act* to establish a mechanism by which a municipality's community benefits charge by-law could be appealed to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. A municipality would be required to provide notice to the public when it passes a community benefits charge by-law. To implement the by-law appeal mechanism, requirements associated with how to provide public notice would be prescribed in regulation.

Proposal

To implement the appeal mechanism, it is proposed that upon passage of a community benefits charge by-law, a municipality would be required to comply with the following notice provisions. These provisions are similar to the notice provisions under the *Development Charges Act* regarding the passage of a development charges by-law:

1. Notice would be required to be given through newspaper or to every land owner in the area covered by the by-law through personal service, fax, mail or email.
2. Notice would also be required to be provided by personal service, fax, mail or email to those individuals who specifically request notice, the clerk of the lower or upper-tier municipality (if and as applicable), and the secretary of every school board having jurisdiction in the area covered by the by-law.
3. In order to facilitate public awareness of the passage of a community benefits charge by-law, notice would include the following:
 - i. A statement that the council of the municipality has passed a community benefits charge by-law.
 - ii. A statement setting out when the by-law was passed.
 - iii. A statement that any person or public body may appeal the by-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal by filing with the clerk of the municipality a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons supporting the objection.
 - iv. A statement setting out the last day for appealing the by-law.
 - v. An explanation of the charges imposed by the by-law.
 - vi. A description of the lands to which the by-law applies, a key map showing the lands to which the by-law applies, or an explanation why no description or key map is provided.
 - vii. An explanation of where and when persons may examine a copy of the by-law.

The date on which notice would be deemed to have been given would be:

- the newspaper publishing date if the notice is published by a newspaper
- the date the fax is sent, if the notice is faxed
- the date the email is sent, if the notice is emailed
- the date the notice is mailed, if the notice is sent by mail

6. Minimum interest rate for community benefits charge refunds where a by-law has been successfully appealed

The mechanism to appeal a community benefits charge by-law includes a requirement for municipalities to provide full or partial refunds in the event of a successful appeal. The interest rate paid on amounts refunded must not be less than the prescribed minimum interest rate.

Proposal

It is proposed that the minimum interest rate a municipality would be required to pay on amounts refunded after successful appeals would be the Bank of Canada rate on the date the by-law comes into force. Alternatively, if the municipality's by-law so provides, the minimum interest rate would be the Bank of Canada rate updated on the first business day of every January, April, July and October.

This proposal aligns with the prescribed minimum interest rate for refunds of development charges after successful appeals under the *Development Charges Act*.

7. Building Code applicable law

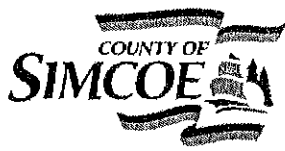
The Building Code is a regulation under the *Building Code Act, 1992*. The Building Code sets out minimum administrative and technical requirements for the construction, renovation, demolition and change of use of buildings. It also establishes a list of applicable law that must be satisfied in order to receive a building permit. Municipalities enforce the Building Code and are responsible for issuing building permits for the construction, renovation, demolition or change of use of buildings.

Proposal

It is proposed that the Building Code be amended to add the community benefits charge authority to the list of items under Division A - Article 1.4.1.3 Definition of Applicable Law. This amendment would establish a mechanism for ensuring the payment of community benefits charges prior to the issuance of a building permit.

Ale

AK



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April 20, 2020

John Ballantine, Manager
Municipal Finance Policy Branch
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
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Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
E: john.ballantine@ontario.ca

Dear Sirs:

**RE: County of Simcoe comments on the proposed regulation pertaining to the
Community Benefits authority under the Planning Act
ERO number 019-1406**

The County appreciates the opportunity to provide comments related to Bill 108 *More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019*. The County provided written comments for Schedule 12 of the Act through the Environmental Registry of Ontario on May 29, 2019. The County also provided written comments on the proposed Community Benefits regulations through the Environmental Registry of Ontario on August 21, 2019.

The following comments are being provided to supplement our previous comments on the Community Benefits Charges (CBC). These comments are based on the most recent proposed regulations pertaining to Community Benefits authority under the *Planning Act, Development Charges Act* and the Building Code Act that were issued by the Environmental Registry of Ontario on February 28, 2020 as per ERO number 019-1406.

This latest regulation offers the ability for the CBC to complement Development Charges for soft services rather than previously replacing Development Charges. Soft services include libraries, park amenities, recreation facilities, affordable housing and childcare facilities. The CBC would also establish criteria for parkland dedication and density bonus permissions under the *Planning Act*. The intent of the CBC is to provide municipalities with more flexibility to fund growth-related capital infrastructure costs of other community services.

The County supports the following provisions identified within the latest proposed regulations.

A municipality could choose to collect Development charges to fund the development of new park facilities or enhance existing parks such as playgrounds and splash pads. To acquire the land needed to build new parks, a municipality would have the option of using one of the following tools under the *Planning Act*:

1. A municipality could apply the basic parkland dedication rate in which a maximum of either 5% (for example, for a residential development) or 2% (for a commercial or industrial development) of a proposed development is dedicated as parkland or cash-in-lieu is provided.

2. Alternatively, a municipality could establish a CBC by-law to collect funds to acquire land for parks as well as other community services such as affordable housing and childcare. If both a developer and municipality agree, a developer could provide land for parks (rather than a payment). The agreed-upon value attributed to the in-kind parkland contribution would be applied toward the CBC payable.

The County supports the requirement for a CBC Strategy prior to passing a CBC by-law. The County commends the Province for identifying waste diversion and ambulance services as fully recoverable through Development Charges once the *More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019* is proclaimed. It also commends the Province for continuing to identify the following under the *Development Charges Act*:

1. Public libraries, including library materials for circulation, reference or information purposes
2. Long-term care
3. Parks development, such as playgrounds, splash pads, equipment and other park amenities
4. Public health
5. Recreation, such as community recreation centres and arenas

Previously, the CBC regulation had removed these services. Adding childcare services, social housing, airports, and municipal masterplans to the list of eligible services for Development Charges, would provide even further assistance to municipalities.

In the latest legislation, 100% of the growth-related capital costs for the above services would be funded by Development Charges. The County supports this change from the previous Community Benefits legislation, which imposed a 10 % discount in the funding for these services.

As noted in our previous correspondence dated August 21, 2019, good financial planning relies on stable and secure funding sources. County staff are concerned that collecting CBC's based on the value of development sites which can vary from site to site and rise and fall with market conditions, rather than clear unit count and building areas would make municipal financial planning efforts less predictable. Staff are concerned that, based on this model, there could be inequities in the revenue generated and the soft services that could be afforded between municipalities with varying land values unless the range of prescribed percentages can account for differences in land values across the province.

In order to ensure that the CBC formula accounts for varying land values and achieves revenue neutrality, County staff could be supportive of regulations that:

- Establish separate percentages for residential and non-residential development and distinguish between high density residential and other residential built forms.
- Prescribe revenue caps and permit municipalities to impose different charges by types of development provided they do not exceed their cap.
- Where mixed use development is proposed, allowing a municipality to establish rules where land values can be assigned to specific portions of a site based on the type of development.
- Permit municipalities to establish rules to determine the land area to which the charges are to apply and when a CBC is payable.
- Include provisions for monitoring revenues and updating the applicable prescribed percentages.

The County appreciates the change in transition date to establish a CBC, now identified as one year after the date the proposed CBC regulation comes into effect, rather than the previous January 1, 2021 date. However the County of Simcoe recommends two years after the regulations come into affect.

AIC

Thank you for the clarity provided in this regulation regarding notice provisions, CBC refunds after successful appeals and applicable revisions to the Building Code to add the CBC authority as Applicable Law.

The above information provides an overview of the comments/concerns that the County of Simcoe has with the proposed regulation related to the new Community benefits authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed regulations. If you have any questions or require further information with respect to this correspondence, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,
The Corporation of the County of Simcoe

David Parks, MCIP, RPP
Director of Planning, Economic Development and Transit
P: 705-726-9300 x1004
E: david.parks@simcoe.ca

CC: Debbie Korolnek, General Manager, Engineering, Planning and Environment – County of Simcoe

From: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: April 10, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: AMO COVID-19 Update: Recovery

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April 10, 2020

AMO COVID-19 Update: Recovery

Spring in Ontario, and this time in particular, is emblematic of rejuvenation, hope, and the promise of brighter days ahead.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 emergency, AMO has recognized the fundamentally important and indispensable role of municipal government in the recovery that will follow.

This quote from AMO President Jamie McGarvey has been front and center on the AMO COVID-19 webpage since it was established on the first day of the emergency:

"There is no place better prepared than Ontario to respond to the COVID-19 emergency, manage through it effectively, and to rebuild prosperity through a period of recovery. Municipalities will support the province, our communities, and enterprises large and small, every step of the way".

One way we will do this is through the AMO-MOU process which serves to augment the policy capacity of the province by providing sector expertise and information, and local intelligence, to support fully informed provincial decision making.

AMO applauds the Government's [announcement](#) on April 9th, that it has created a Cabinet committee to develop a plan for post-pandemic growth and prosperity.

Through the AMO-MOU process, and through our many contacts and networks, we will ensure that the experience of the people, social and private enterprises that comprise our communities – and the energy, aspirations and know-how of the communities that comprise Ontario’s economy – are brought to bear on the work of the committee.

This emergency has shown all of us what is possible when all orders of government, and all parties, collaborate to get the job done. AMO salutes this approach and is confident that it will inform the work of the recovery in rebuilding and stimulating the economic activity in our communities that will be the foundation of growth and prosperity in Ontario and Canada.

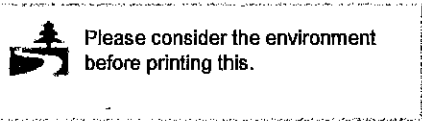
Thank you to our members for the incredible work you are doing to respond to the emergency and to begin the recovery. To municipal councils for your leadership in tough times, and to the extraordinary municipal public servants, from administration to the frontlines of the emergency and recovery, thank you!

AMO will support its members in every aspect of this emergency and the recovery that follows.

We are keeping our COVID-19 webpage current and focusing on what’s most relevant.

AMO’s dedicated COVID-19 email account will manage your questions, take your ideas, and facilitate your feedback. AMO’s policy and member services teams look forward to hearing from you at covid19@amo.on.ca.

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From: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: April 11, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: AMO COVID-19 Update – New Emergency Orders

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April 11, 2020

AMO COVID-19 Update – New Emergency Orders

Extension of All Ontario Emergency Orders until April 23

Today, the Province has extended all emergency orders under s.7.0.2 (4) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (Ontario Takes Further Action to Stop the Spread of COVID-19) until April 23, 2020, including the closure of outdoor amenities in parks and recreational areas, non-essential workplaces, public places and bars and restaurants, along with restrictions on social gatherings. This extension is to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of Ontarians.

In addition, new measures have been introduced to address surge capacity in retirement homes, restrict recreational camping on Crown land, and allow the repurposing of existing buildings and temporary structures.

Temporary Health Care Structures for COVID-19

On April 9th, an emergency order (Order under Subsection 7.0.2 (4) of the Act - Temporary Health or Residential Facilities) under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, provides relief from the Building Code to temporary health care structures being built for COVID-19 purposes. These structures are not designed to meet the normal requirements for health care facilities (such as HVAC or oxygen gas

lines). However, they are needed as hospitals require new beds to care for those suffering from the pandemic as well as the other patients.

Specifically, the structures will:

- not be subject to the Building Code,
- no building permit will be required,
- no zoning or site plans will be required.

These structures would need to be designed by architects and approved by engineers. Both these professions would have to sign off on the structures. The Chief Building Official (CBO) will need to deem the building safe and regularly inspect for structural sufficiency in keeping with the original design. We understand that CBOs have requested this approach and have been consulted by the Province in advance of this order.

Discussion about the orderly dismantling of these structures during the recovery period is taking place and will unfold as the epidemic starts to subside.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will be setting up webinars soon to take building officials and municipal staff through the order and answer questions. More MMAH information about those sessions will be coming next week.

Construction Act Payment Suspension Revision

The Province has revised one *Construction Act* section of a previous emergency order, O. Reg. 73/20 made under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, which suspended limitation periods and procedural time periods retroactive to March 16, 2020. At the time of this update, O. Reg. 73/20 has not been revised to include this revision on the provincial e-Laws site.

This emergency order has been amended to lift the suspension of limitation periods and procedural time periods under the *Construction Act*. This will allow for the release of holdback payments to contractors and subcontractors in the normal course, helping to resolve a potentially significant cash flow problem as a result of the order for the construction industry.

The suspension will be lifted on April 16, 2020, to give the industry time to prepare for these changes. Once lifted, parties will have the same amount of time to meet a deadline that had been remaining before the suspension began on March 16, 2020.

Child Care Operators prevented from Charging Fees while Closed

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the Ontario government is temporarily preventing child care centres from collecting payments from parents, while also ensuring that their child care spaces are protected. Child care centres, with the exception of those accommodating health care and other frontline workers, were ordered closed to help prevent the spread of the virus and keep the children and child care staff safe.

An emergency order (Ontario Protects Parents during COVID-19) has been issued, and immediately prevents any child care operator from charging parent fees where care is not being provided. The order also means that parents cannot lose their child care space because they are not paying fees during this period. This order will affect closed municipal child care centres.

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

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From: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: April 14, 2020 5:06 PM
To: Colleen Healey <chealey@essatowship.on.ca>
Subject: AMO COVID-19 Update: Bill 189, Coronavirus Support and Protection Act, 2020 Receives Royal Assent

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April 14, 2020

**AMO COVID-19 Update:
Bill 189, Coronavirus Support and Protection Act,
2020 Receives Royal Assent**

Today, the Province extended the Declaration of Emergency under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* for a further 28 days, to May 12, 2020. This extension was made to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of Ontarians.

