



# COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, June 7, 2024

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|  | <b>Pages</b> |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Memorandum from the City of Welland re: Memorial Park Pool Construction Update.   | 2 - 2        |
| 2. Letter from the Township of Lanark Highlands re: Sustainable Infrastructure Funding for Small Rural Municipalities.         | 3 - 6        |
| 3. Letter from the Municipality of Callander re: Huron Shores Request to Resume Assessment Cycle.                              | 7 - 8        |
| 4. Letter from the Township of Pelee re: Sustainable Infrastructure Funding for Small Rural Municipalities.                    | 9 - 10       |
| 5. Letter from the Township of Pelee re: Rural and Small Urban Municipalities – Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems. | 11 - 13      |
| 6. Letter from the Town of The Blue Mountains re: Ridesharing Services dated June 3 2024.                                      | 14 - 14      |

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Welland City Council**

**FROM: Frank Pearson – Manager of Facilities, Operations and Development**

**DATE: June 18, 2024**

**SUBJECT: Memorial Park Pool Construction Update**

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The construction of the new Memorial Park Pool began in May 2023 and the pool is scheduled to be opened for the 2024 season. Construction is ongoing, but the end is in sight as finishes to the pool and associated buildings are underway.

The Community Services Department has developed a phased plan for opening the pool. Tentatively, a soft opening for public swimming is scheduled for July 1, 2024; swimming lessons to start July 15, 2024; and the grand opening for the pool planned for July 30, 2024. This phased approach will ensure the required construction can be completed, that the operations of the facility are understood and work smoothly, and that programming staff can familiarize themselves with the pool requirements for lessons and open swims.

Staff continue to work with the contractor to keep the project on schedule and allow the opening to take place as planned.

Once a concrete schedule can be confirmed, further updates and an invitation to the grand opening will be provided to all members of Council.



May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Premier's Office  
Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

**ATTENTION: Hon. Doug Ford**

Dear Premier Ford,

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

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lanark Highlands passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024:

*Moved by Councillor Kelso*

*Seconded by Councillor Summers*

**THAT**, Council supports the resolution from Hastings County regarding Sustainable Infrastructure Funding for Small Rural Municipalities;

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

**Resolved**

Sincerely,

Amanda Noël,  
Clerk/Acting CAO



Encls.

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



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April 17, 2024

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

**Delivered via email**

[doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Cathy Bradley  
Director of Legislative Services

31 May 2024

Premier Doug Ford [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

RE: Urging the Government to Promptly Resume Assessment Cycle

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Callander passed the following resolution at its Regular Meeting of Council held Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

Resolution No. 2024/05/184:

7.4(c) WHEREAS the assessment cycle is an essential process for maintaining the fairness and predictability of property taxes in our province;

AND WHEREAS the pause in the reassessment cycle has created uncertainty and instability in property taxation, impacting both residential and commercial property owners;

AND WHEREAS the government has delayed an assessment update again in 2024, resulting in Ontario's municipalities continuing to calculate property taxes using 2016 property values;

AND WHEREAS both current and outdated assessments are inaccurate, increase volatility, and are not transparent;

AND WHEREAS frequent and accurate reassessments are necessary to stabilize property taxes and provide predictability for property owners, residents, and businesses alike;

AND WHEREAS the staff at the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation would benefit from further skills enhancement and training in assessments, recognizing the importance of ensuring accurate evaluations for 100% of our municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Government has announced a review of the property assessment and taxation system with a focus on fairness, equity, and economic competitiveness, and therefore further deferring new property assessment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Callander hereby calls upon the Premier to promptly resume the assessment cycle to ensure the stability and predictability of property taxes while the Government conducts its review of the property assessment and taxation system, or respond with an alternative method for every municipality in Ontario to achieve fair taxation;

AND THAT all Municipalities in Ontario and their constituents are encouraged to apply pressure to the Premier, daily, weekly, and monthly, to resolve the situation before it causes undo stress to everyone in the Municipality;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the relevant provincial authorities, the Association of Municipality in Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, and all municipalities in Ontario for their consideration, to make proper changes as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Pigeau', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cindy Pigeau  
Municipal Clerk

Copy to: Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Rural Ontario Municipalities Association  
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities  
Municipal Property Assessment Corporation  
All Ontario Municipalities



May 29, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

**RE: Township of Pelee Support Township of Georgian Bay Resolution  
Sustainable Infrastructure Funding for Small Rural Municipalities**

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Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Please be advised that at the Township of Pelee's Regular Meeting of Council held on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the following resolution was passed:

**Resolution 2024 – 77**

**Moved By: Mayor Cathy Miller**

**Seconded By: Councillor Michelle Taylor**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Township of Pelee hereby support Township of Georgian Bay's resolution calling on the Ontario and Federal Government to implement sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities;

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

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

**AND THAT** both the Federal and Ontario Governments immediately commission a Working Group to develop a plan on how to deal with the impending debt dilemma;

**AND FINALLY THAT** this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada; Michel Tremblay Acting President and CEO, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Kinga Surma, Ontario Minister of Infrastructure; The Honourable Paul Calandra, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MP Dave Epp, Chatham-Kent-Leamington; MPP Trevor Jones, Chatham-Kent-Leamington; AMO, ROMA, FCM, and all Municipalities in Ontario.

