



## COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, January 23, 2026

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	Pages
1. Memorandum from City of Welland re: 2026 Municipal and School Board Election – Information Update.	2 - 5
2. Letter from the Town of Grimsby re: Opposition to Consolidation of Ontario Conservation Authorities.	6 - 6
3. Letter from The Municipality of North Grenville and Village of Merrickville-Wolford re: Support for Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of Stop-Arm Camera Systems.	7 - 10
4. Letter from the Town of Wasaga Beach re: Support for Reform to Sentencing, Parole, and Public Access to the Ontario Sex Offender Registry.	11 - 12
5. Letter from the Township of Southgate re: Notice of Motion – OMERS Bill 68 Municipal Resolution.	13 - 14
6. Letter from the Township of O'Connor re: National Sex Offender Registry.	15 - 16
7. Letter from the Municipality of North Perth re: Support Resolution – Standing Together for Justice and the Protection of Canada's Children.	17 - 18

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mayor, Council and Residents

**FROM:** Tara Stephens, Director of Legislative Services/City Clerk

**DATE:** January 23, 2026

**SUBJECT:** 2026 Municipal and School Board Election – Information Update

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This memorandum has been prepared to provide an update regarding the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election. The information below outlines legislative responsibilities, voting method, open polling locations, key dates, anticipated polling locations, ward boundary changes, and the City of Welland communications approach.

### **Legislative Authority**

Pursuant to section 11 of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, the Clerk of the local municipality is responsible for conducting elections within that municipality. The City Clerk will oversee all aspects of the 2026 Municipal and School Board Election in accordance with applicable legislation.

### **Election Date and Offices to Be Elected**

The Municipal and School Board Election will be held on: Monday, October 26, 2026

Electors in the City of Welland will be voting for the following offices:

- 1 Mayor
- 2 Ward Councillors
- 2 Regional Councillors
- 1 School Board Trustee

## Voting Method

Since 1968, the City of Welland (the “city’s”) has conducted municipal elections using the paper ballot method. This voting method was successfully used during the 2022 Municipal Election and will continue to be utilized for the 2026 Municipal Election.

## Open Polling Locations

During the 2022 Municipal Election, the city implemented open polling locations, allowing electors to vote at any polling location rather than being restricted to a ward-specific poll.

All polling locations for the 2026 Municipal Election will operate as open polls. Electors will have the flexibility to vote at any one of the eight (8) polling locations on Voting Day, regardless of ward.

## Key Dates – 2026 Municipal Election

May 1, 2026	Nomination period begins
August 21, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.	Nomination Day – last day to file or withdraw a nomination
August 24, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.	Nominations certified
TBD	Advanced In-Person Voting
October 23, 2026	Last day for third-party advertisers to file notice of registration
October 26, 2026	Voting Day
March 30, 2027	Deadline for candidates and registered third parties to file financial statements

## Polling Locations

Polling locations for the 2026 Municipal Election are to be determined and will be finalized closer to the election period. Once confirmed, the list of polling locations will be posted on the city’s website.

## **Ward Boundary Changes**

As a result of approved ward boundary changes, some electors will be voting in a new ward for the 2026 Municipal Election. Residents affected by the ward changes will be notified over the coming months.

## **Communications Plan**

The city will implement a comprehensive communications strategy leading up to the election. Information related to the election will be shared through:

- The City's website
- Social media platforms
- Print and digital advertising
- Media releases and other public communications

The objective of the communications plan is to ensure electors, candidates, and third-party advertisers are well informed about election processes, key dates, voting options, and voter responsibilities.