The extension of the provincial declaration of emergency allows Ontario to continue to enforce current emergency orders. A full list of emergency orders can be found on the [e-Laws website](#) under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*.

Bill 189 Receives Royal Assent

Today Bill 189 was introduced and passed by the Ontario Legislature. Of municipal significance, the Act amends the *Planning Act*, the *Development Charges Act*, and the *Police Services Act*. This new legislation was intended to demonstrate that the government is actively listening to the concerns of education and municipal stakeholders during this COVID-19 emergency.

At the time of writing this update, the legislation has not been posted but the Province has [released a backgrounder](#) with a summary of these changes. While AMO staff will

provide further Bill 189 analysis if required, here are the municipal implications that we understand Bill 189 will have:

Planning

We understand that Bill 189 temporarily suspends specified timelines for applications for development and land use planning matters. This relief may be applied retroactively to the date that an emergency was declared. This legislation allows those municipalities who want to proceed with planning applications to do so while allowing those that are not in a position to proceed to redirect efforts to dealing with the COVID emergency without fearing appeals for missing deadlines. The timelines would return to normal once the emergency ends.

We appreciate the efforts of Minister Clark to bring about these extensions to development approvals timelines. AMO will continue to press for similar suspension to all statutory timelines that municipal governments are currently required to follow. As well, AMO is requesting that when timelines are restarted there should be a reasonable recovery period to properly manage any backlog.

Development Charges

The changes to the Act governing development charges ensures that municipal governments can continue to use their existing development charge bylaws. Preserving these existing bylaws allows municipalities to continue collecting development charges without having to replace expiring bylaws. AMO understands municipalities will have six months from the end of the declared emergency to develop new development charge bylaws.

In addition, education related development charges may still be collected.

Police Services Act

Municipalities had previously been mandated to complete Community Safety and Wellbeing Plans by January 1, 2021. This due date will no longer apply. The Solicitor General will establish a new deadline, by regulation, at a future date.

The above changes will allow municipal governments and their staff to continue to focus on responding to the public health emergency in the months ahead.

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

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

Sent: April 15, 2020 4:46 PM

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

Subject: AMO COVID-19 Update: Action Plan for Long-Term Care Homes Released and Planning Update

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April 15, 2020

AMO COVID-19 Update: Action Plan for Long-Term Care Homes Released and Planning Update

Today, the Province released a Long-Term Care Action Plan and subsequent regulations under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA), in an attempt to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of Ontarians residing in long-term care homes. In particular, the announced changes to long-term care homes under the new emergency orders are intended to reduce the unintentional spread of COVID-19 which officials believe may be caused by the movement of staff among different care environments.

Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for Long-Term Care

Today, the Province released the COVID-19 Action Plan: Long-Term Care. The Plan adds critical new measures to prevent further outbreaks and deaths from COVID-19 in long-term care homes, including:

- Aggressive testing, screening, and surveillance for staff and residents (both symptomatic and asymptomatic).
- Managing outbreaks and spread of the disease including providing public health and infection control expertise and additional training and support to current staff.
- Growing the long-term care workforce which includes redeploying staff from hospitals and home and community care.

Regarding redeployment, yesterday the Province passed Ontario Regulation 146/20, under subsection 7.0.2 (4) of the EMCPA. It means that as of midnight, Wednesday, April 22, an employee who performs work at a long-term care home cannot work at another health service provider or a retirement home. Workers must inform each of their employers that they subject to this order by 5pm on Friday, April 17th. Note that this order is notwithstanding any collective agreements the employee is under.

Long-term care providers must ensure that any employee of their home is not performing work elsewhere, and that the order be posted. Regulation 147/20 under subsection 7.0.2 (4) of the Act titled, Work Deployment Measures in Long-Term Care Homes, enables this redeployment to happen.

Update on Bill 189 – New *Planning Act* Timelines

Yesterday Bill 189 added a new section to the *Planning Act*, Sec. 70.11, which allows for temporarily suspending specified timelines for development applications during COVID 19 while the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* is in effect. This relief applies retroactively to the date that the emergency was declared and took effect as of the date of Royal Assent, yesterday.

O.Reg. 149/20 implements this new section of the *Planning Act*. This impacts all types of notices, appeals and interim control by laws. The details of the regulation are complex. An explanatory note from MMAH is expected to be posted on the ERO in the next few days.

This legislation allows those municipalities who want to proceed with planning applications to do so while allowing those that are not in a position to proceed to redirect efforts to dealing with the COVID emergency without fearing appeals for missing deadlines. The timelines would return to normal once the emergency ends.

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

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From: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: April 23, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: AMO COVID-19 Update: Municipal Fiscal Issues and other items of municipal interest

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April 23, 2020

AMO COVID-19 Update: Municipal Fiscal Issues and other items of municipal interest

COVID-19 Municipal Fiscal Issues

One of the first issues AMO raised with provincial government upon the declaration of the COVID-19 emergency was the impact on municipal finances, both added operational costs and lost revenues.

It continues to be the focus of our active advocacy and discussion with our members and with the Government of Ontario. In March, the province provided an important \$200 million down payment to help with added human services costs and to fund added emergency benefits through Ontario Works. The approach was much needed and notably flexible.

The province followed up in its March Fiscal and Economic Statement with authority to delay education tax remittances, and other measures, to support municipal cashflow. One of the most important messages at that time from the Minister of Finance was that it was just a "first step", recognizing more would be needed. Finance Minister Phillips has repeated that message on a number of occasions.

AMO has continued these discussions with the province and the Government of Ontario is eager to better understand the short- and long-term financial impacts, the

best way to assist municipal governments, and the potential opportunities to support recovery and economic stimulus.

As well, FCM has just released its request to the Government of Canada. AMO supports the FCM request because it will, if implemented by the federal government, benefit municipalities in every part of Ontario with immediate and flexible financial assistance, help with massive losses in transit revenue, and potentially support infrastructure investment.

FCM is seeking \$10 billion in federal funds for municipal relief. It is advocating for a hybrid allocation-based model based on additional gas tax funding of \$7.6 billion and an additional \$2.4 billion based on public transit ridership.

The FCM proposal is based on municipal allocations of \$35 per capita, per month, for six months. Public transit funding is based on the Canadian Urban Transit Association's estimated need of \$400 million per month for six months (to match 2019 ridership and revenues). The proposal suggests that the provinces should assume responsibility for vulnerable individuals support, backstopping property tax deferrals and revenues, and additional grants.

Financial assistance from the federal and provincial government will be essential to the management of the current emergency and the recovery afterwards. Both Canada and Ontario have the fiscal capacity to backstop municipal operations through this crisis and to help underwrite the longer-term financial sustainability of Ontario's diverse communities.

AMO will continue to work with its members and with government to advocate for measures that address the impacts of the COVID-19 emergency, support the underlying financial sustainability of municipalities, and recognize the indispensable role of municipal government in the economic recovery of Ontario and Canada.

Ontario Extends Emergency Orders

Today the province announced it would extend all emergency orders until May 6, 2020.

The orders mandate the continued closure of public places, social gatherings, and non-essential workplaces.

MPAC Offers Municipalities a Quarterly Payment Deferral

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) wrote to all municipalities advising that it is offering a one-time deferral of its quarterly invoice. This measure supports municipal property tax deferrals. Nicole McNeill, MPAC's President

announced this news in an April 21st letter to CAOs, municipal finance staff, and Heads of Council.

AGCO to Resume Limited Cannabis Store Licensing

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) announced it has been authorized by the Ontario government to resume licensing of cannabis retail stores in certain circumstances. Previously, when the updated closure order was released, cannabis retail stores were closed to customers and then authorized for curb side pick up and delivery only. At the time, retail authorizations were expected to halt. Several retailers had moved far in the process of readying their stores to open, with construction completed and permits issued when that announcement was made.

As a result, AMO understands that retail stores meeting those criteria will be issued authorizations to open for curb side pick up and delivery only. Retailers issued authorizations in this period must comply with all regulatory requirements, emergency orders and legislation. Authorizations for stores in Toronto, Kingston, St. Thomas and Stratford have been granted licenses in the current round.

Guidance Posted on Suspension of Land Use Planning Timelines

Guidance on how to implement the new Sec. 70.11 of the *Planning Act* and O.Reg. 149/20 has now been posted on the ERO. The regulation implementing *Planning Act* Section 70.11 effectively suspends a number of timelines including those that, once exceeded, allow proponents to appeal non-decisions on specified applications. A list is provided in the guidance. The regulation also effectively suspends a number of processing / administrative timelines in the *Planning Act* and these are also listed in the guidance.

Municipal governments can choose to suspend planning activities while staff focus on emergency related activities or they can continue to process planning applications. Municipalities that choose to carry on with planning activities will need to organize means to address the public participation requirements of the Act. The guidance offers a number of suggestions on how this might be accomplished.

Government Extending Covid-19 Response Services to Low-Income Seniors and Disabled Persons

Working with the Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA), the province has launched a new Ontario Community Support Program to expand existing Meals on Wheels services to reach low-income seniors and people with disabilities and chronic medical conditions across Ontario. The program will also develop the capacity of community organizations and others to help deliver medication and other essentials.

People in the community can request access to service through the [OCSA website](#). Local 2-1-1 services will provide information and referral to the program for community residents. For more information on government initiatives to serve vulnerable residents, see the [Ontario Newsroom](#).

Electronic Meetings Resource

In partnership, AMCTO, MISA, OMAA and AMO have developed [a resource](#) to provide the legislative context and practical considerations for the task of undertaking electronic council meetings.

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

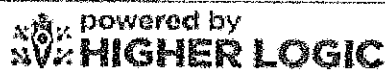
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From: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: April 27, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: AMO COVID-19 Update – What You Need to Know Today

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April 27, 2020

AMO COVID-19 Update – What You Need to Know Today: Provincial Re-Opening Approach, PPE Access, LTC Orders, Increased COVID Pay, Community Gardens

Provincial Direction on COVID-19 Re-Opening Approach

Today, the government released [A Framework for Re-opening our Province](#) to assist planning for stage by stage approach to re-opening the economy in a safe manner. According to Premier Ford, it is a “roadmap, not a calendar”. The framework does not set out hard dates nor provide specific detail on which businesses will re-open. Rather it outlines criteria to guide Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and health experts to use when advising the government on the loosening of emergency measures.

As well, there are guiding principles for the safe, gradual reopening of businesses, services, and public spaces. The framework also provides details of an outreach strategy to help inform the restart of the provincial economy. This will be led by the [Ontario Jobs and Recovery Committee](#). Further information on the announcement is found in the [Ontario Newsroom](#).

New Orders regarding Long-Term Care Homes

The Province has introduced new and has amended some emergency orders under subsection 7.0.2 (4) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* to regarding Ontario's long-term care homes. These orders provide for the

redeployment of staff to allow health service providers, including hospitals, to temporarily reassign frontline staff to provide services and supports in long-term care homes.

We understand that these provincial orders have been put in place for those few urgent situations where hospital staff needs to be redeployed immediately to a long-term care home to protect residents' and staff health and safety. It is expected that such extreme measures would only be used only if absolutely necessary and that all other additional support and assistance methods available had been exhausted.

Additional Pandemic Pay for Some Frontline Workers

The Ontario government is now providing frontline staff with a temporary pandemic payment to recognize the dedication, long hours, and increased risk of working to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. Those eligible to receive the payment are staff working in long-term care homes, retirement homes, emergency shelters, supportive housing, social services congregate care settings, corrections institutions and youth justice facilities, as well as those providing home and community care and some staff in hospitals.

We understand that paramedics nor LTC management are not currently part of this program; however, the Province has indicated that they "are continuing to consult with our health care partners to address questions and determine who might meet the criteria for pandemic pay".

Community Gardens

The opening of community and allotment gardens has been an area of great public interest with the start of better spring weather. It was announced on April 25th that the use of allotment gardens and community gardens across the province is now permitted. These gardens are an essential source of fresh food for many individuals and families, including those who face food insecurity.

Local Medical Officers of Health will be providing operating direction and instructions for these gardens – such as physical distancing, and cleaning and disinfecting commonly used equipment and surfaces.

Two Methods to Access PPE for Municipal Purposes:

Provincial Process: (text provided by the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services)

On March 17, 2020, the Government of Ontario declared a state of emergency to help contain the spread of COVID-19 and protect the public. Significant efforts have been made and continue to be underway to support the Province's battle against the pandemic.

Ontario, like many other jurisdictions, faces significant shortages of critical supplies and equipment for frontline workers across the public sector. We are experiencing a highly competitive market, hardening borders and disrupted supply chains, so working together to take advantage of any and all opportunities available to us makes sense.

On March 28, the Ontario government enacted regulations that enabled the Province to require data from certain public sector entities. This requirement includes gathering information on inventories, orders, and supply constraints for critical COVID-19 products.

The information is being collected in a Virtual Inventory to provide an aggregated view of urgent and near-term demand and supply requirements allowing government to prioritize buying what is needed most, deploying them, and allocating them on a priority basis to support the delivery of essential services to Ontarians.

The list of critical supplies and equipment the Province is centrally procuring, and tracking is evolving and currently includes:

- ventilators
- eye protection
- masks
- hand sanitizer
- swabs and test kits
- gloves
- gowns
- sanitation supplies
- thermometers.

How can municipal governments participate in provincial process?

Participating in the Provincial COVID-19 supply chain gives municipalities access to provincially purchased critical supplies and equipment, in addition to their current supply chains.

Municipalities currently participating should continue to report inventory and demand to:

- the Ministry of Health (e.g. health centres, paramedic services, LTC homes)
- the Ministry of the Solicitor General for municipal fire and police services.

