



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Thursday, March 28, 2024

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Tara Stephens, City Clerk

DATE: March 28, 2024

SUBJECT: April 16, 2024, Council – Staff Workshop #1 – Good Governance, Procedural By-law & Policies Clarification.

Contained within the Council Information Package dated February 23rd was a memorandum concerning the review and update of the procedural by-law. This document offered insights into the significance of the procedural by-law and its implications for good governance, alongside outlining the subsequent steps in the process.

In recent months, the City Clerk has collaborated with external legal counsel to conduct a thorough examination of the procedural by-law and municipal policies, encompassing operational and administrative facets. Presented below is an outline defining the agenda items slated for discussion at the April 16, 2024, Council – Staff Workshop.

Workshop #1 – Good Governance, Procedural By-law and Policies Clarification

The workshop will take place in the Community Room, commencing at 5 p.m. and concluding at 8 p.m.

It's important to note that no decisions will be reached during the discussions on the outlined topics on April 16. The primary objective of the workshop is to disseminate information to council and staff, fostering an environment conducive to discussion and the raising of questions pertaining to the agenda items.

Procedural By-law – 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

- Overview
- Requirement and purpose of the procedural by-law.
- Role of council & staff.

- Evaluating the effectiveness of the current procedural by-law.
- Identify areas that need clarification, improvement and updates.
- Ensuring compliance with legislation and best practices in governance.
- Role of council & staff.
- Review of procedural by-law.
- Review of proposed recommendations/updates to the procedural by-law.

Input gathered and remarks obtained throughout the procedural by-law process will aid staff in drafting a report for council review. This report is slated for inclusion on the agenda of the council meeting scheduled for June 4th.

Policies Clarification – 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

- Overview
- Roles and Responsibilities within the Municipal Corporation
 - o Role of Council
 - o Role of Individual Members of Council
 - o Role of Municipal Administration
- Policies (i.e., what are they, how do they differ from by-laws, how are they developed, and how are they used)
- Council Policies
 - o Mandatory Policies (*Municipal Act, 2001, 2. 270*)
 - o Discretionary Policies (e.g., servicing allocation policies, elections recount policies)
- Administrative/Operational Policies
 - o Authority to adopt, and examples
 - o Purpose and function (i.e., to assist municipal staff consistently and fairly implement council decisions; address operations from a liability perspective)

Information related to policies will be summarized in a staff report. The staff report will include a policy in relation to the creation of policies and approving bodies (council/administration). The report is slated for inclusion on the agenda for the council meeting scheduled for May 28, 2024.

Further information and specifics concerning the workshop will be communicated to both council members and staff shortly. The forthcoming steps concerning the procedural by-law will be outlined during the workshop, primarily aimed at familiarizing council with the process. The City Clerk and external legal representative are dedicated

to advancing this matter to ultimately conclude and endorse a revised procedural by-law for council's consideration.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor, Council and Staff

FROM: Tara Stephens, City Clerk

DATE: March 28, 2024

SUBJECT: Executive summary to be included in future staff reports

In January and February, report writers participated in a Report Writing Workshop hosted by the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO). The workshop focused on various aspects including report structure, planning, drafting, crafting effective recommendations for council consideration, and enhancing report effectiveness with tips and tricks.

A key suggestion from the workshop was to incorporate an executive summary in reports. An executive summary serves as a valuable tool because it provides a succinct and informative overview of the main points and recommendations of a report. This concise summary enables busy readers, such as decision-makers or stakeholders, to quickly grasp the key insights and findings without having to delve into the entire document.

Additionally, it enhances accessibility and facilitates effective communication by presenting the most important information in a clear and organized manner. Ultimately, an executive summary helps to streamline decision-making processes and ensures that critical information is readily accessible to all relevant parties.

The guidelines for writing an executive summary are as follows:

- Purpose for the report;
- Follow the sequence of the report;
- 1 short paragraph or 2 - 4 bullets maximum;
- This is the final step in writing a report – done last;
- Clear and concise;
- No new information introduced; and

- Should communicate independently of the report.

The staff report templates will be updated for staff to include an executive summary in reports beginning with the April 9th Council Meeting.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Sherri-Marie Millar, P.Eng.
Director of Infrastructure Services/City Engineer

Jen Croswell
Water/Sewer Compliance Supervisor

DATE: Thursday, March 28, 2024

SUBJECT: 2023 Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation, and Summary Report

Purpose

This memorandum and the 2023 Welland Water Distribution System Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation, and Summary Report (Annual Report, Appendix I) have been prepared to satisfy requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act, Ontario Regulation 170/03, for the Welland Water Distribution System.

Key Points

- The City of Welland (the City) continues to provide clean and safe drinking water to consumers;
- The Annual Report (Appendix I) has been prepared to meet legislated requirements for the Welland Water Distribution System and includes, water quality results, an evaluation for lead replacement, monthly water volume totals, and non-compliance information;
- The Annual Report is available to the public on the external website or by request; and

- The annual drinking water system inspection (2023-2024) resulted in zero non-compliances and an inspection rating of 100 percent.

Background

As the Operating Authority of the Welland Distribution System, the City is required to provide a drinking water summary report to Council on an annual basis, under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2022 (Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems).

The summary report must include:

- a description of any failure to meet the requirements of any governing Act, Regulation, Order or Approval that the Drinking Water System operates under, along with the actions the Operating Authority undertook to mitigate any such non-compliance; and
- a summary of water flow rates including maximum daily flow rates and instantaneous peak flow rates in comparison with the capacity of the water works identified in the drinking water license and permit.

Niagara Region is responsible for treatment and system storage and the City is responsible for distribution of water to consumers. Due to the two-tier nature of water treatment and distribution, the summary of water flows is reflective of monthly water volume purchased from Niagara Region. For information related to maximum daily and peak flow rates, see the Welland Water Treatment Plant - 2023 Summary Report (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/water/water-quality-reports/welland/default.aspx>), prepared by Niagara Region.

To meet other legislated annual reporting requirements, the City must prepare a water quality report and a lead evaluation report. These reports are not required to be

provided to Council. To promote transparency and highlight operational performance, a combined report has been prepared for all three reporting obligations and covers the reporting period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, inclusive.

For additional background information, see the See the Annual Report (Appendix I) and the Ontario Municipal Drinking Water Compliance Program Overview (Appendix II).

Discussion

The Annual Report (Appendix I) has been prepared for Council review and public access. The report includes water quality results, an evaluation for lead replacement, monthly water volume totals, and non-compliance information. It can be accessed from the City's website (<https://www.welland.ca/Finance/DWQA.asp>) or by request from City staff.

Highlights from Appendix I are included below.

Water Quality Results

In 2023, the City collected 1,785 microbiological samples (E. coli, total coliforms) and performed 5,292 operational tests (free chlorine) to monitor and maintain water quality within the distribution system.

All water quality sample results for the reporting period were responded to in accordance with regulatory requirements or met the prescribed health standards identified by Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards and operational testing requirements of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

Changes to the City's distribution system sampling, testing, and monitoring program, throughout 2024, will result in a reduction in the total number of samples for the 2024 sampling year. These changes are being implemented to better align sampling practices with municipal standard practice and support the overall monitoring and optimization of the distribution system.

Adverse Water Quality Incidents

The following table summarizes the notices of adverse water quality incidents submitted in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Adverse water quality incidents are reported to the Spills Action Centre and the Medical Officer of Health.

All corrective actions to resolve all incidents were completed to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer of Health.

Incident Date	Adverse Condition	Corrective Action	Corrective Actions Complete Date
2023-08-28	Total Coliform Detection	- Flush watermain - Confirmation of free chlorine residual - Two sets of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream) 24 hours apart	2023-09-05
2023-09-18	Total Coliform Detection	- Flush watermain - Confirmation of free chlorine residual - Two sets of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream) 24 hours apart	2023-09-25
2023-10-20	Free Chlorine Below Standard	- Flush watermain - Confirmation of free chlorine residual - One set of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream)	2023-10-23

Regulatory Non-Compliance

The Welland Distribution System received zero non-compliances and an inspection rating of 100% for the 2023-2024 annual drinking water system inspection. The inspection was conducted by a Provincial Officer with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

Conclusion

The Annual Report (Appendix I) has been prepared to meet legislated requirements for the Welland Water Distribution System and includes, water quality results, an evaluation for lead replacement, monthly water volume totals, and non-compliance information and is available to the public on the external website or by request.