## **Additional Information**

Further information for candidates, third-party advertisers, and voters will be posted and updated regularly on the City's election webpage:

<https://www.welland.ca/Elections/index.asp>



**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:** [vssteel@grimsby.ca](mailto:vssteel@grimsby.ca)

January 16, 2026

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Premier's Office

111 Wellesley Street, Room 281

Toronto, ON | M7A 1A4

Attention: Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

**RE: Support for NPCA Resolution – NPCA Position on the regional  
consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities**

Please be advised that at its meeting held on January 16, 2026, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby passed the following resolution:

**C-26-009**

**Moved by:** Councillor L. Vardy

**Seconded by:** Councillor D. Howe

*Resolved that Council endorse the NPCA's letter opposing the consolidation of Ontario Conservation Authorities.*

**CARRIED**

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

Regards,

Victoria Steele

Town Clerk

CC: Sam Oosterhoff, MPP

Niagara Region

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Town of Fort Erie

Town of Lincoln

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

City of Niagara Falls

Town of Pelham

City of Port Colborne

City of St. Catharines

City of Thorold

Township of Wainfleet

City of Welland

Township of West Lincoln



285 County Road 44, Box 130  
Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0  
T: 613) 258-9569  
clerk@northgrenville.on.ca

January 2, 2025

**The Honourable Doug Ford**  
Premier of Ontario

**The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria**  
Minister of Transportation  
Province of Ontario

**RE: Support for Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of Stop-Arm Camera Systems**

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Sarkaria,

On behalf of the Grenville 1 O.P.P. Detachment Board, we are writing to express our strong support for enhanced school bus safety measures across Ontario, including the implementation of school bus stop-arm camera systems and other child-safety technologies.

Illegal passing of stopped school buses remains a persistent and dangerous problem in Ontario, occurring an estimated 30,000 times per day. These violations place children at serious risk and continue to result in preventable injuries and fatalities. Municipalities require additional tools to address this issue effectively and consistently.

The Grenville 1 O.P.P. Detachment Board supports provincial investment in and expansion of school bus stop-arm camera systems under Part XIV.3 (School Bus Camera Systems) of the Highway Traffic Act. These systems have proven effective in deterring dangerous driving behaviour, improving compliance, and enhancing accountability. Provincial funding and support would enable municipalities to implement these technologies equitably and at scale.

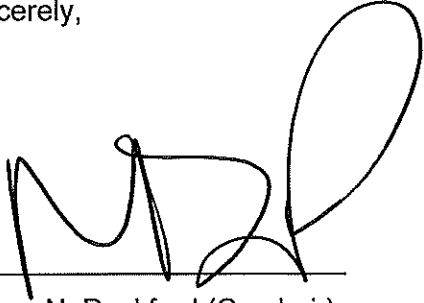
Grenville 1 O.P.P. Detachment Board also proudly supports the Let's Remember Adam – Stop for the School Bus campaign, launched in memory of Adam Ranger, a five-year-old child who tragically lost his life when a driver failed to stop for a school bus displaying its flashing lights and stop arm. Adam's story underscores the urgent need for stronger enforcement, public education, and modern safety solutions to protect children travelling to and from school.

We respectfully call on the Province of Ontario to continue advancing this life-saving work by providing municipalities with the funding mechanisms, legislative support, and implementation guidance necessary to deploy stop-arm cameras and complementary safety technologies province-wide.

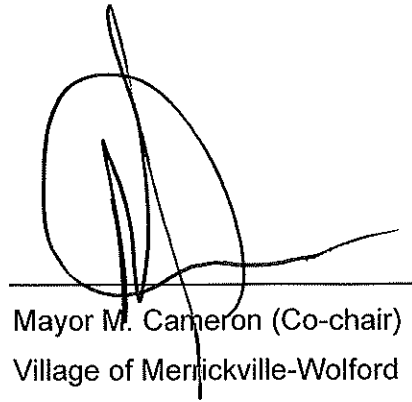
Protecting children is a shared responsibility. With provincial leadership and municipal partnership, we can take meaningful action to prevent further tragedies and ensure Ontario's roads are safer for students and families.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to road safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a large, prominent oval at the end.