For all other critical municipal PPE supply needs to support frontline workers and/or the people they serve (e.g. homeless shelters, supportive housing, community housing, and transit), a municipality can choose to participate in the integrated public sector supply chain through the Virtual Inventory.

In addition, the federal government, through the Public Health Agency Canada (PHAC), is also undertaking bulk purchasing of critical supplies and equipment to support COVID-19 response. The Province is working closely with PHAC to access these needed supplies and equipment. The federal government recently indicated that municipalities should work through the Province as part of our ongoing orders. The best way for municipalities to send their requests for these critical products is to participate in our inventory and demand process.

If municipalities decide to opt-in, the Province asks that the COVID-19 supply and demand requirements for all municipal services that aren't yet captured, be included in the reporting. They have tools and training available to support municipal participation.

If your municipality is interested in participating in an integrated public sector supply chain, please contact doingbusiness@ontario.ca and provide a single point of contact for your municipality to receive the survey link, training options and instructions.

LAS Process: (Local Authority Services is AMO's business service)

Need PPE? Look no further than the LAS Municipal Group Buying Program. Our partnership with Grainger Canada provides masks, gloves, and other safety equipment for municipalities and their frontline staff, including paramedic and police services. Contact LAS for more information or to connect with Grainger directly.

Suspension of Timelines in the *Ontario Heritage Act*

AMO has been asking many Ontario ministries about the application of Ontario Reg. 73/20 on their respective legislation that includes statutory timelines.

On April 24th a letter from the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries to municipal governments clarified that Ontario Reg. 73/20 applies to *Ontario Heritage Act*, specifically the timeframes under subsections 32(2), 33(4), 34(2), and 42(4) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

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

April 15, 2020

Colleen Healey-Dowdall, CAO
Township of Essa
5786 County Road 21
Utopia, ON L0M 1T0

Dear Ms. Healey-Dowdall:

Re: West Nile Virus Program Planning – 2020

Planning is well underway for the 2020 West Nile virus (WNV) season. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's (SMDHU) WNV Program, as in previous years, will include public education, surveillance and mosquito control coordination.

The decision to require the application of larvicide within a municipality in the upcoming season is based on the results of SMDHU's local risk assessment and decision-making framework, developed in 2006 and updated in 2015. The framework includes consideration of the characteristics of the WNV, risk of exposure to WNV (presence and abundance of WNV mosquito vectors *Culex pipiens* and *Culex restuans*), and historical presence of the WNV in the mosquito and human populations.

As a result of this yearly risk assessment and evaluation, all municipalities within Simcoe Muskoka are assigned to one of three tiers for mosquito control actions. The three tiers are:

1. **Larviciding Action:** This tier consists of those municipalities which have received direction to larvicide from the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) in previous seasons and have evidence of sustained *Culex pipiens/restuans* populations throughout the season and multiple positive WNV indicators in previous seasons. Notice to larvicide catch basins is issued by the MOH to these municipalities.
2. **Heightened Surveillance – Larviciding Standby:** This tier consists of those municipalities which have received direction to larvicide from the MOH in previous seasons but do not have sustained *Culex pipiens/restuans* populations throughout the season and/or do not have multiple positive WNV indicators in previous seasons. Notices to larvicide will not be issued by the MOH at this time. Heightened surveillance activities will be implemented in these municipalities to monitor the presence and abundance of mosquito populations of concern, primarily *Culex pipiens/restuans*. As a component of WNV contingency planning, these municipalities shall complete the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) permit application process and be on standby to larvicide catch basins on short notice should the current season surveillance data indicate the need for control measures.
3. **Ongoing Monitoring:** This tier consists of those municipalities which have not received direction from the MOH to larvicide in previous seasons; do not based on past or current surveillance data have evidence of sustained *Culex pipiens/restuans* population throughout the season and may or may not have had positive WNV indicators in previous seasons. Surveillance strategies will continue in these areas. It is recommended that these municipalities, as a component of their WNV

Barrie:
15 Sperling Drive
Barrie, ON
L4M 6K9
705-721-7620
FAX: 705-721-1495

Collingwood:
280 Pretty River Pkwy.
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 4J5
705-445-0804
FAX: 705-445-6498

Cookstown:
2-25 King Street S.
Cookstown, ON
L0L 1L0
705-458-1103
FAX: 705-458-0105

Gravenhurst:
2-5 Pineridge Gate
Gravenhurst, ON
P1P 1Z3
705-684-9090
FAX: 705-684-9887

Huntsville:
34 Chaffoy St.
Huntsville, ON
P1H 1K1
705-789-8813
FAX: 705-789-7245

Midland:
A-925 Hugel Ave.
Midland, ON
L4R 1X8
705-526-9324
FAX: 705-526-1513

Orillia:
120-169 Front St. S.
Orillia, ON
L3V 4S8
705-325-9365
FAX: 705-325-2091

contingency planning, review the MECP permit application guide and gather the necessary information to complete the permit application process on short notice.

In 2020, the settlement area of the Township of Essa has been assigned to Tier 3: On-going Monitoring as the municipality possesses the following criteria:

- a) Have not received direction from the MOH to larvicide in previous seasons;
- b) Do not, based on past or current surveillance data have evidence of sustained *Culex pipiens/restuans* population;
- c) Are at low risk for potential increased *Culex pipiens/restuans* activity;
- d) May or may not have had positive WNV indicators in previous season(s).

Based on this assessment, it is recommended that the municipality, as a component of their WNV contingency planning, review the MECP permit application guide and gather the necessary information to complete the permit application on short notice should the current surveillance data indicate the need for mosquito control measures.

A submission of WNV expenditures will be requested in October and a template will be forwarded for your use to track your WNV related expenditures at that time.

We appreciate your continued participation and support of the WNV Program. For further information please contact Tony Makrostergios, Program Manager at 705-721-7520 ext. 7560 or tony.makrostergios@smdhu.org.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

cc. Sheila Perri, Engineering/Development Review Technician

AY



Office of the Mayor
Town of Oakville
1225 Trafalgar Road
Oakville, Ontario L6H 0H3
Tel: 905-338-4173
Fax: 905-815-2001
mayor@oakville.ca

April 20, 2020

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford:

Thank you for the strong work your governments have done to address the COVID-19 crisis.

In addition to our own municipal revenue crisis which threatens our ability to maintain the services our residents and businesses and you depend on us to provide, the foodservice industry is in even more dire straits across Ontario. With little to no revenue, restaurant operators will be unable to pay rent and other fixed costs, forcing them to permanently close their doors before recovery can even begin.

We are encouraged by word that the provincial Premiers and Prime Minister are meeting and discussing options to address the need for up to three months of rent relief for small businesses that have been hardest hit by the crisis.

We mayors believe the Federal and Provincial governments can assist businesses to address the spectre of impending rent with the following essential steps:

- An immediate moratorium on commercial evictions
- A program of direct rent subsidies to businesses equivalent to the business's sales volume reduction
- Measures to continue throughout the recovery period to allow business to ramp back up
- As these measures have been for the greater public good, Government should compel landlords and banks to share the cost of the emergency measures. They should not be borne solely by the lessee.

Premier, you have been very clear in your public statement that you are aware of the crisis the cities and our businesses are facing. When we move into the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario will need every business, large and small, available to pull together, and cities able to provide essential municipal services that support the Province, its businesses, and Ontario's residents.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rob Burton,
Town of Oakville

CC. Minister Anita Anand, MP Pam Damoff, MPP Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP Stephen Crawford

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To: OCWA Clients

RE: COVID-19 Update – April 20, 2020

Since my last message to you, the COVID-19 situation has continued to evolve – and OCWA has continued to adapt and respond to this new reality.

While you focus on your community's well-being, I want to reassure you that, as your partner, we are focused on the continuous operation of your water and wastewater treatment facilities and protecting the health and safety of our employees and the public. Although we have not yet had a situation that has required us to implement our contingency plans for staff shortages due to COVID-19, we are well prepared to address that situation should it occur. As promised, we will keep you updated on any potential impacts to your operations.

One impact that we have already had to address is the increase of unflushables in wastewater systems, specifically items such as disinfectant wipes, paper towels and gloves. In some communities, this is causing maintenance issues and blockages in the wastewater system, which can lead to sewage overflows. In response, we provided clients with a message they could share with residents explaining the importance of not treating toilets like garbage cans. This and other messaging related to water and wastewater best practices is always available to our clients.

We recognize that concerns around dealing with spring flooding are heightened again this year, with the COVID-19 situation and flood season happening simultaneously. OCWA remains prepared to provide emergency flood assistance should the need arise, either through local operations or through one of our five OCWA Emergency Response Teams (OERT) located across the province.

I would like to personally thank you for continuing to put your trust in OCWA as your partner. The dedication and resiliency of OCWA's employees, particularly our local front line staff, in challenging situations has been proven to me time and again over the past 25 years, and dealing with COVID-19 has been no different.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your local team or to me directly, should you have any concerns or questions about your water/wastewater operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nevin McKeown".

Nevin McKeown
President & CEO, OCWA



April 21, 2020

To: Municipalities of Ontario – by email

Re: A Resolution to Request the Province of Ontario Review the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme in Light of Economic Competitiveness Concerns between Rural and Urban Municipalities

Please be advised that at its March 10, 2020 meeting, the Council of the Township of Mapleton carried the following Resolution 2020-04-14:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario implemented changes to property assessment and introduced taxation reform which came into effect in 1998;
 AND WHEREAS prior to 1998 farm properties were subject to taxation at the base residential tax rate and qualified farmers applied annually to the province to be reimbursed 75% of the farm portion of the taxes paid to the local municipality;
 AND WHEREAS the province changed the method of delivering farmer's rebates by creating the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA);
 AND WHEREAS rather than apply annually and wait for property tax rebates, the delivery of the programme shifted to local municipal governments and onto the property tax system;
 AND WHEREAS eligible farmland assessment values are now locally subsidized by 75% of their full current value assessment (CVA) to produce a lower weighted assessment base which is used for tax rate setting purposes;
 AND WHEREAS the effect of the locally subsidized weighted assessment shifts an increased burden of tax onto all other property classes within the municipality;
 AND WHEREAS these taxation reforms were originally supposed to be revenue neutral and offset by funding from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) and its predecessor the Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF);
 AND WHEREAS the province has been reducing support from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund while the cost of the farm tax rebate programme is continuously increasing;
 AND WHEREAS an economically competitive agricultural industry provides affordable food and agricultural products to all Ontarians and is a provincial objective that should be cost shared amongst all of its citizens;
 AND WHEREAS the cost of this programme disproportionately falls upon property taxpayers in rural municipalities;
 AND WHEREAS higher property taxes in rural municipalities is creating economic competitiveness issues between rural and urban municipalities;

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Page 2 of 2, Mapleton Resolution
Re: Prov. Review of Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme

AND WHEREAS the province hasn't undertaken a review of this programme since it was implemented in 1998;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Mapleton requests that:

1. The Province of Ontario undertake a review of the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Programme to determine:
 - a. The appropriateness of the cost of the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Programme falling disproportionately amongst rural residential and business property owners when the benefit of an economically competitive agricultural industry and affordable food and agricultural products is a provincial objective that should be shared amongst all taxpayers in Ontario;
 - b. The adequacy of funding being provided to rural municipalities to offset the cost of the Farm Property Tax Class Rate Programme;
 - c. The differences between the amount of property taxes paid in rural and urban municipalities and the root causes of those differences;
 - d. Economic competitiveness concerns with disproportionately higher average property taxes being paid in rural municipalities;
 - e. Other methods of delivering the farm tax rebate programme to farmland owners where the cost can be shared province-wide.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be sent to Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance, Hon. Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, MPP Randy Pettapiece, Hon. Ted Arnott, all Ontario Municipalities, Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Attached you will find the County of Wellington Committee Report dated January 16, 2020 regarding the 'Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme' for review and consideration.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely

Larry Wheeler
Deputy Clerk

Attach. (1)



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee
From: Ken DeHart, County Treasurer
Date: Thursday, January 16, 2020
Subject: Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme

Background:

The Province of Ontario implemented changes to property assessment and introduced taxation reform which came into effect in 1998. Prior to this, farm properties were subject to taxation at the base residential tax rate and farmers applied annually to the Minister of Finance to be reimbursed 75% of the farm portion of taxes paid to the local municipality.

As part of assessment reform, the Province changed the method of delivering farmer's rebates by creating the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). Under the new programme, rather than apply annually and wait for property tax rebates, delivery of the programme shifted to local municipal governments and onto the property tax system. Eligible farmland assessment values are now discounted by -75% of their full current value assessment (CVA) to produce a lower weighted assessment base which is used for tax rate setting purposes. With residential tax rates being the benchmark ratio of 1.0, farmlands have been set in legislation to have a 0.25 ratio or lower. The effect of the discounted weighted assessment shifts an increased burden of tax onto all other property classes in the County by way of increasing the benchmark tax rate. Doing so has a pronounced effect on the residential sector which comprises 78% of the County's levy base. By comparison, farmland taxes comprise 7% of the total levy base.