The annual drinking water system inspection (2023-2024) resulted in zero non-compliances and an inspection rating of 100 percent, and the City continues to provide clean and safe drinking water to consumers.

Attachments

Appendix I – 2023 Welland Water Distribution System Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation, and Summary Report

Appendix II – Ontario Municipal Drinking Water Compliance Program Overview



**Welland Distribution System (Drinking Water)
City of Welland**

2023 Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation, and Summary Report
(Prepared under Ontario Regulation 170/03)

January 1 to December 31, 2023

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

**Municipal Drinking Water Licence # 076-101
Drinking Water Works Permit # 076-201**

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1. Water Quality Report

This annual water quality report summarizes the quality of drinking water from the Welland Distribution System, Drinking Water System number (DWS) 260003149, from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

Additional water quality information for the Welland Water Treatment Plant can be accessed from Niagara Region's Water Quality Report website (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/water/water-quality-reports/welland/default.aspx>).

This report satisfies the requirements of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

1.1. Description of Drinking Water System

The City of Welland (City) is the owner and operating authority of the Welland Distribution System (DWS 260003149).

The City purchases wholesale drinking water for the Welland Distribution System from Niagara Region, the owner and operating authority of the Welland Water Treatment Plant (DWS 2200002048), located at 4 Cross Street North in Welland, Ontario.

The Welland Water Treatment Plant obtains source water indirectly from Lake Erie, via the Welland Canal and the Welland Recreational Waterway (Old Welland canal). The Welland Water Treatment Plant is a conventional surface water treatment plant and, though not used, can operate as a direct filtration plant. The water treatment process uses aluminum sulphate and primary disinfection is achieved using sodium hypochlorite with ultraviolet light as enhancement.

The Welland Distribution System provides water to the City of Thorold (DWS 260049621) and the Highlands Resident's Association (DWS 260093522). Drinking water is conveyed to consumers via 273 km of City owned watermain and 30.5 km of Niagara Region owned watermain, which range in size from 50 mm (2") to 750 mm (30").

The City does not add additional chemicals within the distribution system for the purpose of drinking water treatment.

1.2. Monetary Expenses Incurred

To ensure safe and efficient operations, the following major repairs or upgrade projects took place:

- Capital watermain replacement – \$5,550,550

Costs are approximate.

1.3. Summary of Adverse Water Quality Incidents

The following table summarizes the notices of adverse water quality incidents submitted in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Adverse water quality incidents are reported to the Spills Action Centre and the Medical Officer of Health.

Where there have been no adverse water quality incidents for the reporting period, the table will show "NIL".

Incident Date	Adverse Condition	Corrective Action	Corrective Actions Complete Date
2023-08-28	Total Coliform Detection	▪ Flush watermain ▪ Confirmation of free chlorine residual ▪ Two sets of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream) 24 hours apart	2023-09-05
2023-09-18	Total Coliform Detection	▪ Flush watermain ▪ Confirmation of free chlorine residual ▪ Two sets of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream) 24 hours apart	2023-09-25
2023-10-20	Free Chlorine Below Standard	▪ Flush watermain ▪ Confirmation of free chlorine residual ▪ One set of microbiological samples (at location, upstream, downstream)	2023-10-23

1.4. Water Quality Test Results

Reported results that are shown with “ND” (non-detect) instead of a numerical value indicate that the sample result is below the lowest possible detection limit for the parameter.

1.4.1. Microbiological Testing

Microbiological testing carried out under Schedule 10 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water systems, during this reporting period.

Location	Number of Samples	Range of E. coli Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Range of Total Coliform Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Prescribed Standard*	Unit of Measure
Distribution	1785	Not detectable	0 – 9	Not detectable	CFU/100ml

*Prescribed standards are copied from Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.

1.4.2. Heterotrophic Plate Count Testing

Heterotrophic plate count (HPC) testing is conducted on some distribution system samples. The HPC test is used as a tool to monitor overall quality, but the results are not indicators of water safety. There is no prescribed standard for HPC.

Location	Number of Samples	Range of HPC Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Unit of Measure
Distribution	1785	0 – 300	CFU/ml

1.4.3. Operational Testing

Operational testing carried out under Schedule 7 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems, during this reporting period.

Location	Number of Samples	Range of Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Unit of Measure
Turbidity	5296	0 – 23	NTU*
Chlorine	5292	0.03 – 1.26	mg/L

*NTU (nephelometric turbidity units) is a unit that measures the lack of water clarity.

1.4.4. Additional Testing

Summary of additional testing and sampling carried out in accordance with the requirement of an approval, order, or other legal instrument.

Date of Legal Instrument Issued	Location: Parameter	Date Sampled	Result Value or Range (minimum number – maximum number)	Requirement	Unit of Measure
NIL					

1.4.5. Inorganic Testing

Inorganic parameter testing carried out under Schedule 13 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems, during this reporting period. Inorganic substances include heavy metals and dissolved minerals that may be present in treated drinking water.

Parameter	Number of Samples	Last Sample Date	Range of Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Prescribed Standard*	Unit of Measure	Exceedance
NIL						

*Prescribed standards are copied from Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. The prescribed standard for sodium is copied from Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

1.4.6. Lead Testing

Lead testing carried out under Schedule 15.1 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems, during this reporting period. Additional information for lead sampling is summarized in Section 2.

Parameter	Number of Sample Sets	Range of Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Prescribed Standard*	Unit of Measure	Exceedance
Distribution	NIL				
Plumbing	41	0.00001 – 0.02730	0.010	mg/L	Yes (10)

1.4.7. Organic Testing

Organic parameter testing carried out under Schedule 13 of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems, during this reporting period.

Parameter	Number of Samples	Results (running annual average)	Prescribed Standard* (running annual average)	Unit of Measure	Exceedance
HAA – Distribution	4	0.009	0.080	mg/L	No
THM – Distribution	4	0.036	0.100	mg/L	No

*Prescribed standards are copied from Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards.

1.5. Parameters Exceeding Prescribed Half-Standard

Any inorganic or organic parameter(s) that exceeded half the standard prescribed in Schedule 2 of prescribed standards documented in Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards or prescribed standards documented within Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems for large municipal residential drinking water systems.

Where there have been no instances of a half-standard exceedance for the reporting period, the table will show “NIL”.

Parameter	Range of Results (minimum number – maximum number)	Prescribed Standard*	Unit of Measure	Date of Sample
NIL				

*Prescribed standards are copied from Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. The prescribed standard for sodium is copied from Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

2. Lead Evaluation Report

This report summarizes the actions taken to monitor the effectiveness of the lead service line replacement program for the Welland Distribution System, Drinking Water System (DWS) number 260003149, from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

This report satisfies the requirements of Schedule D, Section 1.0 Lead Regulatory Relief of the Municipal Drinking Water Licence (Issue 7).

2.1.1.Summary of Current Lead Reduction Strategies

Current lead reduction strategies undertaken by the City include:

- Public lead service replacement
- Private lead service replacement (Lead Replacement Program)
- Lead sample collection and analysis for private premise plumbing (residential)
- Resident education and outreach
- Notification and coordination with Niagara Region Public Health

Historically, lead samples collected from the Welland Distribution System meet the prescribed lead standard of 0.010 mg/L required by Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards. Results for lead sampling in the distribution system (2022) ranged from 0.00002 to 0.00029 mg/L and met the prescribed standard. Distribution lead sampling was not conducted in 2023 due to consistent results that meet drinking water standards.

On occasion, lead samples collected from private premise plumbing do exceed the prescribed standard for lead. In 2023, 10 private premise plumbing sample sets exceeded this standard. See Section 2.3 Sample Results for a summary of sample results.

Previous lead sample results for private premise plumbing suggest that efforts to replace City owned lead services has reduced lead levels (full or partial replacement).