Mayor N. Peckford (Co-chair)  
Municipality of North Grenville

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, circular loop and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Mayor M. Cameron (Co-chair)  
Village of Merrickville-Wolford

**cc:**

The Honourable Steve Clark, Government House Leader  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Ontario Municipalities

**Enclosed: Co-signing Template**

**[Municipality Name]**  
**[Municipal Address]**

**[Date]**

**The Honourable Doug Ford**  
Premier of Ontario

**The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria**  
Minister of Transportation  
Province of Ontario

**Re: Municipal Support for School Bus Safety and Stop-Arm Camera Systems**

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Sarkaria,

On behalf of the **[Council / Municipality / Township / City] of [Municipality Name]**, I am writing to express our strong support for enhanced school bus safety measures across Ontario, including the implementation of school bus stop-arm camera systems and other child-safety technologies.

Illegal passing of stopped school buses remains a serious and widespread issue throughout the province, occurring an estimated 30,000 times per day. These violations place children at unacceptable risk and continue to result in preventable injuries and fatalities. Municipalities require effective, modern enforcement tools to address this dangerous behaviour.

**[Municipality Name]** supports provincial investment in and expansion of school bus stop-arm camera systems under Part XIV.3 (School Bus Camera Systems) of the *Highway Traffic Act*. These systems have demonstrated success in deterring illegal passing, improving driver compliance, and strengthening accountability. Provincial funding and implementation support would help ensure municipalities of all sizes can deploy this technology equitably.

We also support the Let's Remember Adam – Stop for the School Bus campaign, launched in memory of Adam Ranger, a five-year-old child who tragically lost his life when a driver failed to stop for a school bus displaying its flashing lights and stop arm. This tragedy highlights the urgent need for continued public education, enforcement, and the use of technology to better protect children travelling to and from school.

We respectfully call on the Province of Ontario to provide municipalities with the necessary funding tools, legislative support, and implementation guidance to advance school bus stop-arm camera systems and complementary child-safety initiatives across Ontario.

Protecting children on our roads is a shared responsibility. Through strong provincial leadership and municipal partnership, meaningful progress can be made to prevent further tragedies and enhance road safety for families across Ontario.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

**[Name]**

**[Title – Mayor / Reeve / Warden]**

**[Municipality Name]**

**cc:**

The Honourable Steve Clark, Government House Leader  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Ontario Municipalities



## TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH

30 Lewis Street, Wasaga Beach  
Ontario, Canada L9Z 1A1  
Tel (705) 429-3844  
[mayor@wasagabeach.com](mailto:mayor@wasagabeach.com)

### OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 20, 2026

Honourable Mark Carney  
80 Wellington St  
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A2

#### **BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Honourable Mark Carney,

#### **RE: Letter of Support from the Town of Wasaga Beach – City of Brantford Correspondence Re: Support for Reform to Sentencing, Parole, and Public Access to the Ontario Sex Offender Registry**

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Wasaga Beach, during their January 15, 2026, Council meeting, and at the request of the City of Brantford, passed the following resolution regarding Support for Reform to Sentencing, Parole, and Public Access to the Ontario Sex Offender Registry.

Whereas recent violent crimes have highlighted gaps in Canada's sentencing, parole, and offender-management systems for violent sexual offenders; and

Whereas the City of Brantford and several Niagara municipalities have called for reforms to strengthen sentencing, parole, accountability measures, and requested amendments to Christopher's Law (Sexual Offender Registry), 2000 to allow public access to the Ontario Sex Offender Registry;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Wasaga Beach supports the calls for reform to sentencing and parole provisions for violent sexual offenders and supports amendments to Christopher's Law to permit public access to the Ontario Sex Offender Registry, subject to appropriate privacy and public safety safeguards; and

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, relevant federal and provincial ministers, local Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament, AMO, and FCM.

Your favorable consideration of this matter is appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at [mayor@wasagabeach.com](mailto:mayor@wasagabeach.com) or (705) 429-3844 ext. 2225.