	2019 CVA	% raw CVA	WTD CVA	% Wtd CVA	2019 Levy	% of Levy
Residential	12,584,607,345	68.02%	12,584,474,157	77.91%	77,709,877	77.91%
Multi Residential	86,932,592	0.47%	165,171,925	1.02%	1,019,946	1.02%
Farmland	4,499,862,369	24.32%	1,124,965,592	6.96%	6,946,730	6.96%
Commercial	863,761,038	4.67%	1,287,867,708	7.97%	7,952,660	7.97%
Industrial	368,081,028	1.99%	882,959,280	5.47%	5,452,326	5.47%
Pipeline	41,303,954	0.22%	92,933,897	0.58%	573,872	0.58%
Managed Forest	55,959,714	0.30%	13,989,929	0.09%	86,389	0.09%
County Total	18,500,508,040	100.00%	16,152,362,486	100.00%	99,741,800	100.00%

Challenges facing Rural Municipalities

Shifting of farmland discounted assessment onto residential taxpayers is specific to rural municipalities. Schedule A shows the difference between raw (unweighted) assessment roll values and resulting weighted assessment in Wellington County as compared to a typical urban municipality. In 2019 the residential tax class comprised 68.02% of Wellington County's assessment base, but the residential class pays 77.91% of property taxes once tax ratios are factored in. The farmland ratio of 0.25 has the effect of increasing the residential tax burden by approximately 10% across the County.

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Conversely, in an urban municipality with very little farm tax class, the residential assessment base of 78.50% is reduced to 66.27% of total weighted assessment used for tax rate setting purposes. A reduction of more than 12% off the residential tax burden. This causes Wellington County economic competitiveness issues for the County's southern municipalities that border a number of urban municipal centres. Tax policy treatment greatly favours urban municipalities in Ontario.

Since the cost of providing the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme was downloaded by the province in 1998; provincial funds have been allocated annually to rural municipalities to offset the tax loss. This was supposed to be a revenue neutral allocation. However, each year transfer amounts from the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) continue to decline. The Table below shows that a total tax levy of \$34,669,691 was necessary in order to provide the farmland tax incentive rebate benefiting 5,807 farm property owners in Wellington. The OMPF allocation county-wide in 2019 was \$7,065,800 leaving a shortfall of more than \$27 million in levy which is shifted onto every other property owner in Wellington County. This translates to \$754 per property in the County or 15.7% of total taxes for the typical homeowner. This is a significant amount of additional property tax burden that our residents continue to bear annually and which are subject to increase depending on market value of farmlands.

In essence, County residents are providing the -75% rebate instead of the Province for the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme, creating significant financial hardship amongst our ratepayers and limiting the County's economic competitiveness with neighbouring jurisdictions.

**WELLINGTON COUNTY - 2019 FARMLAND PROPERTIES
OMPF FUNDING TO MITIGATE COST OF FARM PROPERTY CLASS TAX REBATE**

Municipality	Municipal Rebates	Municipal OMPF Grant	Municipal Levy Impact	County Rebate* Distribution	Total Additional Levy Required
Puslinch	\$ 232,040	\$ 415,700	\$ (183,660)	\$ 2,846,353	\$ 2,662,693
Guelph/Eramosa	\$ 1,137,235	\$ 490,300	\$ 646,935	\$ 3,120,713	\$ 3,767,649
Erin	\$ 890,468	\$ 593,300	\$ 297,168	\$ 2,852,697	\$ 3,149,866
Centre Wellington	\$ 1,987,127	\$ 319,600	\$ 1,667,527	\$ 5,553,231	\$ 7,220,758
Mapleton	\$ 5,235,570	\$ 837,400	\$ 4,398,170	\$ 1,961,338	\$ 6,359,507
Minto	\$ 1,446,483	\$ 1,604,600	\$ (158,117)	\$ 1,153,001	\$ 994,884
Wellington North	\$ 2,900,554	\$ 1,296,800	\$ 1,603,754	\$ 1,844,780	\$ 3,448,534
Wellington County	\$ 20,840,213	\$ 1,508,100	\$ 19,332,113		
Total	\$ 34,669,691	\$ 7,065,800	\$ 27,603,891	\$ 19,332,113	\$ 27,603,891

Additional levy required to provide farm rebate after OMPF grant

Total Properties **	36,607	Tax per property	\$754
Less # of Farms	5,807		
	30,800	Excluding farms	\$896
Population	97,610	Tax per resident	\$283

* County farm rebate distribution based on local municipal levy % share

** excludes special/exempt properties

Farm Application Deadline Requirements

Another challenge faced by rural municipalities is how the farm application and deadline requirements are administered by OMAFRA (now by AgriCorp). In any given year, many farm owners do not submit their applications within the specified deadline. The result is that many bona fide farm properties end up 'flipping' out of the discounted farm class and into the full residential tax class upon the next roll return. The assessment of these farm values are no longer discounted when calculating total weighted assessment, which is used for tax rate setting purposes.

This creates two distinct ongoing problems for rural municipalities. One is that the benchmark residential tax rate is lower than it otherwise would be; and two, upon approval of the late applications by OMAFRA, municipalities must refund the -75% difference in farm taxes retroactive to January of the current or sometimes even the preceding taxation year. There is no administrative or monetary penalty for late applications. Each year Wellington County finds approximately \$20,000,000 of farmland valuation excluded from the farmland discount programme due to late applications.

This year staff identified a major anomaly with farmland assessment loss of close to \$90,000,000. Upon enquiry, it was reasoned that the extremely high change in farm CVA was due to administrative changes as programme delivery shifted from OMAFRA to AgriCorp. County staff expect that most of the outstanding farm applications will be approved and revert back to the farm tax rate during 2020. Staff have included an additional \$300,000 in estimated property tax write-offs into the 2020 budget to set aside additional funds in preparation for the County's share of potential write-offs as tabled below:

2019 FARMLAND CVA CHANGE OVER TO RESIDENTIAL RT CLASS

(Between September 25 in-year growth and final November 2019 growth)

Possible write-off amounts IF all properties revert back to AGRICORP approved FTIP

	PUSLINCH	GET	ERIN	CTR WELL	MPLTN	MINTO	WN	COUNTY
Est Prop Count	-20	-24	-26	-18	-22	-19	-28	-157
Farm CVA Loss	8,500,000	17,500,000	13,000,000	10,000,000	19,000,000	5,000,000	16,500,000	89,500,000
Res Tax Rate	0.00167135	0.00260652	0.00295749	0.00321969	0.00476387	0.00544891	0.00481749	0.00617506
Res Taxes	14,206	45,614	38,447	32,197	90,514	27,245	79,489	552,668
Farm Tax Rate	0.00041784	0.00065163	0.00073938	0.00080492	0.00119097	0.00136223	0.00120437	0.00154376
Farm Taxes	3,552	11,404	9,612	8,049	22,628	6,811	19,872	138,167
Potential w/o *	(\$10,655)	(\$34,211)	(\$28,835)	(\$24,148)	(\$67,885)	(\$20,433)	(\$59,616)	(\$414,501)
							Grand Total*	(\$660,285)

* excludes Education Tax Component

Farmland Property Assessment Valuation

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is responsible for placing current market value assessment (CVA) on all properties in Ontario. The most recent province-wide reassessment updating the base year to January 1, 2016 was returned for the 2017 tax year. As mandated by the Province, any assessment increases are phased-in over a 4-year cycle. MPAC reported the average farmland increase province-wide was 64% and residential CVA increased by 18%. By comparison, Wellington County CVA has increased by 68% and 13% respectively.

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In the 2016 Assessment Update Summary, MPAC reports they have strengthened the accuracy and equity of farm valuations by improved sales verification processes of bona fide farmer-to-farmer sales along with undertaking a comprehensive review of vacant farmland sales as far back as January 2008. They report that upward trends continue to increase provincially as demand for farmland outweighs the supply and non-agricultural buyers continue to purchase farmlands creating competition. Agri-Food Canada reported the net worth of an average farm was expected to reach \$2.8 million in 2017.

Staff conducted a preliminary review of open market farm sales in Wellington County during 2018 and 2019. The data reveals that the current 2016 base year CVA of farm properties sold continue to be under-assessed by 27.43%. Sale prices ranged from \$26,000 to \$4,200,000.

Wellington County	2019 Farm Sales	2018 Farm Sales	Total Sales
Number of valid farm sales	97	108	205
Total CVA of farm sales	90,515,500	89,366,400	179,881,900
Combined sale prices	130,333,790	117,533,356	247,867,146
Difference sales to assessment	39,818,290	28,166,956	67,985,246
As a percentage	30.55%	23.97%	27.43%

* source MPAC Municipal Connect

Assessment Act Considerations

Current value assessment is defined as “the amount of money the fee simple, if unencumbered, would realize if sold at arm’s length by a willing seller to a willing buyer.” For farm properties, the province has clearly indicated that farm properties are to be treated different from the concept of current value. Section 19(5) of the Assessment Act requires that current value of the land and buildings should only be used when sales are for farm-purposes only and reflect the productivity of the land for farming purposes.

MPAC assessment methods must only consider farmer-to-farmer sales. In this case, the Assessment Act requires MPAC to exclude any sales to persons whose principal occupation is other than farming. This has the effect of excluding any other type of buyer and highest and best-use considerations from current value assessment.

From a land productivity perspective, land classes are adjusted for their productivity. For example, Class 1 farmlands are the most productive for crops, while on the other end of the scale, Class 6 is for swamp and scrublands that are the least productive. Lands in Wellington County and in particular, the southern portion of the County sell for far more per acre than what farms are assessed at for farm purposes. Analysis undertaken with regard to current assessment appeals shows that the best lands (Class 1) are currently being assessed in the \$14,000 to \$16,000 per acre range for farms. Sales of larger land holdings are selling in the range of \$20,000 to \$25,000 per acre range.

The intent of Section 19(5) of the Assessment Act is to limit and protect farm property from current value considerations outside of farming. This means that generally speaking, farms are naturally under-assessed from general market considerations – providing favourable assessments to the farming community in comparison to true market value.

Other Assessment Considerations

- Farm owners who reside on the property do pay a residential tax component for their home plus one acre of land at the farmland rate. However, the valuation is based on a replacement cost method that produces a much lower value (\$223,125) than non-farm residences (\$424,187) as shown here on the average (County) property value and tax comparison.

Average 2019 Farm and Residential Value and Taxes

2019 farm house CVA	223,125	2019 Average Residential Property CVA	\$424,187
2019 Farmland CVA	901,900		
Average 2019 total farm CVA	\$1,125,025		
2019 farm house taxes	\$2,526		
2019 farmland taxes	\$2,553		
2019 total farm taxes	\$5,079	2019 Average residential taxes	\$4,803

- As seen above, while the average farm value is assessed at over 2.6x the value of the average residential property, overall taxes are comparable.
- According to MPAC's 2019 Market Change Profile report, of the 6,465 properties classified as farms, 1,892 are owned and/or occupied by non-farmers. Although the property owners are not engaged in farm activity or business, their properties are valued as if they are. These non-farmers benefit from lower residential structure values and lower land values, which translate to lower taxes simply by nature of leasing their land to a bona fide local farmer. This treatment can be perceived as rather unfair to typical residential property owners in Wellington County.
- Many owners of farmland also enjoy other property tax discounts if they are eligible to enter into either the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Programme (0.25 ratio) or the Conservation Land Programme which is fully exempt from property taxes.
- In order to receive the farm class tax discount, the owner must have a Farm License and be in the business of farming. Municipal taxes paid are then able to be written off as a business expense on annual income tax returns. Whereas residential property owners are not able to do so.

Impacts of Assessment Increases on the Farming Community

Being predominantly a rural community with strong roots planted in farm trades, Wellington County farmers observed significant increases in their farmland valuation. It is acknowledged that farmland values have increased significantly in the County of Wellington. In the 2012 base year valuation, farmland made up 19.8% of the County's assessment base and 5.4% of the taxable assessment base. For the 2016 base year valuation, farmland now makes up 25.1% of the Wellington County assessment base and 7.2% of the taxable assessment base.

Recently, groups such as the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario (see correspondence received on this agenda) and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture began approaching local Councils to lower the farmland ratio below 0.25 in order to help offset property tax increases. Their efforts have been successful in some municipalities. Schedule B lists the municipalities that have implemented farmland ratio reductions in Ontario as reported to BMA Consultants in the 2019 Municipal Study Report.

When reviewing the list of municipalities on Schedule B, the majority of those municipalities have very little farmland valuation. Many of the urban municipalities that have granted farm ratio reductions have a much higher commercial and industrial base and farmland makes up a much lower percentage of their assessment base than Wellington County.

Many of the other Counties and rural municipalities that have granted ratio reductions (Brant, Chatham-Kent, Dufferin, Grey, Lambton and Oxford) are located further away from the GTA. These municipalities generally have lower residential assessment values and are not competing with GTA municipalities for business to the same extent as Wellington County.

Property Taxes as a Percentage of Income

- OMAFRA reported that in 2018, Wellington County farmers generated \$804,000,000 of revenue at the farm gate. The table below shows farm property taxes as a percentage of farm income to be 1.49%. Average household income in Wellington County for the same period was \$118,474. Average property tax as a percentage of residential income was significantly higher at 4.02%.

<u>Average Farm and Residential Assessment and Taxation</u>	<u>2018</u>
County average residential value	409,368
Total average property taxes *	4,764
Average income	118,474
Portion of residential income devoted to property taxes	4.02%
Total farm taxes paid in Wellington County *	11,971,488
County farmers income **	804,000,000
Portion of farm income devoted to property taxes	1.49%

* total taxes include County, local and Education

Closing Comments

Farmland values have been increasing significantly in the County of Wellington, much like other areas of the province. However, there does not appear to be an imbalance in the level of property tax burden shared by the local farming community in comparison to the average residential taxpayer in Wellington County. Under current legislation, farmland benefits from favourable property tax and assessment treatment.

The County's current assessment base cannot bear a further shift from farmland taxes onto other property types and maintain its economic competitiveness. Wellington County does not have a comparable commercial and industrial assessment base to neighbouring urban municipalities that would support such a shift without significantly burdening our residential and business class owners. Provincial grants such as the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund, which were originally setup to compensate rural municipalities for the loss in farm taxes has been declining, leaving Wellington County taxpayers to support the industry without adequate province-wide cost sharing.