2.2.Summary of Results and Implementation

2.2.1. Lead Service Replacement Progress

The table below summarizes lead service replacements and known remaining services as of December 31, 2023. Additional lead services (City and privately owned) may be identified during watermain replacement and repair work and directly affect the lead service replacement timeline.

Public Lead Service (City)				Private Lead Service (Resident)	
2022 Remaining	Confirmed No Lead	Replaced	2023 Remaining	Replaced	2023 Remaining
220	74	65	81	12	982

The City has a public side lead service replacement target of 100 services per year, as operational needs permit. Based on this target, and anticipating that additional lead services will be identified, it is estimated that City owned lead services will be replaced within the next one to two years.

The Lead Replacement Program for private lead service replacement is voluntary. The City continues to fund and promote the Lead Replacement Program. The program provides grants to residents when replacing a private lead service. Grant amounts are typically limited to \$1,500; however, provisions may allow amounts up to \$2,000 if certain conditions are met.

2.2.2. Outreach and Education

City staff continue to provide outreach and education to the public regarding lead service lines and lead in drinking water through:

- The City of Welland website (<https://www.welland.ca/Building/LASSR.asp>).
- Direct communication with residents when lead service lines are discovered.
- Door to door requests for private premise lead sampling.
- Proactive outreach (letter) to areas with known or probable lead services.

Communication to residents includes information on lead in drinking water and information about the City's Lead Replacement Program.

2.2.3. Faucet Filter Program

The City of Welland does not offer a Faucet Filter program to residents. Where appropriate, the benefits of having a lead rated filter to reduce lead levels at the tap are communicated to residents. The information provided is prepared by Niagara Region Public Health.

2.2.4. Involvement of Public Health Authorities

Niagara Region Public Health provides education and outreach to residents when requested by City staff.

In addition, Niagara Region Public Health is notified of any lead sample exceedance for the Welland Distribution System or private premise plumbing; these results are reported as an exceedance of a prescribed drinking water sample under Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems and appropriate corrective actions are taken should they arise.

2.3. Sample Results

Lead sample results were collected based on the requirements of the Municipal Drinking Water Licence.

In 2023, 41 lead samples were collected from private premise plumbing and resulted in 10 exceedances of the prescribed lead standard of 0.010 mg/L (Ontario Regulation 169/03 – Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards). A summary of private residence lead samples completed in 2023 is shown below.

Sample Date (dd/mmm/yy)	Sample Location	Sample 1 Result (mg/L)	Sample 2 Result (mg/L)	Exceedance	Replaced
21-Dec-23		0.00014	0.00014	Yes	No
7-Mar-23		0.01500	0.01690	No	No
7-Mar-23		0.00096	0.00095	No	No
7-Mar-23		0.00509	0.00457	Yes	No
8-Mar-23		0.00118	0.00194	No	No
8-Mar-23		0.00099	0.00098	No	No
8-Mar-23		0.00732	0.01580	No	No
9-Mar-23		0.01280	0.01130	No	No
9-Mar-23		0.00154	0.00233	No	No
9-Mar-23		0.00570	0.00630	No	No
22-Mar-23		0.01200	0.02730	No	No
22-Mar-23		0.00028	0.00029	No	No
22-Mar-23		0.00091	0.00051	No	No
24-Mar-23		0.00074	0.00099	No	No
29-Mar-23		0.00017	0.00009	No	No
29-Mar-23		0.00118	0.00100	No	No
29-Mar-23		0.00006	0.00004	No	No
30-Mar-23		0.00077	0.00023	No	No
31-Mar-23		0.00160	0.00049	No	No
31-Mar-23		0.00044	0.00021	No	No
4-Apr-23		0.00004	0.00001	No	No
26-Jul-23		0.01120	0.01110	No	No
26-Jul-23		0.01980	0.02000	No	No
27-Jul-23		0.00050	0.00033	No	No
1-Aug-23		0.00015	0.00009	No	No
1-Aug-23		0.01110	0.01070	No	No
9-Aug-23		0.00586	0.00587	No	No
9-Aug-23		0.00362	0.00362	No	No
10-Aug-23		0.00141	0.00222	No	No
11-Aug-23		0.02060	0.02110	No	No
11-Aug-23		0.01010	0.00963	No	No

Sample Date (dd/mm/yy)	Sample Location	Sample 1 Result (mg/L)	Sample 2 Result (mg/L)	Exceedance	Replaced
11-Aug-23		0.00014	0.00006	No	No
15-Aug-23		0.00006	0.00007	No	No
30-Aug-23		0.00011	0.00011	No	No
30-Aug-23		0.00035	0.00058	No	No
31-Aug-23		0.00008	0.00015	No	No
6-Sep-23		0.02060	0.02130	No	No
19-Sep-23		0.00027	0.00012	No	No
20-Sep-23		0.00051	0.00012	No	No
20-Sep-23		0.00039	0.00012	No	No
20-Sep-23		0.00004	0.00002	No	No

3. Summary Report – Regulatory Non-Compliance and Water Volume

This report summarizes the water volume by month, provided by Niagara Region, to the Welland Distribution System (DWS 260003149), from January 1 to December 31, 2023.

This report satisfies the requirements of Ontario Regulation 170/03 – Drinking Water Systems.

3.1. Summary of Regulatory Non-Compliance

The Welland Distribution System received zero non-compliances and an inspection rating of 100% for the 2023–2024 annual drinking water system inspection. The inspection was conducted by a Provincial Officer with the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

3.2. Summary of Water Volume

The drinking water volumes captured below are reflective of the wholesale water billing volumes supplied by Niagara Region.

Month	Total Water Volume (m ³)
January	578,645
February	514,561
March	577,463
April	560,998
May	618,066
June	632,333
July	619,678
August	601,959
September	633,331
October	593,521
November	554,626
December	569,721
2023 Total Volume	7,054,902

Ontario Municipal Drinking Water Compliance Program Overview

The purpose of this overview is to provide Council, as System Owner, with background information related to programs that support municipal drinking water compliance (Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002) and the provision of safe drinking water.

Additional information on System Owner responsibilities, and other roles, that provide oversight and/or contribute to maintaining compliance and safe drinking water, are explained within this overview.

1. Standard of Care

Standard of Care provisions under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, came into force on January 1, 2013.

These provisions require the System Owner, senior leadership, and every person who, on behalf of the municipality, oversees the accredited Operating Authority or exercises decision-making authority, to “exercise the level of care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would be expected to exercise in a similar situation” and “act honestly, competently and with integrity, with a view to ensuring the protection and safety of the users of the municipal drinking-water system.”

Failure to do so could result in an offense under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002. A System Owner may rely on a report of an engineer, lawyer, accountant, or other person whose professional qualifications lend credibility to the report.

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks has prepared a guide for municipal councils with additional information related to standard of care: *Taking Care of Your Drinking Water: A Guide for Members of Municipal Councils* (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/taking-care-your-drinking-water-guide-members-municipal-councils>).

1.1. Ongoing Communication with Council

In support of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, and to assist Council with meeting the due diligence requirements of the Standard of Care provisions, regular correspondence can be expected throughout the 2022–2026 Council term regarding the Municipal Drinking Water Licencing Program, quality management system status, and operational performance.

Minimum correspondence frequencies have been summarized below.

Topic	Frequency
Financial Plan	Every 5 years
Water QMS Update	Annual
Operational Performance – Summary Report	Annual
Request for Operational Plan Re-Endorsement	As required

2. Municipal Drinking Water Licencing Program

The Municipal Drinking Water Licencing Program (MDWLP) was developed in response to several recommendations of the Part II Report of the Walkerton Inquiry. The MDWLP requires every Operating Authority (City of Welland staff) of a municipal residential drinking water system to hold a system level licence to operate the subject system.

Without a valid licence, the City of Welland is unable to operate its drinking water distribution system. A licence includes conditions of operation for the subject system; these may include details of additional sampling and maintenance requirements, relief from regulatory requirements, and administrative procedures related to the MDWLP.