Sincerely,

Brian Smith  
Mayor, Town of Wasaga Beach



## TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH

30 Lewis Street, Wasaga Beach  
Ontario, Canada L9Z 1A1  
Tel (705) 429-3844  
mayor@wasagabeach.com

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## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

/mps

cc: The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada; - [Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca)  
The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Safety [Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca)  
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; - [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)  
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario; - [Doug.Downey@ontario.ca](mailto:Doug.Downey@ontario.ca)  
The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario [michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org](mailto:michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org)  
Member of Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Larry Brock; - [larry.brock@parl.gc.ca](mailto:larry.brock@parl.gc.ca)  
Member of Provincial Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Will Bouma; - [will.bouma@pc.ola.org](mailto:will.bouma@pc.ola.org)  
The Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)  
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) [FCMInfo@fcm.ca](mailto:FCMInfo@fcm.ca)  
All Ontario Municipalities for their information and support

**Township of Southgate**  
**Administration Office**  
185667 Grey County Road 9, RR 1  
Dundalk, ON N0C 1B0



**Phone:** 519-923-2110  
**Toll Free:** 1-888-560-6607  
**Fax:** 519-923-9262  
**Web:** [www.southgate.ca](http://www.southgate.ca)

January 21, 2026

**Re: Township of Southgate - Notice of Motion – OMERS Bill 68 Municipal Resolution**

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Please be advised that at the January 21, 2026, regular Council meeting, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Southgate, approved the following:

No. 2026-027

**Moved By** Deputy Mayor Dobreen

**Seconded By** Councillor Shipston

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System (OMERS) Pension Fund serves over 1,000 employers and over half a million employees and retirees from diverse groups including: municipal governments, school boards, libraries, police and fire departments, children's aid societies, and electricity distribution companies; and

**WHEREAS** the long-standing jointly-sponsored governance model with two corporate boards has provided stability, accountability, and fairness for both plan members and employers for more than two decades; and

**WHEREAS** the Government of Ontario has passed legislative changes to OMERS' governance structure through Bill 68; and

**WHEREAS** these changes would replace the current OMERS Sponsors Corporation with a new Sponsors Council that would lose its corporate status and independent resources; and

**WHEREAS** the proposed model could allow pension decisions affecting municipal employers and employees to be made without meaningful municipal oversight, increasing financial risk for municipalities and local taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS** municipalities are already under significant financial strain and cannot absorb additional pension costs without consequences for property taxes or local services;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Township of Southgate does not support the legislative changes to the *OMERS Act* contained in Bill 68 and requests that the Government of Ontario reconsider the advisability of proceeding with these changes;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Township of Southgate supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in calling on the Government of Ontario to maintain the current OMERS governance model, with two corporate Boards, as the structure that would best deliver on the long-term interests of municipalities, taxpayers, and employees.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution be circulated to The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs, The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, MPP Paul Vickers, The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (519) 923-2110.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lindsey Green".

Lindsey Green, Clerk  
Township of Southgate

CC: Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Housing and Municipal Affairs  
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance  
MPP Paul Vickers  
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Ontario Municipalities



# TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR

330 Highway 595, R.R. #1, Kakabeka Falls, Ontario P0T 1W0  
Tel. (807) 476-1451 Fax (807) 473-0891  
E-Mail - [twpoconn@tbaytel.net](mailto:twpoconn@tbaytel.net) [www.oconnortownship.ca](http://www.oconnortownship.ca)

Mayor  
Jim Vezina

Clerk-Treasurer  
Lorna Buob

Councillors  
Alex Crane  
Brendan Rea  
John Sobolka  
Carly Torkkeli

January 21, 2026

Right Honourable Mark Carney  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A2

[mark.carney@parl.gc.ca](mailto:mark.carney@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister:

Council, at their meeting held on January 12, 2026, passed a resolution respectfully urging the federal and provincial governments to protect our children from violent offenders and strengthen the National Sex Offender Registry.

For your information I have enclosed a copy of the resolution, and I trust that you will give it your consideration and support.