Wellington County is supportive of its local farming community. We recognize the importance of the agricultural industry on the County and in the Province of Ontario. Wellington supports the farming communities' interests in remaining economically competitive. The County is supportive of returning

the responsibility of funding the farm property class tax rebate programme back to the Province where it could be shared province-wide. Residents in urban municipalities, while retaining the benefits of cheap food and agricultural products, are not contributing financially to the economic competitiveness of the industry.

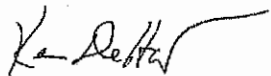
Recommendation:

That the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme report be received for information; and

That Wellington County support agricultural industry efforts in lobbying the Province to provide adequate funding to rural municipalities; and

That County Council pass a resolution in support of returning the responsibility of administering the Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme back to the Province.

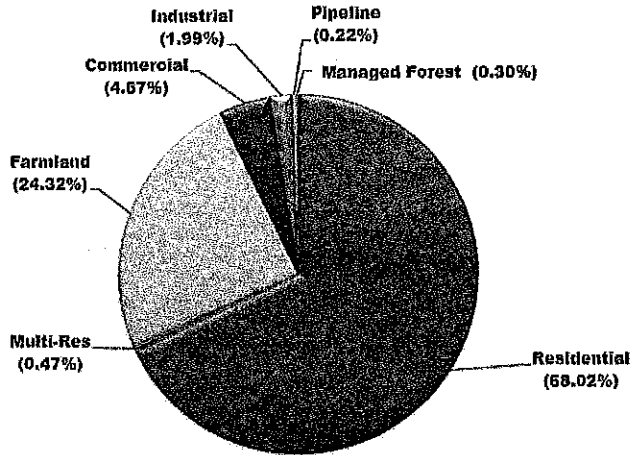
Respectfully submitted,



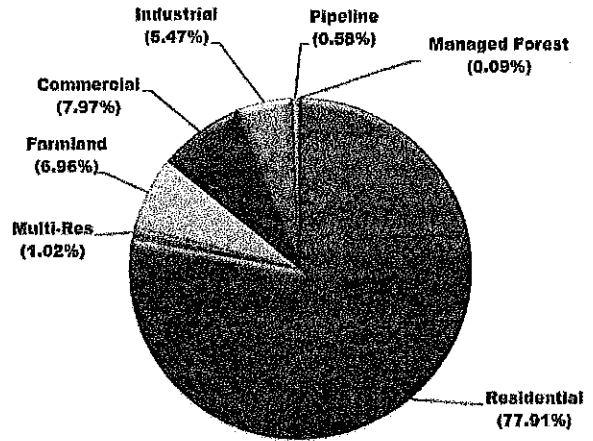
Ken DeHart, CPA, CGA
County Treasurer

SCHEDULE A Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme

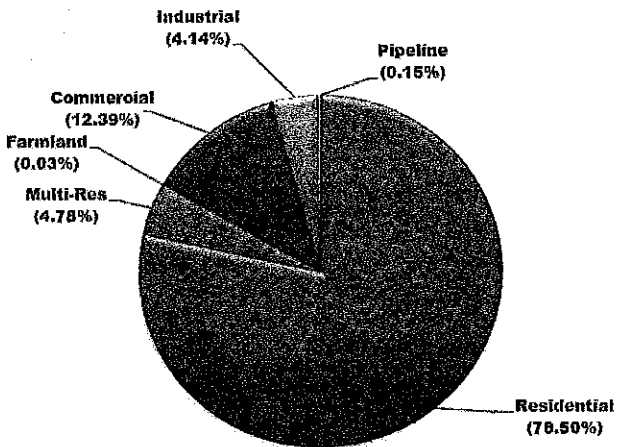
Unweighted Assessment by Property Tax Class 2019
(Share of Property Value - Wellington - Rural)



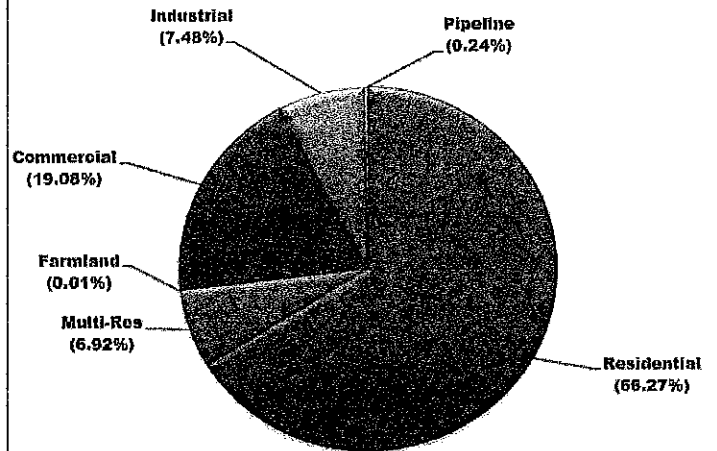
Weighted Assessment by Property Tax Class 2019
(Share of Property Taxes - Wellington - Rural)



Unweighted Assessment by Property Tax Class 2019
(Share of Property Value - Urban)



Weighted Assessment by Property Tax Class 2019
(Share of Property Taxes - Urban)



SCHEDULE B

Farm Property Class Tax Rate Programme

Municipalities with Farmland Ratio Reductions Implemented - 2019

Municipality *	Ratio	Farmland CVA **
Brant County	0.2400	1,319,886,818
Caledon	0.1708	998,099,123
Chatham-Kent	0.2200	5,281,633,220
Dufferin County	0.2300	1,174,945,084
Durham Region	0.2000	2,416,491,305
Greater Sudbury	0.2000	30,618,833
Grey County	0.2400	2,659,127,624
Halton Region	0.2000	971,078,709
Hamilton	0.1767	1,390,781,027
Kingston	0.2125	81,575,403
Lambton County	0.2260	4,794,630,528
London	0.1028	425,488,846
North Bay	0.1500	605,465
Ottawa	0.2000	1,561,813,865
Oxford County	0.2350	5,665,102,027
Prince Edward County	0.2319	401,646,726
Sarnia	0.2260	181,579,114
Average Ratio & CVA	0.2036	1,726,770,807
Wellington County	0.2500	4,464,961,956

* 2019 BMA Study Report - participating municipalities

** from MPAC Provincial Market Change Profile Report



Transmitted via Email

April 22, 2020

RE: TOWN OF GRAVENHURST RESOLUTION – Province of Ontario add Community Gardens, Garden Centres and Nurseries as essential services during the COVID-19 Pandemic

At the Town of Gravenhurst Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 21, 2020, the following resolution was passed:

Moved by Councillor Cairns
Seconded by Councillor Morphy

WHEREAS the Town of Gravenhurst Council fully understands, upon the direction of the Provincial Government, that only businesses and services deemed to be essential are to remain open during the COVID-19 Pandemic;

AND WHEREAS our Not for Profit Community Partners rely on Community Gardens for the ability to grow vegetables that assist in meeting the food related needs as well as providing physical and mental health benefits for our most vulnerable citizens;

AND WHEREAS physical distancing measures would still be needed for those working in Community Gardens;

AND WHEREAS Garden Centres and Nurseries could be required to provide curb-side car drop off service to reduce the risk;

AND WHEREAS the Medical Officer of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, supports the continuation of Community Gardens throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Gravenhurst Council requests that the Province of Ontario add Community Gardens, Garden Centres and Nurseries as essential services;

AND FINALLY THAT this resolution be circulated to Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, Norm Miller, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, Premier Ford and all Ontario Municipalities requesting their support.

CARRIED

We trust the above to be satisfactory.

Sincerely,

Melanie Haki

Melanie Haki
Administrative Clerk 2, Legislative Services

District Council – Electronic Meeting
April 20, 2020

The District Municipality of Muskoka

Moved By: S. Cairns

Seconded By: K. Terziano

WHEREAS Muskoka District Council fully understands, upon the direction of the Provincial Government, that only businesses and services deemed to be essential are to remain open during the COVID-19 Pandemic;

AND WHEREAS our Not for Profit Community Partners rely on Community Gardens for the ability to grow vegetables that assist in meeting the food related needs as well as providing physical and mental health benefits for our most vulnerable citizens;

AND WHEREAS physical distancing measures would still be needed for those working in Community Gardens;

AND WHEREAS Garden Centres and Nurseries could be required to provide curb-side car drop off service only to reduce the risk;

AND WHEREAS the Medical Officer of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, supports the continuation of Community Gardens throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Muskoka District Council requests that the Province of Ontario add Community Gardens, Garden Centres and Nurseries as essential services;

AND THAT this resolution be circulated to Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, Norm Miller, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, and all Ontario Municipalities requesting their support.

Carried ✓

Defeated _____

W. Back
District Clerk

From: Minister, MECP (MECP) <Minister.MECP@ontario.ca>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2020 6:06 PM
To: Sandie Macdonald
Subject: 2020 Day of Action on Litter Update

Good afternoon,

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding the Provincial Day of Action on Litter on May 12, 2020.

Nothing is more important than protecting the health and well-being of Ontarians. Since first learning of COVID-19, Ontario has taken decisive action to contain the spread of this new virus.

We have now reached a critical time in our fight against COVID-19. Every step taken by the province and every effort made by each of us to practice physical distancing are the key to our success as a province to stop the spread of this virus. We know that following the COVID-19 outbreak Ontarians will be eager to return outdoors; this will be a great opportunity to reconnect with nature.

In support of the effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 and help keep Ontarians safe, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will be postponing public and corporate cleanups until later in the year during Waste Reduction Week, which takes place October 19-25, 2020.

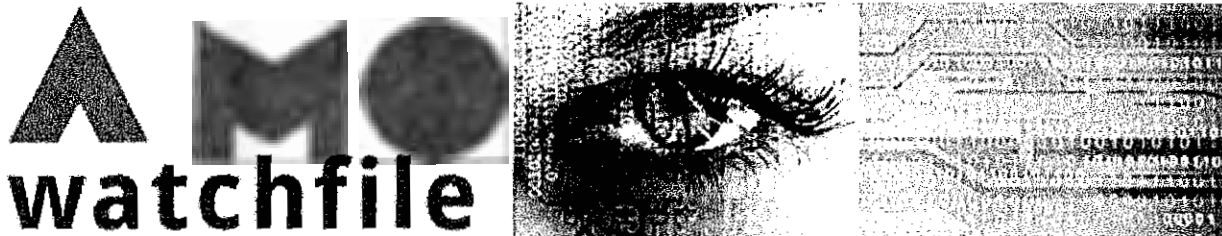
Of course, May 12, 2020 will continue to be the first official Day of Action on Litter. To mark this occasion this year, we will be focusing on raising awareness of the impacts of waste in the environment, and what actions each and every Ontarian can take to prevent, reduce and divert waste, right at home.

We ask that your municipality join this effort by sharing content on social media to profile what your city or town is doing now even during the COVID-19 outbreak to prevent, reduce or divert waste in your

Lisa Lehr

From: AMO Communications <Communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: April 23, 2020 10:01 AM
To: Lisa Lehr
Subject: AMO WatchFile - April 23, 2020

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



April 23, 2020

In This Issue

- COVID-19 resources.
- Communications and virtual attendance at council meetings webinars.
- Invitation to member municipalities: Join AMO-Led OPP Detachment Board webinar.
- AMO's latest on broadband & cellular connectivity.
- Diabetes Canada requests municipal assistance to clear garbage from around bins.
- WSIB announces \$1.9 billion in financial relief for employers.
- PJ Marshall Award - deadline extended.
- Updated Waste Diversion information on AMO website.
- Government extending Covid-19 services to low-income seniors & disabled persons.
- Guidance on planning timelines posted.
- Consultation extended on proposal under the *Consumer Protection Act*.
- Digital meeting management for small municipalities.
- AMO 2020: Annual General Meeting and Conference.
- Cancellation deadline extended for exhibitors to July 6 in response to COVID-19.
- AMO's popular social media webinar series available through Municipal Education.
- COVID19 can even affect personal insurance.
- Energy Training despite social distancing: Is this possible?
- Municipal Group Buying program: COVID-19 Updates.
- Municipal Group Buying program vendor webinar: Gasboy/Gilbarco.
- Municipal Group Buying program webinar – Procurement.
- ONE Investment: Two important webinars.
- Limerick resolution concerning the devastating loss of lives in Nova Scotia.

AMO COVID-19 Resources

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

Over the last few weeks, AMO has been hosting webinars to support members in

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communications during COVID-19 and guidance for council meetings with electronic attendance. These are now [available here](#).

AMO Matters

AMO is finalising a discussion paper on the establishment of new OPP Detachment Boards. Members are invited to [register to have a sneak peek](#) at the paper through a webinar presentation on April 24, starting at 11:00 am with Matthew Wilson, AMO Senior Advisor.

Check out AMO's webpage for the [latest news](#) on broadband and cellular connectivity. Any questions on the material can be directed to [Amber Crawford](#). (attached)

Diabetes Canada has written an open letter to Canada's mayors and municipalities requesting your help to clear garbage and soiled textiles from their donation bin sites. For more information [click here](#). (attached)

WSIB is offering a financial relief package to help alleviate burden from COVID-19. Both Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 employers will benefit from this automatically. For additional information, [click here](#). (attached)

The deadline to submit an application for the [PJ Marshall Award](#) has been extended to Friday, May 29, 2020. Please review updated requirements.