May 29, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

**RE: Township of Pelee Support County of Renfrew Resolution  
Rural and Small Urban Municipalities – Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems**

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Please be advised that at the Township of Pelee’s Regular Meeting of Council held on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the following resolution was passed:

**Resolution 2024 – 78**

**Moved By: Councillor Dave DeLellis**

**Seconded By: Councillor Michelle Taylor**

**WHEREAS** the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) (Section 1.6.6.2) states that municipal sewage services and municipal water services are the preferred form of servicing for settlement areas to support protection of the environment and minimize potential risks to human health and safety and that intensification and redevelopment within these settlement areas should be promoted; and

**WHEREAS** the PPS (Section 2.2.1 (f)) states that planning authorities shall protect, improve, or restore the quality and quantity of water by implementing the necessary restrictions on development and site alternation to protect all drinking supplies and designated vulnerable areas, and protect, improve, or restore vulnerable surface and ground water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive groundwater features, and their hydrologic functions; and

**WHEREAS** the PPS (Sections 2.2.1(h) and (i)) states that there is consideration of environmental lake capacity as well as stormwater management practices; and

**WHEREAS** the Ministry of the Environment, Protection and Conservation (MECP) Procedural Guideline B-1-5 Policy 2 provision states that water quality which presently does not meet the Provincial Water Quality Objectives shall not be further degraded and all practical measures shall be undertaken to upgrade the water quality to the Objectives;

and

**WHEREAS** in 2014 the Township of Whitewater Region authorized Jp2gConsultants Inc. to undertake a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the purpose of evaluating viable options to upgrade the 1979 Cobden Wastewater Treatment Plant. This plant did not meet guidelines for effluent flow into Muskrat Lake and Cobden Wetland being highly sensitive, at-capacity, inland lake, and Provincial Significant Wetland (PSW) and acknowledged as one of the most eutrophic in the province. The plant had ongoing seasonal overflow events, and was operating at maximum capacity; and

**WHEREAS** in 2018 the Council of the Township of Whitewater Region approved the construction of a new parallel mechanical system that would meet all provincial environmental and regulatory requirements including accommodating future growth. Federal and provincial contributions only covered 50% of the final construction costs, as there was no ability to renegotiate with federal and provincial partners once real costs were known. As a result, the balance of costs (\$6M) was debentured over 30 years at interest rates that are slightly punitive to rural and small urban municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** in 2019 the Council of the Township of Whitewater Region conducted a Water and Wastewater Rate Study that demonstrated the need for rate increases of over 100% to fund the new wastewater treatment plant construction debenture and the significantly increased operating costs for a parallel mechanical system. Rural and small urban municipalities experience very limited growth as federal and provincial policies heavily support growth in urban centers. As there are no other sources of available operational funding, rural and small urban municipalities are expected to fund the construction and operation of these state-of-the-art systems from existing property owners and nominal forecasted growth; and

**WHEREAS** in 2023 the Township of Whitewater Region combined water and wastewater rates have risen to almost \$3,000/year for its five hundred and eleven (511) users and are among the highest in the County of Renfrew and across the Province of Ontario. There are similarly high user rates in the Township of Madawaska Valley as a result of Provincial regulations and a small number of users. Other examples of rapidly increasing rates include the Towns of Deep River, Renfrew, Arnprior, Laurentian Hills, and Petawawa, and the Townships of Bonnechere Valley, Laurentian Valley and Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, where significant upgrades in short periods of time are making rates unaffordable even with an increased number of users.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Township of Pelee support the County of Renfrew's resolution to:

Advocate to the provincial and federal levels of government to make them aware that rural and small urban water and wastewater systems are financially unsustainable; and Advocate to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to examine if the unaffordability of water and wastewater system operational costs is systemic provincially and nationally.

**AND THAT** a copy of this resolution be circulated to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure (Ontario); the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities (Canada); the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ontario), Dave Epp, MP, Chatham-Kent-Leamington; Trevor Jones, MPP, Chatham-Kent-Leamington; AMO; ROMA; FCM; and all Municipalities in Ontario.