The City of Welland will be renewing the municipal drinking water licence in 2026. Under the MDWLP, there are five (5) requirements to obtain a drinking water licence:

- Financial plan;
- Drinking Water Works Permit;
- Permit to Take Water (not applicable to distribution only systems);
- Documented quality management system (QMS) operational plan; and
- Accreditation of the Operating Authority's QMS.

These requirements are discussed in more detail below.

2.1. Financial Plan

Ontario Regulation 453/07 prescribes requirements for the development of a financial plan. Under this regulation, municipalities must prepare a financial plan that demonstrates financial sustainability of the drinking water distribution systems for the duration of the term of the municipal drinking water licence.

The next financial plan submission to Council is anticipated in 2025.

2.2. Drinking Water Works Permit

The City of Welland holds a Drinking Water Works Permit for the drinking water distribution system. A permit contains an overview of the major infrastructure that is installed and in use within the subject system. Permits also specify the types of infrastructure additions, modifications, replacements, or extensions that a

municipality is pre-authorized to complete, versus those that require approval from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks.

2.3. Water Quality Management System

The MDWLP requires municipalities or organizations who operate municipal residential drinking water systems to develop, implement, and maintain a Quality Management System (QMS) that is accredited to the requirements of Ontario's Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (the Standard).

The QMS must be documented in an Operational Plan and accredited through an audit process by a third-party accreditation body that is approved by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks. The City of Welland has maintained accreditation to the Standard since 2012. In addition to this requirement, the City of Welland has proactively implemented and previously held accreditation with ISO 9001:2015. Though ISO accreditation will not be sought in the future, City staff will endeavor to maintain requirements alongside the Standard.

The City of Welland's Water QMS Operational Plan describes various operational, maintenance, testing, monitoring, administration, and oversight processes that have been implemented in support of the Water QMS. Elements of the Standard that may be of particular interest or importance to Council include risk assessment; roles, responsibilities, and authorities; infrastructure review, maintenance, rehabilitation, and renewal; internal auditing; and management review.

The Water Compliance Supervisor provides Council with an annual QMS Update that summarizes the status of the Water QMS, including updates relating to the above-noted elements of interest, key QMS activities, and relevant milestones.

2.3.1. QMS Roles and Responsibilities

Several key roles and responsibilities have been defined in the Water QMS Operational Plan. These roles include but are not limited to the following:

System Owner

Council represents the City of Welland as the Drinking Water System Owner. Owner responsibilities include:

- Owning and endorsing the Operational Plan;
- Ensuring the drinking water system is operated by an accredited operating authority;
- Monitoring the QMS and providing resources in support of the QMS; and
- Ensuring compliance with the Municipal Drinking Water Licence and its components.

Operating Authority

City of Welland staff (specifically, selected staff of the Infrastructure Services Division) act as the drinking water system Operating Authority. The responsibilities of the Operating Authority include:

- Maintaining the QMS;
- Maintaining accreditation of the QMS;
- Communicating with the Owner about the QMS and resource requirements; and
- Ensuring compliance with the Municipal Drinking Water Licence and its components.

Top Management

Top Management of the Water QMS includes the Chief Administrative Officer, Director Infrastructure Services/City Engineer, and the Manager of Public Works.

Top Management's responsibilities include:

- Ensuring that a QMS is in place that meets the requirements of the Standard;
- Participating in annual QMS Management Reviews;
- Ensuring that the Operating Authority is aware of legislative and regulatory requirements;
- Communicating the QMS according to documented procedures; and
- Providing resources needed to maintain and improve the QMS.

QMS Representative

The Water Compliance Supervisor has been appointed as the QMS Representative as detailed in the Operational Plan.

Responsibilities of the QMS Representative include:

- Establish and maintain procedures and documents required by the QMS;
- Report to Top Management and the Owner on the performance of the QMS and areas of required improvement;
- Ensure that current QMS documentation is being used by Operating Authority staff at all times;
- Ensure that Operating Authority staff are aware of all applicable legislative and regulatory requirements that pertain to their duties for the operation of the drinking water distribution system; and
- Promote QMS awareness throughout the Operating Authority.

2.3.2. Endorsement of Water Quality Management System Operational Plan

Endorsement of the Water QMS by the System Owner and Top Management is a mandated requirement of the Standard. The previous endorsement of the Operational Plan is still valid.

The Water Compliance Supervisor will report to Council to recommend re-endorsement of an Operational Plan if substantial changes are made to its content. Endorsement of the Operational Plan has been recommended via Council report in December 2023.

3. Operational Performance

Annual reporting requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002, and the Municipal Drinking Water Licence, include reports outlining annual water quality, lead service replacement program evaluation, and a summary of water volume and non-compliances.

The annual water quality report provides a description of the quality of drinking water; including adverse water quality incidents and sample results.

The lead evaluation report outlines the status and effectiveness of lead reduction within the distribution system through City and private lead service replacements, regular lead sampling, and other education and outreach efforts.

The summary report must be provided to Council on an annual basis and contains:

- A description of regulatory non-compliances with pertinent legal instruments (licence, permit, etc.); and
- Water flow information that can be used to assess the capability of the system to meet both existing and planned uses.

The City of Welland compiles these reporting requirements into one report: Welland Water Distribution System Annual Water Quality, Lead Evaluation, and Summary Report. The latest report was provided to Council via memorandum through the weekly Council Information Package in March 2024.

Due to the two-tier water treatment and distribution structure in Niagara region, water quality and summary report information for water purchased from Niagara Region can be accessed from Niagara Region's website (<https://www.niagararegion.ca/living/water/Water-Quality-Reports/default.aspx>).



Office of the Mayor

WAYNE H. REDEKOP

March 22, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Michael D. Ford
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
14th floor, 56 Wellesley Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E7
Michael.Ford@pc.ola.org

Honourable and Dear Sirs:

**Re: Architectural Conservancy Ontario - Request Provincial Government to Amend
Deadline of Subsection 27(16), Ontario Heritage Act**

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of March 18, 2024 received and supported correspondence from the Architectural Conservancy Ontario dated February 8, 2024 requesting the Provincial Government to amend Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act by extending the deadline for five years, from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030, and passed the following resolution:

Whereas subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act stipulates that any non-designated heritage property listed on the municipal register of properties as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the municipal register on or before January 1, 2025, if the council of the municipality does not give a notice of intention to designate the property under subsection 29(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act on or before January 1, 2025; and

Whereas since January 1, 2023, municipal staff and members of the municipal heritage committee in this municipality have been diligently working to: review the municipal heritage register; research the heritage value and interest of listed (non-designated) properties; review and research the heritage value and interest of non-designated properties; contact owners of such properties; determine which properties should potentially be designated in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act; and take all required steps to designate such properties; and

Whereas the above-noted work involving 34 listed properties in this municipality is extremely time-consuming and cannot be completed by December 31, 2024 with the limited municipal resources available;

.../2

Mailing Address:

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie
1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON L2A 2S6

Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (905) 871-1600 FAX: (905) 871-4022

Web-site: www.forterie.ca

Now therefore be it resolved,

That Council authorize the Mayor to promptly send a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, requesting that Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act be amended to extend the above-noted deadline for five years from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030.

Attached please find a copy of the Architectural Conservancy Ontario correspondence dated February 8, 2024.

I know that you value the history and heritage of our province and the contributions made to our society of those who came before us. By preserving our architectural and built heritage, we honour those contributions and the historical foundations of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,



Wayne H. Redekop
Mayor

WHR:dlk
Attach.
c.c. All Ontario Municipalities

February 8, 2024



**ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVANCY
ONTARIO**

Premier Ford,

Re: Looming expiry date for protection of heritage properties listed under the Ontario Heritage Act

We are writing to express our concerns with a key amendment to the *Ontario Heritage Act*; which your government passed in 2022. Under it, any heritage property listed on a municipal register as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the register on January 1, 2025, unless that council has given notice of its intention to designate the property under the Act. Properties that lose listing status cannot be re-listed for another five years.

This change affects some 36,000 listed heritage properties, according to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, in over 100 municipalities across the province. These properties have only limited, short-term (60 day) protection. As ACO warned in December 2022, forcing municipalities to designate all listed properties within two years or drop them from the register was draconian and totally unrealistic. With the expiry date now less than one year away, municipalities, large and small, are scrambling to review their registers and prioritize properties for designation or other protection. The staff/financial cost in research alone is enormous.

