



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, February 9, 2024

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Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin

Council Resolution

Date: January 30, 2024

Resolution Number: 2024-31

Moved By: Councillor Moreton

Seconded By: Councillor Manson

Background: Before Calvin township became a township, it was burned by numerous forest fires. This was before the time of fire towers, water bombers, and municipal fire departments. A 1881 report from Lawrence Tallan, Provincial Land surveyor, states: *"The township of Calvin has been traversed by repeated and severe fires – so well have the flames done their work that with the exception of an insignificant portion, scarcely a vestige of the original timber remains."*

History has a way of repeating itself, and now rural municipalities and remote areas need more than ever to be prepared to respond to forest fires. Invasive pests like the emerald ash borer and the spruce bud worm are killing large numbers of trees, leaving copious amounts of dry kindling in our forests just waiting for a careless human or a lightning strike. Our forests are choked with deadfall and forest fires are becoming increasingly difficult to control. Add to this the effects of rising temperatures and drier seasons, or climate change, and we could be facing increasingly disastrous forest fires. This is not the time to be caught short with limited forest fire-fighting resources.

Jordan Omstead of the Canadian Press recently wrote: "But as Canada's water bombers age – and wildfire seasons are expected to intensify – some wildland

firefighters and emergency preparedness experts say the country needs to prop up its fleet of firefighting aircraft, even though several provinces are playing down concerns about capacity.” He quotes Eric Davidson, president of the Ontario Professional Association of Wildland Firefighters, “We’re really starting to see the effect of the aging fleet.”

The article further states the John Gradek, lecturer at McGill University estimates that almost half of the larger water bombers used to fight Canadian forest fires are nearing the end of their service life.

However, a Canadian company making a large skimmer-style water bomber is backed up with orders from European countries until the end of the decade.

Ontario has its own fleet of aircraft. They have 20 fixed-wing aircraft which includes 9 CL215 and CL415 water bombers that are 24 years old on average. The remaining 11 aircraft are an average of 54 years old. Melissa Candelaria, a spokesperson for Minister Graydon Smith says the MNR can handle Ontario fires with these aircraft, but Jennifer Kamau, communications manager for the Canada Interagency Forest Fire Centre, CIFFC, noted that other provinces contract out firebombers and last year there was a strain in Canada to get the resources to areas in need because there were so many fires across the country at the same time and very few aircraft available.

Peter Zimonjic of the CBC quoted the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) President Ken McMullen, “It's not often that the fire chiefs sound the alarm. We are very concerned about this impending crisis that the summer of 2024 and beyond is going to bring our sector.”

In 2023 we all smelled the smoke and saw the sky turn brown. Buildings can be replaced, but lives cannot. And once an area is burned it takes more than a lifetime for it to return to its original state.

WHEREAS Forest fires are a very real threat to rural municipalities.

AND WHEREAS smoke from forest fires put people's health at risk. This is especially true of children and the elderly. The David Suzuki Foundation reports that wildfires kill many thousands of people per year and most of the deaths are from smoke inhalation.

AND WHEREAS forest fires are a very real danger to the climate and according to The Guardian, in 2023 they emitted three times as much carbon as the entire carbon footprint of Canada.

AND WHEREAS according to the John Crace interview in The Guardian with William Kurz, a retired scientist with Natural Resources Canada, around two billion tonnes of carbon have been released into the atmosphere from forest fires in 2023.

AND WHEREAS carbon emissions from forest fires are not counted against Canada's Paris agreement commitments, according to Kurz, but they far exceeded all of the emissions tied to Canada's economy (670 mega tonnes, or 0.67 billion tonnes, according to Environment and Climate Change Canada).

AND WHEREAS that standing healthy forest serves as a carbon sink, drawing in carbon, but once destroyed by fire, even though second growth takes its place, it is much less effective for many decades.

AND WHEREAS the federal government owns no water bombers and assists the provinces through the CIFFC, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, a spokesperson with CIFFC says that last year there were too many requests and not enough inventory to meet the needs of the country.

AND WHEREAS as reported by De Havilland Canada who manufacture the Canadian made water bomber, they have contracts with European countries for the next 22 of its new DHC-515 planes, which will take until 2029 or 2030 to complete and there will be very little production available to replace the aging water bombers in Ontario and the rest of Canada.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the council of the Corporation of Calvin Township urges and encourages the Federal Government to commit additional funds for cost sharing of provincial firefighting and to consider the development of a national strategy of firefighting. Furthermore, we urge the federal government to consider the measures necessary for acquiring a national fleet of Canadian-made waterbombers, with home bases strategically located to best serve and respond to the needs of rural communities, and a national fire administration to better coordinate and manage efforts across the country. We also encourage the introduction of a program similar to the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) which was ended in 2013.

And we encourage Minister Graydon Smith to step up the on-the-ground firefighting capability and water bomber acquisitions in Ontario.

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry of Ontario, The Honourable Vic Fideli, Minister of Economic Development Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FMC) and the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO).

AND THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario for their consideration and adoption.