Yours truly,

Lorna Buob  
Clerk-Treasurer

Cc: Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Federal Minister of Public Safety  
[Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca)  
Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario  
[Doug.Downey@ontario.ca](mailto:Doug.Downey@ontario.ca)  
Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario  
[michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org](mailto:michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org)  
Honourable Zee Hamid, Associate Solicitor General  
for Auto Theft and Bail Reform [zee.hamid@pc.ola.org](mailto:zee.hamid@pc.ola.org)  
Marcus Powlowski, MP Thunder Bay-Rainy River  
[marcus.powlowski@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marcus.powlowski@parl.gc.ca)  
Honourable Patty Hajdu, MP Thunder Bay-Superior North  
[patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca)  
Honourable Kevin Holland, MPP Thunder Bay – Atikokan  
[Kevin.Holland@pc.ola.org](mailto:Kevin.Holland@pc.ola.org)  
Lise Vaugeois, MPP, Thunder Bay – Superior North  
[LVaugeois-QP@ndp.on.ca](mailto:LVaugeois-QP@ndp.on.ca)  
City of Welland [theresa.ettorre@welland.ca](mailto:theresa.ettorre@welland.ca)

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR  
R. R. #1 KAKABEKA FALLS, ONTARIO POT 1W0

JANUARY 12, 2026 NO. 13

Moved by J. Sobolta

Seconded by Carly Torkkeli

**WHEREAS** Canadians must be able to trust that our justice system prioritizes public safety, particularly the safety of our children;

**WHEREAS** recent proposed legislation to protect victims and keep kids safe from predators, including federal bail and sentencing reforms, has recently been introduced;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Corporation of the Township of O'Connor respectfully urges the federal and provincial governments to:

1. Take immediate action and decisively review and strengthen laws protecting children from violent offenders;
2. Take measures to strengthen bail and sentencing provisions so that individuals charged with, or convicted of, violent sexual crimes face the strictest possible conditions, including limits on early release in cases of extreme brutality;
3. Review parole eligibility for sexual offences against children reflecting the full gravity of these crimes, limiting conditional or early release of offenders who pose ongoing risks to community safety;
4. Strengthen the National Sex Offender Registry to provide communities and police with timely, accurate information and effective tools to safeguard residents.

**AND FURTHER THAT** this resolution be circulated to:

The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Federal Minister of Public Safety, The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General, The Honourable Doug Downey, Minister of Attorney General, The Honourable Zee Hamid, Associate Solicitor General for Auto Theft and Bail Reform, Marcus Powlowski, MP, Thunder Bay-Rainy River, The Honourable Patty Hajdu, MP, Thunder Bay-Superior North, The Honourable Kevin Holland, MPP, Thunder Bay-Atikokan, Lise Vaugois, MPP, Thunder Bay-Superior North requesting their consideration and support.

A. Crane  
ACTING MAYOR **CERTIFIED TRUE COPY**  
TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR



CARRIED

DEFEATED

**RECORDED VOTE**

ALEX CRANE



CARLY TORKKELI



BRENDAN REA



JIM VEZINA



JOHN SOBOLTA



Lorna Buob  
**CLERK-TREASURER**



MUNICIPALITY OF

# North Perth

[www.northperth.ca](http://www.northperth.ca)

A Community of Character

330 Wallace Ave. N., Listowel, ON N4W 1L3

Phone: 519-291-2950

Toll Free: 888-714-1993

January 22, 2026

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

**Re: Support Resolution – Standing Together for Justice and the Protection of Canada's Children**

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of North Perth passed the following resolution at their meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025:

**“Moved by Sarah Blazek Seconded by Lee Anne Andriessen**

**THAT:** The Council of the Municipality of North Perth supports item 7.33 City of Welland Mayoral Letter re: Standing Together for Justice and the Protection of Canada's Children; and

**THAT:** A letter of support be sent to the Mayor of the City of Welland indicating Council support of the principles and practice points in the letter; and

**THAT:** The letter of support be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Prime Minister, local Members of Provincial Parliament, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Ministry of Attorney General, and all Ontario municipalities.”

Please accept this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Regards,

Sarah Carter  
Acting Clerk/Legislative Services Supervisor

Enclosure

CC: The Right Honourable Prime Minister Mark Carney  
The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada



MUNICIPALITY OF

# North Perth

[www.northperth.ca](http://www.northperth.ca)

A Community of Character

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The Honourable Doug Downey, Minister of the Attorney General of Ontario  
John Nater, Perth Wellington MP  
Matthew Rae, Perth Wellington MPP  
All Ontario municipalities