Automatically removing listed properties from the registry in less than eleven months will encourage demolition of existing and affordable housing alternatives at a time when we need them the most.

ACO is asking that Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* be amended in the spring session of the Legislature, to extend the deadline in the Act for five years, from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030. This early certainty of an additional five years for implementation would give municipalities the opportunity to better plan, resource and undertake this complex exercise. The 2030 timeline would help municipalities ensure that properties are not "thrown off the list" prematurely and without input from property owners.

ACO believes that property owners should not be forced to choose between designation and nothing at all to recognize the heritage significance of their property. However, this is the choice your government has forced on them. At the very least, owners and municipalities should be given more time to make this choice, and given reasonable notice of this extension.

Diane Chin
President

401 Richmond Street West, Suite 206, Toronto, ON M5V 3A8

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BY COUNCIL



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This session will explore:

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- Strategic Planning
- Fiscal Sustainability

Dates:

- [May 29, 2024](#)
- [September 25, 2024](#)
- **Session 3: Community Engagement Strategic Approaches**
 - The elected official and Community Engagement
 - Communications
 - The Fine Points of Leadership

Session 3 is really important. It helps you demystify a number of key municipal responsibilities. Budget and strategic planning are a great internal exercise but if your constituents and community members don't really understand what you are doing, why you are doing it and how priorities are identified and planned for, well, we all understand what the fallout can look like. This session explores the importance of and options to community engagement and how leadership is the key ingredient to meaningful and impactful local engagement

Dates:

- [October 2, 2024](#)
- [November 20, 2024](#)

If you have questions please reach out to events@amo.on.ca

Inquires: events@amo.on.ca

*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.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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155 University Ave Suite 800 | Toronto, ON M5H 3B7 CA

From: Clerk <clerk@welland.ca>

Subject: RE: MSC Res. 2024-043 - Potential Municipal Equipment Operator Course

Good afternoon,

Please see the resolution below that was passed by the Council of the Township of McMurrich/Monteith at their Regular meeting held March 5, 2024 supporting the Municipality of St. Charles calling on the Provincial Government to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund.

Resolution 2024-89

Moved by: Dan O'Halloran

Seconded by: Terry Currie

Be It Resolved that council supports Resolution 2024-043 from Municipality of St. Charles calling on the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund. Carried

Best regards,

[Cheryl Marshall](#),

Clerk/Treasurer

Township of McMurrich/Monteith

P.O. Box 70, 31 William Street

Sprucedale, Ontario P0A 1Y0

Phone: 705-685-7901 Fax: 705-685-7393

www.mcmurrichmonteith.com

Administration

Office of the Regional Clerk

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Telephone: 905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977

www.niagararegion.ca

March 22, 2024

CL 4-2024, March 21, 2024

PEDC 3-2024, March 6, 2024

PDS 7-2024, March 6, 2024

DISTRIBUTION LIST

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Regional Archaeological Management Plan

PDS 7-2024

Regional Council, at its meeting held on March 21, 2024, passed the following recommendation of its Planning and Economic Development Committee:

That Report PDS 7-2024, dated March 6, 2024, respecting Regional Archaeological Management Plan, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Niagara Parks Commission, and Niagara Escarpment Commission.

A copy of PDS 7-2024 is enclosed for your reference.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio

Regional Clerk

js

CLK-C 2024-025

cc: B. Fricke, Senior Planner
M. Sergi, Commissioner, Growth, Strategy and Economic Development
N. Oakes, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Growth, Strategy and Economic Development

Distribution List:

Local Area Municipalities
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Niagara Parks Commission
Niagara Escarpment Commission

Subject: Regional Archaeological Management Plan

Report to: Planning and Economic Development Committee

Report date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Recommendations

1. That Report PDS 7-2024 **BE RECEIVED** for information; and
2. That a copy of Report PDS 7-2024 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Niagara Parks Commission, and Niagara Escarpment Commission.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the completion of the Regional Archaeological Management Plan (AMP).
- The AMP is a tool that establishes a consistent, coordinated approach to the conservation of archaeological resources within the development review and approvals process.
- The AMP also outlines processes and guidelines to clearly define when and where archaeological assessments are required.
- The recommended policies and the archaeological potential mapping contained in the AMP were incorporated into the Niagara Official Plan and have been adopted by Council and approved by the Province.
- The conservation of archaeological resources is a matter of provincial interest and must be addressed through the development approvals process in accordance with the *Planning Act*.

Financial Considerations

The costs associated with the Archaeological Management Plan (AMP) were accommodated by the Council approved Niagara Official Plan project budget.

Background

Archaeological resources are the physical and tangible remains of Niagara's diverse cultural history and include artifacts and archaeological sites (terrestrial and marine) that are of cultural heritage value or interest.

Conservation of archaeological resources is a matter of provincial interest, as outlined in the *Planning Act* and the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS, 2020). Planning authorities are required to include policies in their official plans to facilitate identification, wise use, and management of cultural heritage resources, including archaeological resources. The PPS and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Growth Plan, 2020) encourage municipalities to prepare Archaeological Management Plans (AMPs) and consider them in their decision-making. AMPs are a best practice for archaeological resource management and used by many other municipalities in Ontario.

As part of the Niagara Official Plan background work, including development of archaeological policies, the Region retained Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI) in partnership with Letourneau Heritage Consulting Inc. (LHC), to prepare a Regional AMP. ASI has completed many AMPs and has extensive experience engaging with Indigenous communities, in recognition of their vested interests in cultural heritage and archaeology, which is a crucial component when preparing an AMP.

ASI and LHC undertook a comprehensive review of the policy and legislative framework related to archaeology to inform the structure and content of the AMP. A survey on archaeological review was sent to the area municipality planning departments, as well as other upper and single tier municipalities with AMPs, to understand the successes and challenges they experience with implementation.

Benefits of the AMP

Niagara Region exhibits some of the highest archaeological potential in Ontario. The PPS, Growth Plan and NOP include policies that guide development and site alteration on lands containing archaeological resources or areas of archaeological potential unless the resources have been conserved. Conservation can occur through the implementation of a conservation plan or completion of an archaeological assessment. The archaeological potential mapping developed through the AMP illustrates areas of archaeological potential to determine when an archaeological assessment should be completed through the development approvals process.

On November 28, 2022, Bill 23, *More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022* was given Royal Assent, however, provisions which identify Niagara Region as an upper-tier municipality without planning responsibilities are not yet in effect. These changes only come into force upon proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor and the timing is currently unknown. Irrespective of proclamation, the AMP is a useful planning tool for development review, to ensure that archaeological resources are considered in a consistent and coordinated manner across the region. As set out in the Consultation section of this report, Area Planners were engaged throughout the development of the AMP.

The AMP will assist planning authorities to implement archaeological requirements within the planning process in a more streamlined and consistent manner across the region. The archaeological potential map improves transparency within the process and encourage early thinking about archaeology during the due-diligence stage of development. Finally, the AMP outlines contingency plans if archaeological resources are uncovered during construction, where the requirement for an archaeological assessment was scoped or where *Planning Act* applications are not required.

Niagara-On-The-Lake, Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Pelham each have their own archaeology/ heritage master plans. Area Municipalities are not obligated to use the AMP. However, the data provided is more current and can help to support Area Municipalities post Bill 23 facilitating development by improving transparency of required studies to support development applications. The AMP will also facilitate development on properties with low archaeological potential streamlining archaeological review.

Consultation

Area Planners were engaged in the development of this plan. Regional staff attended several Area Planner meetings regarding the project and to keep local planning staff informed as it progressed. ASI sent out surveys to local planners to gauge opinions on current processes and desired outcomes of the AMP. The most frequent and highest priority need expressed by local municipal planners was for a useable and regularly updated GIS-based archaeological potential map.

Presentations were also made to the community as part of NOP engagement process, and a project webpage was created where updates and other materials were posted for information and comment.