With the COVID-19 emergency, waste management operations have been a priority to ensure continued vital collections for the health and well-being of Ontarians. However, the move of all waste diversion programs towards full producer responsibility continue. AMO applauds the government's commitment as these programs will create Ontario jobs and help our economic recovery. The government has committed to deliver a draft Blue Box regulation in summer 2020. At the same time, we have a new Batteries Regulation and development of programs for Electronics and Household Hazardous Waste. Given this, AMO staff have revamped their website to provide the [latest updates](#). For more information, contact [Dave Gordon](#) (Senior Advisor) or [Amber Crawford](#) (Policy Advisor).

Provincial Matters

Working with the [OCSA](#), the government launched a new [Ontario Community Support Program](#) to expand existing Meals on Wheels services to reach low-income seniors, and people with disabilities and chronic medical conditions. The program will also develop the capacity of community organizations to help deliver medication and other essentials. Local 211 services will provide information and referral. For more information on government initiatives to serve vulnerable residents, see the [Ontario Newsroom](#). (attached)

A new section to the *Planning Act* (Sec. 70.11) was enacted to help municipal government manage/suspend the planning process while focusing on COVID-19. The [Guidance on how to implement the new Sec. 70.11 of the Planning Act and O.Reg. 149/20](#) has now been posted on the ERO.

The Ministry of Government and Consumer Services has extended the [consultation period](#) on the proposal to implement administrative penalties (APs) under the

Consumer Protection Act, 2002 (CPA) by four weeks, to May 25, 2020.

Eye on Events

eSCRIBE, AMO's partner of cloud-based meeting management solutions for public sector boards and councils, has unveiled eSCRIBE Lite. [Register for a webinar](#) on April 29 at noon and learn how this solution can help municipalities with under 20,000 people cross the digital divide.

In person or online, AMO 2020 will connect municipal leaders to the information they need most. Planning is well underway for August 16-19 in Ottawa, but we are also planning for a contingency approach that would transform AMO 2020 into a virtual conference if need be. An update will be provided to AMO members soon. Contact [Poonam Ruparelia](#) with questions. Visit the AMO [website](#) for updates, details and registration information.

Recognizing how quickly things are changing in the environment of COVID-19, and in appreciation of our valued exhibitors, AMO is extending the exhibitor cancellation deadline. Exhibitor information can be [found here](#).

Over the past few weeks, AMO and Redbrick Communications have been supporting members on communications through COVID19. Additional resources are now available for a nominal fee through AMO's Municipal Education Portal. [Register now](#).

LAS

LAS's Home and Auto Insurance Program partner, Cowan Group, keeps you updated with the [latest information](#) on personal insurance news and resources related to COVID19.

Just because we're social distancing doesn't mean we can't learn! In partnership with Stephen Dixon (TdS Dixon), LAS still offers the [same great energy workshops](#) you've come to expect, now ONLINE! These can even include virtual energy hunts! Up to 75% incentive available through the IESO. Contact [Christian Tham](#) to discover the possibilities!

We are working with our Group Buying partner, Grainger, to ensure PPE is available to all municipalities. Be sure to check out our new [COVID-19 Update Page](#) for this and other important information from our Group Buying vendors. [Contact us](#) for more information.

Webinar April 29 @ 11am – Gasboy/Gilbarco, one of many [Municipal Group Buying Program](#) vendors, is hosting a webinar on Fuel Reconciliation and Fuel Audits using Gasboy/Ekos. Interested? [Contact us](#) for registration information.

Webinar April 30 @ 10am – Our Procurement webinar has been rescheduled to next week: Group buying saves time and money, though there are a number of rules that need to be followed. Grab a coffee and join us to learn all about the procurement for our popular [Municipal Group Buying Program](#). [Register here](#).

ONE Investment

Two important webinars hosted by ONE, in conjunction with our external investment

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managers, discuss in detail how COVID-19 has impacted the ONE Legal List Portfolios. To watch, click [ONE Investment website](#) or [ONE YouTube channel](#).

Municipal Wire

The Township of Limerick resolution encourages all organizations within the mandate of Ontario municipalities to lower their respective flags to half mast in honour of those who have been lost and to support the residents of Colchester County.

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.



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[EXTERNAL]

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BROADBAND AND CELLULAR CONNECTIVITY

Municipal governments across Ontario recognize the importance of fast, reliable and affordable broadband and cellular connectivity. Broadband and cellular networks are essential for our residents and businesses to prosper. Connectivity has become the linchpin for all communities, and it is time that this infrastructure be considered as important as roads and bridges are to our economy and quality of life.

Gaps in cellular and internet services can be found throughout Ontario's rural, northern, and remote areas. Some urban communities also face gaps, depending on the location. These service gaps are more evident with the COVID-19 emergency, which has moved education and non-essential businesses to remote and online delivery, combined with the need for immediate remote healthcare.

While there are no immediate solutions available, there are opportunities to address challenges through partnership. All parties need to be at the table. For some time, AMO has advocated for investments in connectivity by both the provincial and federal governments and telecommunications providers.

Working jointly with groups such as the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), AMO has emphasized that reliable connectivity is critical for business continuity, to retain residents (including youth) and to create livable communities.

Ontario's varied geography and population densities compound the imbalance. For example, while 35 municipal governments serve populations over 100,000, 270 have less than 10,000 residents. There are seven million people concentrated in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, compared to about one million people living across the vast reaches of Northern Ontario.

Regardless of the municipality's size, municipal governments are the closest service providers to Canadians, and it is our council members that hear the connectivity challenges and needs directly from residents and businesses.

Provincial and Federal Government Commitments to Date

AMO has been encouraged by the following commitments made at the higher levels of government, and think they are good first steps to recognize that connectivity is not a luxury – it's a social, cultural and economic lifeline that all residents deserve to access at an affordable cost:

⊕ THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

⊕ THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

AR AMO supports these investments to fill connectivity gaps in Ontario. It's important that the funding programs be implemented quickly so that our communities do not fall further behind.

Private Sector Investment is Critical to Success

Of course, governments cannot be the sole investors in the system. While municipal governments understand that permanent connectivity solutions will take time and vary for every community, AMO has advocated for some practical steps our telecommunications providers could take to help underserved residents connect in the interim. These actions include, but are not limited to:

- providing low-cost Mobile Internet Sticks (USBs) to purchase at a reduced rate; and,
- setting up wireless hotspots for residents who require Internet connectivity to be productive and stay up to date on the most important information.

AMO and ROMA recently reached out to major telecommunications industry players in a spirit of collaboration to suggest these ideas to help our most challenged communities as residents connect quickly in this time of emergency. We know also that several providers have taken other actions to help their customers and communities during the current state of emergency.

The Way Forward

AMO continues to work with other stakeholders to advance access to broadband and cellular connectivity in all of our communities, as it is one of our biggest priorities – particularly given the state of emergency surrounding COVID-19. Stakeholders include other levels of government, affiliated associations, as well as private for-profit telecommunication companies, and their affiliated associations as well.

We are all in this together. Broadband and cellular connectivity have become the basic building blocks of a modern, resilient economy and society. While it is no small task, the rewards will be worth it to make a stronger Ontario and Canada.

LINKS

- [AMO's Principles of Connectivity](#)
- [Best Practices for Program Funding Design](#)
- [AMO Submission on the Federal Universal Broadband Fund](#)
- [ROMA Submission on the Federal Universal Broadband Fund](#)
- [ROMA Comments on Broadcasting Telecomms Legislative Review Panel](#)

CONTACT

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TF 1.877.426.6527

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An open letter from Diabetes Canada to Canada's mayors and municipalities
We need your help to clear garbage and soiled textiles from our donation bin sites

National Diabetes Trust, the clothing collection organization raising funds for Diabetes Canada and a partner to your municipality in diverting textiles would like to thank you for your ongoing support of our organization.

We have an urgent issue that we need your municipality's help in addressing.

We are asking Canada's mayors, elected officials and municipal staff to help us to clear garbage and soiled textiles from our donation bin sites in your community. We all have a stake in the health and safety of our communities. Now more than ever, we need to work together to protect residents while we do our best to live and work in new and challenging ways.

Some cities have started to help Diabetes Canada by removing all garbage and soiled donations that have been dumped around our donation bins.

We really need all municipalities across Canada to do the same. We can't do it alone. We simply don't have the resources or funding to clear the waste around all of our bins.

We are grateful that some members of the public, elected officials and media heard our request to help us raise awareness about our temporary closure of donation bins which began on March 23 and included a temporary staff lay off of 500+ National Diabetes Trust employees. Diabetes Canada will continue to urge the public to hold off on their bin donations until business resumes and we hope you will continue to advise those in your community as well.

Diabetes Canada relies on generous charitable clothing donations as a crucial source of revenue to support the 11 million Canadians living with diabetes or prediabetes. Efforts include innovative diabetes research, supporting children and youth living with type 1 diabetes, and developing evidence-based policy recommendations to improve the lives of those living with the disease. Through our donation bin business, more than 100 million pounds of textiles are diverted from landfill annually.

Thank you in advance for your immediate attention to this urgent support.



Please contact Simon Langer - Simon.Langer@diabetes.ca 416 315-9936 of National Diabetes Trust to discuss how we can work together to keep your community residents safe and free from the mounding garbage and soiled textiles from our donation bin sites.



WSIB announces \$1.9 billion in financial relief for Ontario businesses

Confirms benefit payments will continue to Ontarians with work related injuries or illness

Toronto, March 26, 2020 – The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB), in conjunction with the Government of Ontario, has developed a financial relief package worth \$1.9 billion to help employers reduce the financial burden of the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation.

“We have worked closely with the Government of Ontario to help Ontario businesses as they face this unprecedented challenge,” said Elizabeth Witmer, Chair of the WSIB. “Ontario businesses will now be able to defer their WSIB premium payments up to six months.”

All employers covered by the WSIB’s workplace insurance are automatically eligible for the financial relief package. This means that businesses can defer premium reporting and payments until August 31, 2020. This premium deferral impacts businesses who report and pay monthly, quarterly or annually based on their insurable earnings.

Additionally, no interest will accrue on outstanding premium payments and no penalties will be charged during this six-month deferral period.

This relief package also applies to Schedule 2 employers – publicly funded organizations (municipalities, hospitals, school boards), and other businesses who are involved in federally regulated industries.

The WSIB also confirmed that while its offices remain closed to the public during this time, it remains committed to serving the people of Ontario. Benefit payments will continue for people with work related injuries or illness. New claims can be submitted and will be adjudicated, and our online services, including document upload, are available. Dedicated customer support teams are also available by phone to provide urgent support.

“Our relief package will support businesses in this difficult time while protecting coverage for people who need us,” said Tom Teahen, President and CEO of the WSIB. “We know how tough this situation is for everyone and we are here to help.”

Businesses can learn more by visiting the WSIB’s COVID-19 information page and continue to manage their account information through the WSIB’s online services.

-30-

For further information, please contact:

WSIB media relations

media@wsib.on.ca

647-534-1497

A stylized logo consisting of the lowercase letters "b5" in a bold, sans-serif font.



News Release

Ontario Providing Additional Relief to the Province's Most Vulnerable

Funding and services will help seniors and people with disabilities during the COVID-19 outbreak

April 21, 2020 1:00 P.M. | [Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is delivering much-needed support to Ontario's most vulnerable citizens, including seniors and persons with disabilities, during the outbreak of COVID-19. The province is investing \$11 million to help deliver meals, medicines and other essentials to those in need and doubling the Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) payments.

Today's announcement was made by Premier Doug Ford, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Dr. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care, and Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services.

"As we face some of the darkest times in our province's history, we have a duty to protect and care for the most vulnerable in our society," said Premier Ford. "Our seniors and people with disabilities are the most at risk during this crisis, and we must go above and beyond to ensure they get financial relief, food, medicine and other essentials without delay."

The province is working with the [Ontario Community Support Association \(OCSA\)](#) to launch a new Ontario Community Support Program to expand existing Meals on Wheels services to reach low-income seniors and people with disabilities and chronic medical conditions across Ontario. The program will also develop the capacity of community organizations and others to help deliver medication and other essentials.

"We know that the best way we can all take care of ourselves during this outbreak is to stay home," said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. "For older Ontarians and people with disabilities, this may be especially challenging. That is why I am so proud to see the Ontario Spirit being demonstrated by the volunteers, local not-for-profit organizations, charities and businesses that are helping our most vulnerable through the Ontario Community Support Program."

This week the province will also be issuing the first doubled Guaranteed Annual Income System (GAINS) payments. Individuals will receive up to \$166 per month and couples will receive up to \$332 per month. These doubled payments will continue for six months and provide an additional \$75 million to 194,000 vulnerable seniors who may need more help to cover essential expenses during the COVID-19 outbreak.

"As part of [Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19](#), we are investing \$3.7 billion to provide immediate and direct support to Ontario's people and employers. It starts with those most in need," said Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance. "For our vulnerable seniors, we will double the Guaranteed Annual Income System payment for six months. That will ensure 194,000 of our lowest income seniors will have some extra support during these unprecedented times. The first payment will start to arrive this week and assist low income seniors with their essential expenses when they need it most."



AA The province is investing \$40 million in the Residential Relief Fund. The funding will assist developmental services, child welfare, victims shelters, and organizations delivering social services to vulnerable First Nations individuals and families with COVID-related costs, such as the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and enhanced staffing. In addition, the government is providing \$148 million to municipal partners that administer social services with funding to support the province's most vulnerable as part of the province's \$200 million in social services relief funding in response to COVID-19.

"Our government is taking decisive action to protect the health and safety of our most vulnerable populations," said Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. "If you have a friend or neighbour who is a senior or a person with a disability, please reach out to them to ensure they have what they need and are doing okay during this very difficult period."