Results: Carried

Recorded Vote:

<u>Member of Council</u>	<u>In Favour</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
Mayor Gould	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Moreton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Latimer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Manson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin Council Resolution

Date: January 30, 2024

Resolution Number: 2024- 30

Moved By: Councillor Manson

Seconded By: Councillor Grant

Whereas under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;
And Whereas over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.;

And Whereas municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within its jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers;
And Whereas cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable costs for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries;

And Whereas the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amending the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;

- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
 - Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
 - Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost;
- And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Jill Dunlop, MPP Vic Fedeli and all Ontario municipalities.

Results: Carried

<u>Member of Council</u>	<u>In Favour</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
Mayor Gould	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Latimer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Manson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Moreton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

February 1, 2024

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

Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Social and Economic Prosperity Review

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Hanover adopted the following resolution at their meeting of January 15, 2024 regarding the above noted matter;

Moved by COUNCILLOR KOEBEL Seconded by COUNCILLOR HOCKING

Whereas current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

Whereas nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

Whereas municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

Whereas unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

Whereas municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;

Whereas inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

Whereas property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

Whereas the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

Whereas municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

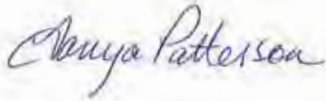
Therefore be it resolved that the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;

And further that a copy of this motion be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

CARRIED

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tanya Patterson".

Tanya Patterson
Deputy Clerk

/tp

cc: Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Rick Byers, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipalities



February 2, 2024

Larry Brock, MP Brant
108 St. George Street, Suite #3
Brantford, ON N3R 1V6

Sent via email: larry.brock@parl.gc.ca

Will Bouma, MPP
96 Nelson Street
Suite 101
Brantford, ON N3T 2X1

Sent via email: will.bouma@pc.ola.org

To whom it may concern:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council at its meeting held January 30, 2024 adopted the following:

12.1.10 Reliable and Accessible Public Rail Transit - CN Rail

WHEREAS Canadians deserve access to reliable and efficient passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS in 2021 the Canadian Minister of Transportation announced that the federal government would be pursuing opportunities to enhance passenger rail services in southwestern Ontario; and

WHEREAS passengers continue to experience long delays and disruptions to service, related to interruptions caused by CN Rail's freight systems and refusal to give priority to passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS Metrolinx and VIA, in extending or improving commuter train service from Aldershot through to Brantford, Woodstock, Ingersoll and London, is reliant on access to CN rail lines; and

WHEREAS CN Rail views increased passenger rail service on its lines as being incompatible with its primary business of moving freight and is unlikely to cooperate in extending commuter rail service on its lines in southwestern Ontario without direction from the federal government; and

WHEREAS CN Rail has shown a disregard for Municipal property maintenance standards in respect to the maintenance of their rail lines and blocks municipalities attempts to enforce municipal property standards upon their rail lines; and

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE City Hall, 58 Dalhousie Street, Brantford, ON N3T 2J2 P.O Box 818, Brantford, ON N3T 5R7
Phone: (519) 759-4150 Fax: (519) 759-7840 www.brantford.ca

WHEREAS CN Rail's consistent failure to provide a timely response to development applications adjacent to rail right of ways imposes inordinate delays and expense for builders and municipalities, further jeopardizing the ability of municipalities to address the housing crisis; and

WHEREAS there is a complete lack of federal regulations providing VIA and Metrolinx with any degree of priority or guaranteed access to rail rights of way or directing CN Rail to work cooperatively with municipalities;

AND WHEREAS The City of Brantford CALLS UPON the Federal Government to assist other levels of government as they take steps address the need for reliable and accessible public rail transit, timely processing of housing developments and the prompt and equitable enforcement of municipal property standards;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRANTFORD requests that the Federal Government enact the necessary legislative and regulatory provisions:

- i. providing VIA and Metrolinx with priority right of way over freight rail lines, and further;
- ii. directing CN Rail to work positively and cooperatively with municipal and provincial governments in the processing of land development applications, and the prompt and timely enforcement of municipal property standards;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Ontario Municipalities; and to the Member of Provincial Parliament Will Bouma, Member of Parliament Larry Brock, Federal Minister of Transport Pablo Rodriguez, Provincial Minister of Transportation Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, President and CEO at Metrolinx, President and Chief Executive Officer of VIA Rail Canada Inc and President and Chief Executive Officer of CN.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Chris Gauthier
City Clerk, cgauthier@brantford.ca

cc Ontario Municipalities
Federal Minister of Transport, Pablo Rodriguez
Provincial Minister of Transportation, Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria
President & CEO, Metrolinx

President & CEO, VIA Rail Canada Inc
President & CEO, CN



February 6, 2024

Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
Frost Building South
7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Cres.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7
Peter.Bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org

Dear Honourable Minister Bethlenfalvy:

Re: Support for Comprehensive Review of Social and Economic Prosperity

At their meeting held on February 6, 2024, Council discussed the need for a stable and sustainable municipal financial position. Council supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario as they request that the Province undertake a comprehensive review of social and economic prosperity. The resolution adopted by Council is below.