An AMP Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (formerly Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and

Culture Industries), Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Niagara's area municipalities, Niagara Parks Commission, and Niagara Escarpment Commission, was established at the start of the project.

Indigenous communities have a long-standing history in Niagara. As of 2020, the total number of archaeological sites in Niagara Region was 1,703, of which 1,385 (81%) have Indigenous components. At the outset of the project, six Indigenous communities/groups were identified for direct consultation, including Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre, Haudenosaunee Development Institute, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Niagara Region Metis Council, Niagara Regional Native Centre, and Six Nations of the Grand River. Throughout the project, Regional staff and the consultants met with Band Councils, and consulted with staff and elders from the above noted groups on several occasions. Comments received from the Indigenous communities on the draft AMP document were supportive and informative.

All comments received on the AMP have been considered in the final document (Appendix 1).

Overview of Archaeological Management Plan

The AMP is a document that outlines the strategies and procedures for the management and protection of archaeological resources within Niagara. It identifies, inventories and maps areas of archaeological potential using a made-in-Niagara modelling approach, provides clear guidance for when archaeological assessments are required through the development process, and details processes to ensure consistency in the conservation of archaeological resources.

The AMP includes the following components:

- Legislation and policy framework, which provides an overview of the context within which the AMP is implemented;
- Recommended review process, which establishes a consistent approach to the implementation of the AMP, including an outline of roles and responsibilities and standardized language for warning clauses that can be implemented through conditions of development approvals;
- Provided recommended policies for the Niagara Official Plan;
- Archaeological potential model and mapping, which was also incorporated in the 2022 NOP as Schedule K;

- Contingency plan to ensure any accidental or unexpected discoveries of archaeological resources are addressed in accordance with legislative requirements; and
- Recommendations for future implementation tools, including: information sessions for local and Regional planning staff; a repository of archaeological assessments to aid in the updates of the archaeological potential mapping; a best-practice procedure for Indigenous engagement; and educational materials.

Overall, the AMP will serve as a guiding document to ensure the responsible and sustainable management of archaeological resources in a consistent and coordinated manner across the region.

Alternatives Reviewed

Council could opt not to receive the AMP, which is not recommended. The AMP is a best practice document that will provide a consistent and streamlined approach to archaeological review across the Area Municipalities.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

This report aligns with Council's Strategic Priorities for an Effective and Equitable Region. The AMP will support growth and development post Bill 23 by improving transparency of required studies to support development applications and facilitating development on properties with low archaeological potential. By utilizing a best practice approach to the conservation of archaeological resources, the AMP will improve the process to address conservation of archaeological resources within development review.

Other Pertinent Reports

- CWCD 25-2019
- CWCD 185-2019

Prepared by:

Britney Fricke, MCIP, RPP
Senior Planner, Community Planning
Growth, Strategy and Economic
Development

Recommended by:

Michelle Sergi, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner
Growth, Strategy and Economic
Development

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

This report was reviewed by Susan McPetrie, Planner, Erik Acs, MCIP, RPP, Manager of Community Planning, Angela Stea, MCIP, RPP, Director of Corporate Strategy and Community Sustainability and Diana Morreale, MCIP, RPP, Director of Growth Management and Planning.

Appendices

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Appendix 1 | Niagara Region Archaeological Management Plan Executive Summary |
| Appendix 2 | Niagara Region Archaeological Management Plan
(https://www.niagararegion.ca/projects/archaeological-management-plan/pdf/final-draft.pdf) |

Executive Summary

Archaeological sites throughout the Regional Municipality of Niagara (hereafter Niagara Region) are the physical remains of the 13,000-year settlement history. They represent a fragile and non-renewable cultural heritage resource that must be conserved and protected. This Archaeological Management Plan (AMP) is a planning tool intended to be used by Niagara Region, Local Area Municipalities, development proponents, and the public. It brings a consistent policy-based approach to the conservation of archaeological resources across the Niagara Region. This AMP includes a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based Archaeological Potential Map.

This AMP presents planning and management guidelines and an archaeological potential model that are consistent with provincial legislation and policy. In Canada, the conservation of cultural heritage resources—including archaeological resources—is a matter of **Indigenous, Provincial, and National interest**. This AMP addresses archaeological resource planning within the Provincial, Regional, and Local context.

The AMP has three major objectives:

- To outline policy, process, and implementation tools for managing archaeological resources in the planning approvals and environmental assessment processes consistent with provincial legislation and policy and reflecting best-practice archaeological management.
- To compile detailed, reliable inventories of registered and unregistered archaeological sites within Niagara Region; and,
- To develop an archaeological site potential model specific to the Niagara Region, based on known site locations, past and present land uses, environmental and cultural-historical data, and assessment of the likelihood for the survival of archaeological resources in various contexts.

The role of the Niagara Region and the Local Area Municipalities in the conservation of cultural heritage resources is crucial. Implementation of matters of provincial interest, planning, and land use control are predominantly municipal responsibilities and the impact of municipal land use decisions on archaeological resources is substantial. Municipally approved developments constitute most land-disturbing activities in Ontario. The primary means by which these resources may be protected is through the planning and development approvals process.

The AMP provides a series of policy and process recommendations within the planning and development approvals process that will ensure the conservation of archaeological

resources within the Region. Some of these recommendations have already been integrated into Niagara Region's new Official Plan. The AMP policy recommendations and process are consistent with the [Provincial Policy Statement](https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-policy-statement-2020) (https://www.ontario.ca/page/provincial-policy-statement-2020) (2020) and the [Ontario Heritage Act](http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/heritage_act.shtml) (http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/heritage_act.shtml) (2005). This AMP includes recommended policies, processes and standard clauses for Niagara Region and local municipalities.

Through its GIS mapping of known archaeological sites and areas of archaeological potential, the AMP allows the planning staff at Niagara Region, the Local Area Municipalities, property owners, developers, and prospective land buyers, to know if and where archaeological investigations are necessary prior to land disturbing activities. The AMP aims to reduce the risk of unexpected discovery of archaeological remains during land altering activities (such as disturbing an Indigenous burial site or a nineteenth century building foundation) and enhance public awareness of archaeological resources. The AMP also allows residents to know and celebrate their community's history more completely.

The archaeological potential model was developed based on an inductive and deductive approach that predicts where pre-contact Indigenous sites are most likely situated and utilizes detailed historical research to map archaeological potential. The pre-contact Indigenous archaeological site potential layer is based on data from the Ontario Archaeological Sites Database maintained by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) as of September 2, 2020. The identification of areas in the historical archaeological site potential layer involved the digitization of residential, commercial, and industrial features and transportation routes from historical mapping and cemeteries. The historic archaeological potential layer captures all the historical archaeological sites previously discovered in the Region.

In addition to the 13,000 years of Indigenous settlement, the history of Niagara Region is fundamentally linked to early historical relations and treaties between the Crown and First Nations. Niagara Region was included in the scope of the Nanfan Treaty signed by the British and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (Five Nations) in 1701. Later, the colonial period was ushered in by the acquisition of settlement lands by the British crown through the Treaty at Niagara in 1764 (renegotiated 1781) and the Between the Lakes Treaty #3 of 1792, both signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. It is therefore appropriate that development of Niagara Region's AMP benefitted from engagement with descendant Indigenous communities. The AMP recommends continued engagement with Indigenous communities in Niagara Region's archaeological review and planning application processes in accordance with Section

2.6.5 of the Provincial Policy Statement (2020), and appropriate policies have been incorporated into the Region's new Official Plan.

In having developed this archaeological management plan, the Regional Municipality of Niagara joins with other major municipalities in Ontario in adopting the best approach available to ensuring archaeological site conservation within its jurisdiction.