Quick Facts

- The Ontario Community Support Program will serve low-income seniors and people with disabilities in need such as those in supportive housing environments or community-based independent living programs.
- To identify a Meals on Wheels provider in the local community and request service, visit www.ontariocommunitysupport.ca. Those without Internet access or who require service in a language other than English or French, can dial 211 or 1-877-330-3213 (toll free). TTY service is also available by calling 1-888-340-1001.
- Volunteer organizations can now visit www.sparkontario.ca to post volunteer opportunities available in their communities. Ontarians interested in volunteering are also encouraged to check the website for opportunities to make a difference where they live.
- GAINS provides a monthly, non-taxable benefit to low-income Ontario seniors. These payments are provided on top of the federal government's Old Age Security pension and federal Guaranteed Income Supplement payments to ensure seniors have a minimum income level.
- Payments are being automatically doubled for current GAINS recipients — no additional applications are required. Payments are issued on the 25th of each month, or the first business day prior if the 25th falls on a non-business day.
- Ontario recently announced \$200 million in social services relief funding to help the province's most vulnerable.
- Learn about how the government is supporting people, businesses and families during COVID-19 by visiting www.ontario.ca/coronavirus.

Media Contacts

Ivana Yelich
Premier's Office
Ivana.Yelich@ontario.ca

Perry Blocher
Minister Cho's Office
Perry.Blocher@ontario.ca

Matt Gloyd
Communications Branch

67

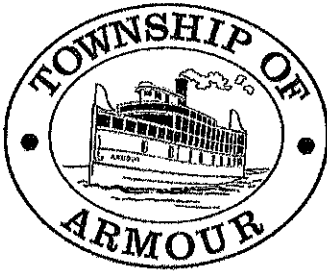
4/23/2020

Newsroom : Ontario Providing Additional Relief to the Province's Most Vulnerable

AA

Matt.Gloyd@ontario.ca
647 268-7233

68



DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND

56 ONTARIO STREET
PO BOX 533
BURK'S FALLS, ON
POA 1C0

(705) 382-3332

(705) 382-2954

Fax: (705) 382-2068

Email: info@armourtownship.ca

Website: www.armourtownship.ca

April 29, 2020

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

Re: Support Resolution - High Speed Internet Connectivity in Rural Ontario

At its meeting held on April 28, 2020, the Council of the Township of Armour passed Resolution #6 supporting our Councillor Rod Ward's letter regarding the need to make substantial investments in high-speed internet connectivity in the rural areas of Ontario.

A copy of Council's Resolution #6 dated April 28, 2020 and Councillor Ward's letter is attached for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charlene Watt
Deputy Clerk

Cc: MPP Norm Miller, MP Scott Aitchison and Ontario Municipalities

Enclosures

A10



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

RESOLUTION

Date: April 28, 2020

Motion # 6

That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the letter, dated April 15, 2020 from Councillor Rod Ward, on the need to make substantial investments in high-speed internet connectivity in rural areas. Furthermore, that this resolution and the letter be circulated to Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, Norm Miller, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka and all Ontario municipalities requesting their support.

Moved by:

Blakelock, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandt, Jerry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MacPhail, Bob	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whitwell, Wendy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Seconded by:

Blakelock, Rod	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brandt, Jerry	<input type="checkbox"/>
MacPhail, Bob	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whitwell, Wendy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Carried / Defeated

[Signature]

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by:

Recorded vote requested by:

Recorded Vote:	For	Opposed
Blakelock, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandt, Jerry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MacPhail, Bob	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whitwell, Wendy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

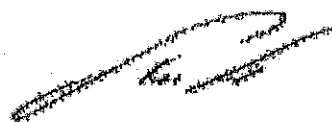
April 15, 2020

To whom it may concern,

The COVID-19 pandemic in Ontario has highlighted both our positive responses to a crisis, and some definite shortcomings in infrastructure, systems and services which need to be addressed on a long-term basis. Setting priority on solving these issues will be a challenge, given the differing agendas and the strained budgets. Solving fundamental issues should focus on the most basic needs as a starting point. One of the clear needs in a rural community such as the Almaguin Highlands, highlighted further by recent events, is the need for proper high-speed internet connectivity. Healthcare and education are both going down a path where appropriate connectivity is assumed. Like many models that move outward from metropolitan areas, this assumption is lost on rural areas. For the vast majority of households in our community, true high-speed connectivity simply does not exist. For the vast majority of future strategies in healthcare and education, there is an assumption that it does exist.

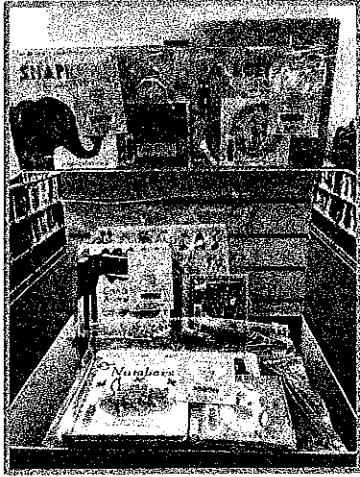
Even in areas in the Almaguin Highlands which have 'high-speed' internet, the overall infrastructure is still limited. It is certainly not designed to deal with a sudden huge peak in demand. Whereas the capacity in large urban centres is built to handle the added throughput, there are clear limitations here. The best way to explain it is a comparison to hydro. Imagine if everyone went home at the same time and turned their lights on, but because there wasn't enough hydro capacity overall, all lights were 50% dimmer than normal and some appliances simply didn't work. We no longer have to imagine what happens with internet speed during peak usage. Suddenly during the COVID pandemic, people are working from home who have never worked from home. Kids are trying to do courses on-line. People who are not working are turning on-line to stay connected. Video-conferencing, which was a totally foreign concept to many, is now part of daily routine. Any idea how much internet bandwidth video uses? It's no wonder we hit a wall.

The future of healthcare sees patients being monitored and cared for in their own homes, through the use of technology. The future of education sees students doing much of their learning on-line. The future of business and commerce sees the ability to function outside the 'bricks and mortar' of an office location. Malls disappear and on-line shopping is the norm. For some, that future has already arrived. Our area has already been drastically affected by cutbacks in the area of healthcare and education through gradual decreases in budgets and services. Technology offers us the ability to level the playing field to a great extent. High-speed connectivity cannot be seen as a luxury or a nice-to-have, any more than hydro should be seen that way. In order to solve some other problems (i.e. skyrocketing budgets in healthcare and education) the wise investment is in providing connectivity for every resident in the province.



Rod Ward
Councillor
Armour Township

Outcomes



Early Literacy Kits for our young patrons.

Another successful Toonie Trivia Night celebrated the tv show, The Office.



Adults

Angus - Book Clubs: 13
 Angus - Cookbook Club: 6
 Thornton - Book Clubs: 16
 Angus - Language Conversation Circle:
 Angus - Hobby Circle: 16
 Angus - Adult Movie Night: 21
 Angus - Author visit, Keith Couse & Joan Truax: 25
 Angus- Tech Learning: 10
 Thornton - Tech Learning: offered
 Exams: 2
 Angus - Local Artist's Display: continues from Nov. 2019
 Angus - Toonie Trivia Night: 14
 Angus - First Aid Training: 4

Teens & tweens

Angus - Tween Den: 24
 Angus - Teen Central: 40
 Angus - Tutoring Sessions in Teen Central/Kids Corner: 43
 Thornton - Page Turners Tween Book Club: 9



Angus - "Unleash your future" event:
 Crafternoons: 3

Other

Homebound delivery offered
 Angus - MakerSpace: 2
 Thornton - MakerSpace: offered

Kids

Angus - JUMP Club: 23
 Angus - Story Dogs: on hiatus
 Angus - Wiggles & Giggles: 74
 Angus - Cozy Storytime: 42
 Angus - Bilingual Storytime: 50
 Angus - Library Storytime: 59
 Angus - Lego Builders: 3
 Angus - Outreach @ Early ON Centre: 34
 Saturday Programs: Angus

- Lego Disaster Island: 1
- Robot Coding: 7
- Aladdin Movie: 2
- Explore the floor: 40
- Build with Keva: 10
- Lego Disaster Island II: 2

Angus - Little Lovebugs: 65
 Angus - Leap Day Frog Hunt: 16

Thornton - Leap Day Frog Hunt: 2
 Thornton - Story Dogs: 16
 Thornton - Read with Mrs. C.: 10

CIRCULATION	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2020	YTD 2020
Angus Branch	7,502	8,562	18,120
Thornton Branch	1,359	1,241	2,539
Angus Branch Computer Use	435	517	1,037
Thornton Branch Computer Use	37	35	83
Angus Branch Wireless Use	1,232	1,722	3,239
Thornton Branch Wireless Use	310	275	583
eAudio & eBooks	685	873	1,789
TOTALS:	11,560	13,225	27,390

Circulation Analysis	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2020	YTD 2020
Print	4,131	4,014	9,192
Non-Print	4,584	5,675	11,209
Computer Use/Internet/Wireless	2,014	2,549	4,942
eAudio Books	205	277	549
eBooks	480	596	1,240
Interlibrary Loan: Borrowed	135	91	185
Interlibrary Loan: Lent	11	23	73

Materials Used In-Library	Feb. 2020	YTD 2020
Angus Branch	288	536
Thornton Branch	61	294

74

Library website visits 3,200	YTD 2020 6,541	BlueCloud Mobile visits 626	YTD 2020 733
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E-resources visits 1,056	YTD 2020 2,111
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New Members		YTD 2020
Angus Branch	96	173
Thornton Branch	1	6

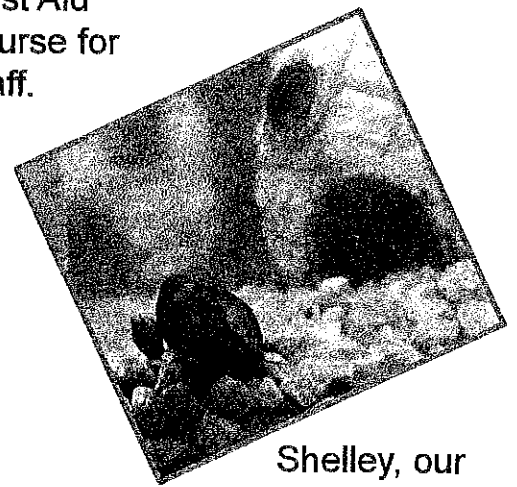
February Library Highlights



Book launch of the book, *Footsteps into the past: a history of Angus*, with authors, Joan Truax & Keith White.



First Aid course for staff.

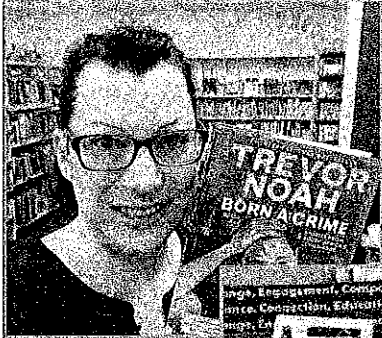


Shelley, our aquarium snail had a baby!

Essex Public Library Report: March 2020

IMAGINE DISCOVER CONNECT

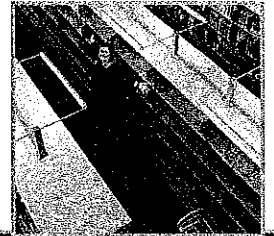
Outcomes



#ITSTARTS
campaign runs
through March -
Staff book picks



The YA area moved
and was updated by
Dawn and Victoria.



Seeds offer promise
for the gardens.

Adults

Angus - Book Clubs: 6

Angus - Cookbook Club:
on hold

Thornton - Book Clubs: 3

Angus - Language
Conversation Circle: on
hold

Angus - Hobby Circle: 10

Angus - Adult Movie Night:
Cancelled

Angus- Tech Learning: 54

Thornton - Tech Learning:
8

Exams: 0

Angus - Local Artist's
Display: 1

Outreach: #ITSTARTS
campaign runs through
March - initiative to take
proactive step against
racism & discrimination in
Simcoe County.