R-43-2024

It was **Moved** by C. Hull, **Seconded** by T. Bell and **Carried**

Whereas current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

And whereas nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility, and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

And whereas municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

And whereas unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

And whereas municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like delivering long term care services, homelessness and affordable housing options, addressing the mental health and addictions crises, and other social services;

And whereas inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;



TOWN OF
SOUTH BRUCE PENINSULA

And whereas property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

And whereas the Province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

And whereas municipalities and the Provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

Therefore be it resolved that The Town of South Bruce Peninsula requests that the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;

And further that this resolution be sent to The Premier of Ontario Doug Ford, Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy – Ontario's Minister of Finance, Rick Byers – MPP Grey/Bruce/Owen Sound, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all other Ontario municipalities.

We trust that you will consider our request and look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours very truly,

Angie Cathrae
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
519-534-1400 ext 122
Angie.cathrae@southbrucepeninsula.com

cc: Premier Doug Ford, Rick Byers MPP Bruce/Grey/Owen Sound, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, All Ontario Municipalities



**The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby
Administration**

Office of the Town Clerk

160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby, ON L3M 0J5

Phone: 905-945-9634 Ext. 2171 | **Fax:** 905-945-5010

Email: vsteele@grimsby.ca

February 7, 2024

SENT VIA E-MAIL

RE: Advocacy of Mental Health and Addiction Support

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting held on February 5, 2024, passed the following resolution:

Moved: Councillor Korstanje

Seconded: Councillor Freake

Whereas in May of 2023, Town of Grimsby declared a state of emergency on mental health, housing affordability and addiction.

Therefore be it resolved that the Town of Grimsby ask Niagara Region to deliver more preventative drug-education in our community.

Be it further resolved that the Town of Grimsby make readily available to the community a collective of all resources for the assistance of addiction and mental health support and treatment.

Be it further resolved that the Town of Grimsby approach the Canadian Mental Health Association and express interest in hosting a safe beds program in the Town of Grimsby.

Be it further resolved that the Town of Grimsby, in partnership with the Niagara Regional Police collectively evaluate and advocate for the need of assistance from the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team.

Be it further resolved that the Town of Grimsby advocate to the Province and the Region about the need to remove as many barriers as possible in seeking treatment in support of mental health and addiction, including but not limited to accessibility and affordability.

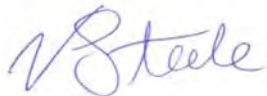
Be it further resolved that the Town of Grimsby circulate the motion to all Niagara-area municipalities.

Be it further resolved that the Town of Grimsby circulate the motion to the following individuals with request for their response:

- Dean Allison MP
- Michael Tibollo, Ontario Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier of Ontario and Ontario Minister of Health
- Sam Oosterhoff, MPP for Niagara West

If you require any additional information, please let me know.

Regards,



Victoria Steele
Town Clerk

CC: Ann-Marie Norio, Niagara Regional Clerk
Canadian Mental Health Association
Niagara Regional Police
Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Niagara Municipalities
Dean Allison, MP Niagara West
Hon. Michael A. Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Niagara West

February 8, 2024

Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Attn: Board of Directors
Via email roma@roma.on.ca

Ontario Good Roads Association
Attn: Board of Directors
Via email info@goodroads.ca

Via email

RE: return to combined ROMA and OGRA conferences

Dear ROMA & OGRA Board of Directors,

During the February 5, 2024 regular meeting of council, council in response to a notice of motion from Deputy Mayor Joel Field the following resolution passed:

MOVED: Bill Clark

SECONDED: Chad Hyatt

WHEREAS as a past attendee of combined conferences, it makes great sense for the OGRA & ROMA conferences to be returned to a combined conference effort, not only financially for the municipality but also for availability for participation of members of Council and staff; and

WHEREAS these conferences afford a vital opportunity for delegations with members of our provincial parliament, returning to a combined conference provides a better respect to their availability and participation; and

WHEREAS during the 2019 OGRA conference AGM a resolution was passed regarding the re-establishment of an annual combined conference for both OGRA & ROMA; and

WHEREAS it is understandable that little movement has happened since the resolution at the 2019 OGRA conference AGM was passed, due to delays of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS not all persons who wish to attend can do so in person, that a hybrid participation option be considered for the sessions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Petrolia call upon both the ROMA & OGRA boards to re-establish a combined OGRA & ROMA annual conference.

FURTHERMORE that this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister Paul Calandra, MPP Bob Bailey and be circulated to Municipalities of Ontario; as amended

Carried

Phone: (519)882-2350 ● Fax: (519)882-3373 ● Theatre: (800)717-7694

411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia, ON, N0N 1R0

www.town.petrolia.on.ca

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Kind regards,

Original Signed

Mandi Pearson
Clerk/Operations Clerk

cc:

Premier Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca
Hon. Paul Calandra Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org
MPP Bob Bailey, Sarnia-Lambton bob.bailey@pc.ola.org
Ontario Municipalities

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