TOWNSHIP OF MCMURRICH/MONTEITH

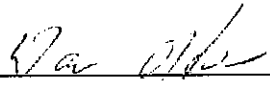
Resolution

Number: 2024-15

January 16, 2024

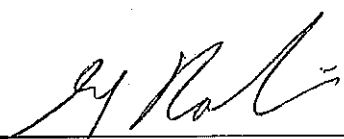
Moved by: Currie, Terry ☐
Dyson, Wesley ☐
O'Halloran, Daniel ☒
Roeder-Martin, Vicky ☐
Robinson, Glynn ☐

Seconded by: Currie, Terry ☐
Dyson, Wesley ☒
O'Halloran, Daniel ☐
Roeder-Martin, Vicky ☐
Robinson, Glynn ☐


Signature: _____


Signature: _____

Be It Resolved that Council receives correspondence from the Township of Clearview dated December 12, 2023 including Staff Report LS-032-2023 regarding cemeteries and that we send a resolution of support for their correspondences to Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO), Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and MPP Graydon Smith.

Mayor  _____

Carried ☒ Defeated _____

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by: _____

Recorded vote requested by: _____

Recorded Vote:	Yays	Nays
Currie	_____	_____
Dyson	_____	_____
O'Halloran	_____	_____
Roeder-Martin	_____	_____
Robinson	_____	_____



CLEARVIEW
TOWNSHIP

Clerk's Department

Township of Clearview
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0

clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca

Phone: 705-428-6230

December 12, 2023

File: C00.2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M5B 2H7

Sent by Email

*Jan 16
2024
10.9*

RE: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

Please be advised that Council of the Township of Clearview, at its meeting held on December 11, 2023, passed a resolution regarding Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support as follows:

Moved by Councillor Walker, Seconded by Councillor Broderick, 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;

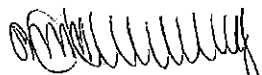
Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amend 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; Page 6 of 7
- 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 Brian Saunderson and all Ontario municipalities. Motion Carried.

For reference, please find attached the Staff Report LS-032-2023 that provides background for the above resolution. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Sasha Helmkey-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar
MPP Simcoe Grey, Brian Saunderson
Ontario Municipalities



CLEARVIEW

Staff Report

To: Mayor and Council

From: Sasha Helmkey, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

Date: December 11, 2023

Subject: Report # LS-032-2023 – Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment
Administration & Management Support

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby receives Report LS-032-2023 (Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support) dated December 11, 2023; and,

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 of the Township of Clearview 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:

- Amend 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 Brian Saunderson and all Ontario municipalities.

Background

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.

Over the last decade there appears to be a trend where cemeteries in Ontario are being transferred, whether through abandonment or a mutually agreed upon transfer, to the care and control of municipalities. This is often seen when there is a breakdown in existing cemetery boards and/or when churches cease operations. For many existing private cemetery boards their board members and volunteers are aging and are unable to assist with the operations and maintenance of the cemetery any longer. Finding new members proves to be difficult for these boards to continue. In addition to aging board members, there are other issues that are contributing to the increase in cemetery transfers:

- high maintenance costs
- inaccuracy of records
- lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery

- increased regulatory processes that require ongoing training for selling of interment rights, and the financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.

Township Owned Cemeteries

The Township of Clearview currently owns and operates nine (9) cemeteries within its geographic boundaries. Out of these nine cemeteries, four (4) are considered active meaning that there are still interment rights to be sold, or burials to take place. Below is a chart outlining these cemeteries and their status:

Cemetery Name	Address	Status
Batteau Hill Cemetery	2670 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Bethel Union Cemetery	2249 Creemore Avenue, New Lowell	Inactive
Dunedin Union Cemetery	9 Turkeyroost Lane, Dunedin	Active
Duntroon Pioneer Cemetery	2870 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Lavender Cemetery	827103 Mulmur/Nottawasaga Townline, Creemore	Active
Old Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	6130 Highway 26, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive
Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery	2279 County Road 42, Stayner	Active
Stayner Union Cemetery	7661 Highway 26, Stayner	Active
Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	12358 County Road 10, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive

For the Dunedin and Stayner Union Cemetery, the Township looks after the maintenance and burials through a third-party contractor. The maintenance and burials for the Lavender Cemetery are conducted through the Board. For the Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery all the interment rights have been sold, but there remains one burial to be completed. The cost to maintain an active cemetery is expensive. Although burial costs and the installation of markers, etc. are cost recovery through the purchaser, grounds maintenance is not.

Inactive cemeteries still require consistent grounds maintenance, which includes any monument restoration for health and safety, and record searches for the public register.

Comments and Analysis

When analyzing the number of cemeteries that Clearview Township currently owns and operates, maintenance and administration is a large undertaking. To add any additional cemeteries by way of transfer or abandonment will only compound the issues the Township is already facing. In the past year, the Township has been approached by two separate entities regarding possible cemetery transfers. When a board or cemetery transfers ownership to the municipality, the issues are transferred with it. Municipalities are not immune to the same concerns. It becomes a strain on municipal resources, financially, administratively, and operationally.

Administrative Impact

From an administrative perspective the management of four active cemeteries is both time consuming and complex. No interment is the same, and providing good customer service takes time especially for those making arrangements while also dealing with grief. Administrative tasks include but are not limited to: interment right sales and mapping, burial contracts and scheduling, monument placement, historical record searches, plot and monument staking, fees and charges review, family transfers of interment rights and annual reporting to the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO).

- **Incomplete records**

Often the records accepted by the Township from a dissolved cemetery board or church are incomplete and disorganized. This is no fault of the previous board members, as they are also often operating with limited resources. However, it does make it difficult to manage the cemetery post-transfer when records are sparse. Understanding which plots are occupied and by who is critical to the sound management of a cemetery. Unfortunately, this is not made possible in all cases because of incomplete records. In addition, records received during a transfer usually are maintained under different records management standards and are often organized and named inconsistently. Adaptation to Township records keeping practices takes time.

- **Lack of human resources**

Cemetery management is a highly regulated professional field, with the responsibility of which is often placed on public sector employees who may have limited knowledge of cemeteries in general. With reduced resources within municipalities especially rural ones, the management of cemeteries often becomes a secondary responsibility to another position. There is also a lack of affordable training available for municipal employees who are required to abide by regulations set out by the FBCSA and the BAO.

- Increased regulatory processes

Annual reporting requirements of the BAO can be extensive and complex. This includes monitoring the number of interments, the transfers to the Care and Maintenance Fund (C&M), and how the C&M fund can be used. There are also regulations pertaining to maintaining a public register, how sales are to be conducted and strict guidelines on Cemetery By-law approvals, and expansions including the erection of columbaria structures.

- Inconsistent cemetery regulations

Cemeteries can have many different regulations related to plot size, number of burials allowed in a given plot, monument size, what types of flowers/shrubs are allowed to be installed near a headstone etc. The transfer of different cemeteries having inconsistent regulations can make it difficult to adapt management practices in order to maintain original cemetery operational standards.

Operational Impact

Similarly, from an operational perspective the grounds maintenance of cemeteries, whether active or inactive, is both time consuming and complex. A key issue when analyzing the maintenance component of cemetery management is the lack of financial resources to support the operation. Cemetery maintenance includes, but is not limited to: grass cutting (whipper snipping around monuments), tree and shrub maintenance, monument and corner stone maintenance, water pipe and washroom monitoring, and general upkeep of cemetery grounds (removal of debris, etc.).

- High maintenance costs

As with many services, there are rising costs to contend with. Municipalities have adopted different models to address the maintenance of such, with third party contractors being commonly used or it becomes the responsibility of an internal department such as Parks & Recreation. Regardless the model, the costs have increased significantly over the last decade with equipment purchases/upgrades, insurance requirements for third-party contractors, and the time it takes to cut the grass and whipper snip around monuments. To put it into perspective, the Stayner Union Cemetery with the expansion is 25 acres with monuments to manoeuvre around during ground care. Other considerations for maintenance includes monument restoration and ensuring that they are not deteriorated to the point where they are unsafe. This is important for older cemeteries where restoration hasn't been provided in the past and there are many deteriorating monuments.

- Cost of cemetery management software

Cemetery Management Software can help municipalities manage cemetery records, including plot sale contracts, interment rights certificates, and regulatory reporting.

However, these software solutions are often expensive and require a large amount of staff time to implement especially with incomplete data and records. These software solutions range in price from \$5,000 to \$100,000 with annual maintenance costs. This investment in software can be a large budget request and one that would need to be supported from taxation with the limited funds in cemetery general accounts.