Outreach: Seedy Saturday
at Utopia Hall: 35



Teens & 'tweens

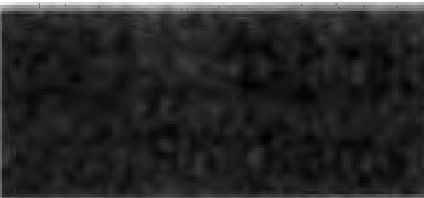
Angus - Tween Den: 8

Angus - Teen Central: 31

Angus - Tutoring Sessions
in Teen Central/Kids
Corner: 48

Thornton - Page Turners
'Tween Book Club: on
hold

Special Programming/
Cafeteria: 2



YouTube programming:

Baby & toddler: 22

Ask a Librarian: 1

Online resources:

tutoring: 7

Logic challenges: 7

Drawing challenges: 1
(received 13 submissions)

Other

Homebound delivery: on
hold

Angus - MakerSpace: 1

Thornton - MakerSpace: on
hold

Kids

Angus - JUMP Club: 19

Angus - Story Dogs: on
hiatus

Angus - Wiggles & Giggles:
25

Angus - Cozy Storytime: 14

Angus - Bilingual Storytime:
5

Angus - Library Storytime:
41

Angus - Lego Builders: 0

Angus - Outreach @ Early
ON Centre: on hold

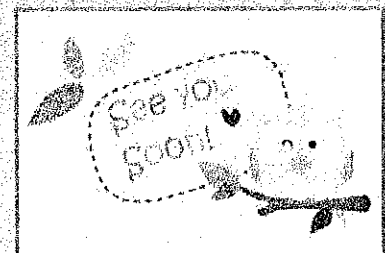
Saturday Programs:
Angus: on hold

Thornton - Library
Storytime: 24

Thornton - Story Dogs: 12

Thornton - Read with
Mrs. C.: 6

March Break Programming
cancelled due to COVID 19
Pandemic



CIRCULATION	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2020	YTD 2020
Angus Branch	10,027	5,659	23,779
Thornton Branch	1,954	863	3,402
Angus Branch Computer Use	639	106	1,143
Thornton Branch Computer Use	45	57	140
Angus Branch Wireless Use	1,331	1,094	4,333
Thornton Branch Wireless Use	354	241	779
eAudio & eBooks	711	1,041	2,830
TOTALS:	15,061	9,061	36,451

Circulation Analysis	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2020	YTD 2020
Print	5,321	3,192	12,384
Non-Print	6,431	3,250	14,459
Computer Use/Internet/Wireless	2,369	1,498	6,440
eAudio Books	214	258	807
eBooks	497	783	2,023
Interlibrary Loan: Borrowed	182	43	228
Interlibrary Loan: Lent	47	37	110

Materials Used In-Library	Mar. 2020	YTD 2020
Angus Branch	106	642
Thornton Branch	57	351

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All Online Resources & New Members: March 2020

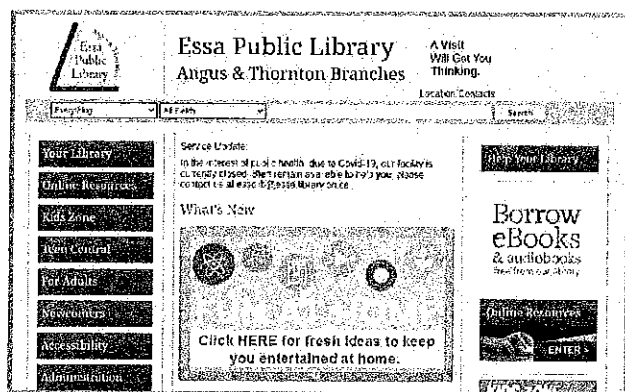
Library website visits 4,025	YTD 2020 10,566	BlueCloud Mobile visits 84	YTD 2020 812
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E-resources visits 3,323	YTD 2020 5434
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New Members		YTD 2020
Angus Branch	53	226
Thornton Branch	6	12

March Library Highlights

COVID-19 pandemic action started March 16 and continued through the month. Library staff went into full gear to provide alternative virtual programming, database tutorials and digital services to serve Essa Residents. Online Resources, ebooks and e-cards were promoted through the website.



Storytimes continued with Holly & Karly.



The feature "Ask a Librarian" debuts.



Young artists showing their Drawing Challenge works



A12a



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ADJALA-TOSORONTIO

**NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING and PUBLIC MEETING
FOR
TOWNSHIP INITIATED
APPLICATIONS**

Filed under the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990

ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT APPLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio has proposed applications under the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, for Zoning By-law Amendments for all property within the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, County of Simcoe as follows:

SYNOPSIS: To add a definition for the word "attached" to the Comprehensive Zoning By-laws (applies to all property in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio).

AND TAKE NOTICE that considering the COVID-19 context, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio will hold a **Virtual Public Meeting with a commenting period from April 16, 2020 to May 7, 2020** on the mentioned reports in such a way that the public could participate by sending their comments through letters or faxes or emails or voice messages or video clips to:

Jaclyn Cook
Planning Technician
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
7855 Sideroad 30 Alliston ON L9R 1V1
P: (705) 434-5055 ext. 223 F: (705) 434-5051
e-mail: jcook@adjtos.ca

AND TAKE NOTICE that in addition to the virtual public meeting, public meetings will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Meetings will be held in Council Chambers and are considered public meetings. However, due to public health concerns regarding COVID-19, **physical attendance is strongly discouraged**. Council has established protocols and requirements for the purposes of public safety which must be adhered to should any member of the public choose to attend.

These meetings will be live streamed by the municipality on through our iCompass portal.

If a person or public body does not make oral or visual or written comments as prescribed earlier for the virtual public meeting or public meeting to the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

If a person or public body does not make oral or visual or written comments as prescribed earlier for the virtual public meeting or public meeting to the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

If you wish to be notified of the approval of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, 7855 30th Sideroad Adjala, Alliston, Ontario, L9R 1V1.

Additional information regarding the Zoning By-law Amendments is available to the public upon request to the Planning Technician through letter, email, fax, or voice message between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Dated at the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio this 22nd day of April 2020.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ADJALA-TOSORONTIO

BY-LAW NUMBER 20-xx

A By-Law to Amend By-Law 03-56, as Amended, and By-Law 03-57, as Amended, of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio

WHEREAS Zoning By-law No. 03-56, as amended, constitutes the comprehensive Zoning By-law for the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio for lands within the Oak Ridges Moraine area;

AND WHEREAS Zoning By-law No. 03-57, as amended, constitutes the comprehensive Zoning By-law for the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio save and except those lands within the Oak Ridges Moraine area;

AND WHEREAS Council deems it expedient to amend both By-laws;

AND WHEREAS this amendment will conform to the Official Plan of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio;

AND NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio enacts as follows:

1. **THAT** Section 2 – DEFINITIONS of By-law No. 03-56, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding the following:

Attached: Means a building otherwise in itself, which depends, for structural support or complete enclosure, upon a division wall or walls shared in common with adjacent building or buildings. A building may be attached by an enclosed breezeway, where such breezeway shall be no more than 5 metres in length. Where a breezeway is not enclosed or is longer, the buildings joined by the breezeway shall be considered detached.

And appropriately amending all relevant section numbers in Section 2 in accordance with this amendment.

2. **THAT** Section 2 – DEFINITIONS of By-law No. 03-57, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding the following:

Attached: Means a building otherwise in itself, which depends, for structural support or complete enclosure, upon a division wall or walls shared in common with adjacent building or buildings. A building may be attached by an enclosed breezeway, where such breezeway shall be no more than 5 metres in length. Where a breezeway is not

enclosed or is longer, the buildings joined by the breezeway shall be considered detached.

And appropriately amending all relevant section numbers in Section 2 in accordance with this amendment.

3. **THAT** the provisions of the By-law shall take full force and effect with the passing hereof;
4. **THAT**, notwithstanding anything contrary to the rules of procedure, this By-law, be introduced and read a first and second time and be considered read a third time and finally passed this day of , 2020.

Floyd Pinto, Mayor

Kathryn A. Pearl, Clerk



April 23, 2020

File No.: ATT/20

Re: Application for Zoning By-law Amendment
Applies to the entirety of the Township
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio

SYNOPSIS: To add a definition for the word "attached" to the Comprehensive Zoning By-laws (applies to all property in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio).

Your comments would be appreciated by May 8, 2020. If we do not receive your comments on or before the above date or notification that you require additional time, we will assume you have no comment or concern with the proposal

Jaclyn Cook
Planning Technician

Comments / Conditions:

_____ has reviewed the above referenced file in relation to existing policies and procedures and would comment as follows:

- No objection
- No objection provided the conditions identified below are included in any approval.
- Have concerns and/or issues as identified below which are to be addressed prior to further consideration.
- Recommend denial of the application based on the reasons identified below.

Conditions / Issues / Reasons for Denial:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Circulation:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MMAH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Simcoe Cty | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NVCA&TRCA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Town of New Tec |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ont. Power Gen. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydro One | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enbridge Gas | Twp of Essa |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Simcoe Bd. Ed. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SMCDSB | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSDCC | Twp of Mulmur |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canada Post | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bell Canada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metis Consultation Unit | Town of Caledon |
| | | | Region of Peel |
| | | | Twp of Mono |
| | | | Dufferin Cty |



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ADJALA-TOSORONTIO

**NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING and PUBLIC MEETING
FOR
TOWNSHIP INITIATED
APPLICATIONS**

Filed under the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990

ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT APPLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio has proposed applications under the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, as amended, for Zoning By-law Amendments for all property within the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, County of Simcoe as follows:

SYNOPSIS: To update the Agricultural Buildings/Structures components of the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law (applies to all property in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio).

AND TAKE NOTICE that considering the COVID-19 context, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio will hold a **Virtual Public Meeting with a commenting period from April 16, 2020 to May 7, 2020** on the mentioned reports in such a way that the public could participate by sending their comments through letters or faxes or emails or voice messages or video clips to:

Jaclyn Cook
Planning Technician
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
7855 Sideroad 30 Alliston ON L9R 1V1
P: (705) 434-5055 ext. 223 F: (705) 434-5051
e-mail: jcook@adjitas.ca

AND TAKE NOTICE that in addition to the virtual public meeting, public meetings will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Meetings will be held in Council Chambers and are considered public meetings. However, due to public health concerns regarding COVID-19, **physical attendance is strongly discouraged**. Council has established protocols and requirements for the purposes of public safety which must be adhered to should any member of the public choose to attend.

These meetings will be live streamed by the municipality on through our iCompass portal.

If a person or public body does not make oral or visual or written comments as prescribed earlier for the virtual public meeting or public meeting to the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

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If you wish to be notified of the approval of the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment, you must make a written request to the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, 7855 30th Sideroad Adjala, Alliston, Ontario, L9R 1V1.

Additional information regarding the Zoning By-law Amendments is available to the public upon request to the Planning Technician through letter, email, fax, or voice message between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Dated at the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio this 22th day of April 2020.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ADJALA-TOSORONTIO

BY-LAW NUMBER 20-XX

A By-Law to Amend By-Law 03-56 as Amended and By-Law 03-57, as Amended of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio and to repeal By-law 11-30

WHEREAS Zoning By-law 03-56, as amended, constitutes the comprehensive Zoning By-law for the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio for lands within the Oak Ridges Moraine area; and

WHEREAS Zoning By-law 03-57, as amended, constitutes the comprehensive Zoning By-law for the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio save and except those lands within the Oak Ridges Moraine area;

WHEREAS Council deems it expedient to amend both By-laws; and

WHEREAS this amendment will conform to the Official Plan of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio; and

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio enacts as follows:

- 1. **THAT** Section 2 – DEFINITIONS of By-law 03-56, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding the following:

BUILDING: means an edifice, whether temporary or permanent, that is used or built for the shelter, accommodation or enclosure of persons, animals, chattels, products, produce, or waste, having either a complete roof or a complete wall(s), which may be coupled with a floor, columns, or other structural components.

RIDING AREA: means an agricultural building permitted only as a use accessory to a barn which houses horses.

And appropriately amending all relevant section numbers in Section 2 in accordance with this amendment.

- 2. **THAT** Section 2 – DEFINITIONS of By-law 03-57, as amended, is hereby further amended by adding the following:

BUILDING: means an edifice, whether temporary or permanent, that is used or built for the shelter, accommodation or enclosure of persons, animals, chattels, products, produce, or waste, having either a complete roof or a complete wall(s), which may be coupled with a floor, columns, or other structural components.

RIDING ARENA: means an agricultural building permitted only as a use accessory to a barn which houses horses.

An appropriately amending all relevant section numbers in Section 2 in accordance with this amendment.

3. **THAT** Section 3 – GENERAL PROVISIONS of By-law 03-56, as amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

Agricultural Buildings

In any zone where agricultural buildings are permitted, the minimum setback for any agricultural building shall be the more restrictive of: a) 100m from the front lot line and exterior side yard lot line or b) behind the dwelling unit. The agricultural building shall be 30m from any other lot line. In the case of an existing agricultural building, a new dwelling unit must be located closer to the front lot line and exterior side yard lot line than the agricultural building.

4. **THAT** Section 3 – GENERAL PROVISIONS of By-law 03-57, as amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

Agricultural Structures

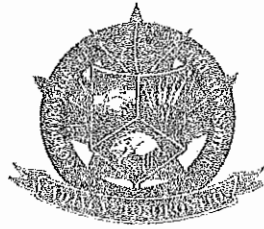
In any zone where agricultural buildings are permitted, the minimum setback for any agricultural structure shall be the more restrictive of: a) 100m from the front lot line and exterior side yard lot line or b) behind the dwelling unit. The agricultural building shall be 30m from any other lot line. In the case of an existing agricultural building, a new dwelling unit must be located closer to the front lot line and exterior side yard lot line than the agricultural building.

5. **REPEAL** By-law 11-30 entitled "A By-law to Amend By-law 03-56, as Amended and By-law 03-57, As amended of the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio" passed by Council on October 3, 2011, and all amendments, are hereby repealed.
6. **THAT** the provisions of the By-law shall take full force and effect with the passing hereof;

THAT, notwithstanding anything contrary to the rules of procedure, this By-law, be introduced and read a first and second time and be considered read a third time and finally passed this day of , 2020.

Floyd Pinto, Mayor

Kathryn A. Pearl, Clerk



April 23, 2020

File No.: AGR/19

Re: Application for Zoning By-law Amendment
Applies to the entirety of the Township
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio

SYNOPSIS: To update the Agricultural Buildings/Structures Component of the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law (applies to all property in the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio).

Your comments would be appreciated by May 8, 2020. If we do not receive your comments on or before the above date or notification that you require additional time, we will assume you have no comment or concern with the proposal

Jaclyn Cook
Planning Technician
Comments / Conditions:

_____ has reviewed the above referenced file in relation to existing policies and procedures and would comment as follows:

- No objection
- No objection provided the conditions identified below are included in any approval.
- Have concerns and/or issues as identified below which are to be addressed prior to further consideration.
- Recommend denial of the application based on the reasons identified below.

Conditions / Issues / Reasons for Denial:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Circulation:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MMAH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Simcoe Cty | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NVCA&TRCA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Town of New Tec |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ont. Power Gen. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydro One | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enbridge Gas | Twp of Essa |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Simcoe Bd. Ed. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SMCDSB | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSDCC | Twp of Mulmur |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canada Post | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bell Canada | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metis Consultation Unit | Town of Caledon |
| | | | Region of Peel |
| | | | Twp of Mono |
| | | | Dufferin Cty |