- **Inadequate Care and Maintenance funds**

When the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA) was enacted, it stipulated that a care and maintenance fund for a cemetery shall be established. A cemetery operator is required to make contributions to the fund from the sale of in-ground graves, crypts, tombs, niches, scattering rights and monument installation. The contribution is prescribed under the FBCSA and differs dependant on the interment type. The idea is that the fund (income earned from the fund - interest) pays for maintenance costs after a cemetery has stopped making sales. In reality, this concept does not produce enough funds to maintain a cemetery. Looking at the Stayner Union Cemetery as an example, for the very basics (grass cutting and whipper snipping) the interest from the care and maintenance fund does not provide enough monies to maintain the cemetery for the 7 months it's required. In addition, the care and maintenance fund is also to be utilized for the stabilization, maintenance and security of markers. Cemeteries are not self funding, and maintenance of such is becoming a larger budget concern.

Support Request

Cemetery transfers and abandonments have been an ongoing concern for Clearview Township for many years. When you look at the large geography of the Township there are many cemeteries within the boundaries that have the potential to be transferred. To gauge the concern of other municipalities on this issue, staff addressed it at a Simcoe County Clerks group discussion. Many neighbouring municipalities expressed that they were dealing with the same issues and have also been approached by different external entities on possible transfers.

As result of the discussion, it was agreed that to assist with the real concerns with transfers and abandonments of cemeteries, it's vital that the Province provide assistance to adequately support this infrastructure. Support can be provided in many different forms, with staff making the following recommendations for the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the BAO:

- Amend 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.

There is not one solution to solve all the issues, but at the very least it's important to identify the concerns and have open and real discussions at the provincial level on what support can be provided.

Clearview's Strategic Plan

The above initiative supports the following strategic pillars:

- Governance

Financial Implications

It is difficult to identify an exact dollar amount that can be attributed to a cemetery transfer/abandonment to the municipality. Every transfer is different and depends on a multitude of factors beginning with the cemetery status (active/inactive), acreage, care and maintenance fund (if any), maintenance of records, etc. What is being recommended by staff by way of support from the province is not meant to erase the costs entirely, but rather, to alleviate the financial burden in some capacity.

Report Appendices

Not applicable.

Approvals

Submitted by:	Sasha Helmkey, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services
Reviewed by:	Krista Pascoe, Deputy Clerk
Financial Implications Reviewed by:	Kelly McDonald, Treasurer
Approved by:	John Ferguson, CAO



Northumberland County

Council Resolution

SENT VIA EMAIL

March 25, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario)
Hon. Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services)
Hon. Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
Hon. Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health)
Hon. David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and
MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
All Ontario Municipalities

**Re: Northumberland County Resolution – County of Prince Edward ‘Review of
Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance
Rates’**

At a meeting held on March 20, 2024 Northumberland County Council approved the following Council Resolution # 2024-03-20-190 adopting the below recommendation from the March 6, 2024 Social Services Committee meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Robert Crate

Seconded by: Councillor Scott Jibb

“That the Social Services Committee, having considered the correspondence from the County of Prince Edward regarding 'Review of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates', recommend that County Council support this correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services), the Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and all Ontario municipalities.”



**The Corporation of the
County of Northumberland**
555 Courthouse Road
Cobourg, ON, K9A 5J6

"Council Resolution # 2024-03-20-190

Carried

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at matherm@northumberland.ca or by telephone at 905-372-3329 ext. 2238.

Sincerely,
Maddison Mather

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M Mather".

Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk
Northumberland County

Council Resolution

Moved By Crate

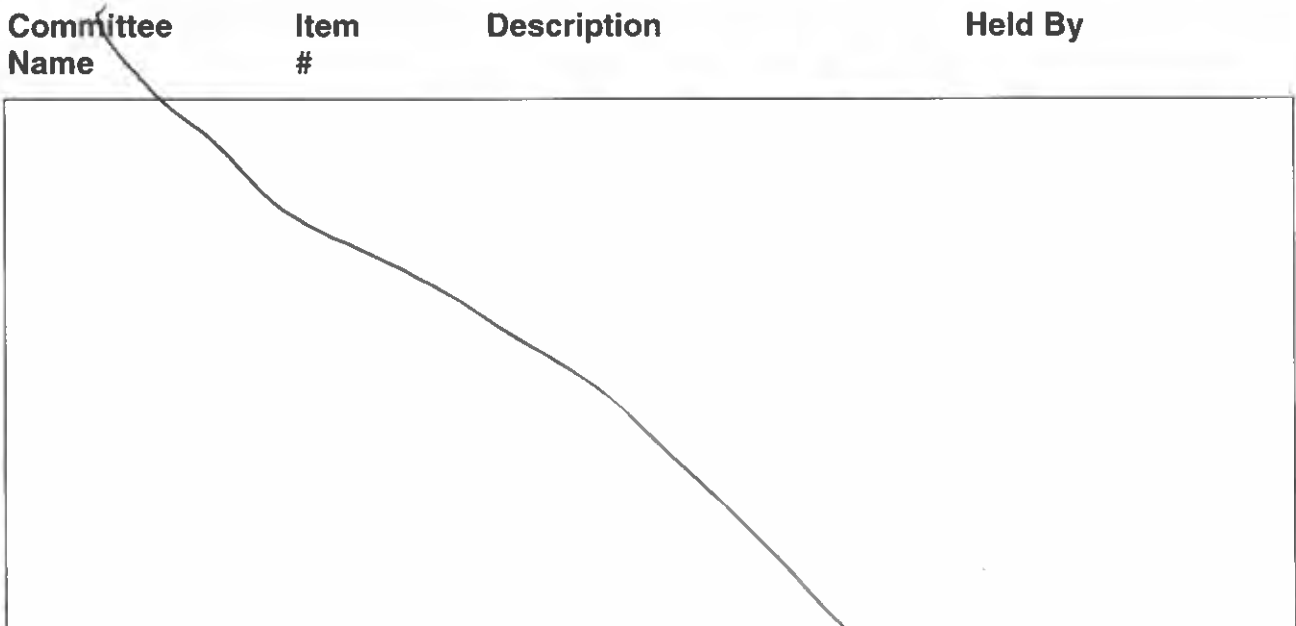
Agenda
Item 10

Resolution Number
2024-03-20- 110

Seconded By Gibb

Council Date: March 20, 2024

^{mm}
"That Council adopt all recommendations from the four Standing Committees, as contained within the Committee Minutes (meetings held March 5 and 6), ~~with the exception of the following items (referenced from the Standing Committee Minutes), that will be held for discussion:~~

Committee Name	Item #	Description	Held By
			

And Further That the items listed above and held for separate discussion each require a separate resolution."

Recorded Vote
Requested by _____
Councillor's Name

Carried [Signature]
Warden's Signature

Deferred _____
Warden's Signature

Defeated _____
Warden's Signature

Social Services Committee Resolution

Committee Meeting Date: March 6, 2024

Agenda Item: 7.a

Resolution Number: 2024-03-06- 159

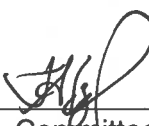
Moved by: O. Hankivsky

Seconded by: B. Ostrander

Council Meeting Date: March 20, 2024

"**That** the Social Services Committee, having considered the correspondence from the County of Prince Edward regarding 'Review of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates', recommend that County Council support this correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services), the Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and all Ontario municipalities."

Carried _____



Committee Chair's Signature

Defeated _____

Committee Chair's Signature

Deferred _____

Committee Chair's Signature

February 16, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of February 13, 2024 the following resolution regarding support for a review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-81

DATE: February 13, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor Roberts

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hirsch

WHEREAS poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

WHEREAS the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

WHEREAS people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

WHEREAS Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 per cent as of July 2023 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall below their value in 2018 (\$1,376 when adjusted for inflation) and significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month)

WHEREAS OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

WHEREAS the poverty risk profile for Prince Edward County created by Vital Signs states that 10.1% - 13.5% of County residents are living on low income;

WHEREAS designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Prince Edward County joins the Town of Orangeville to calls on the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a) At least double Ontario Works and ODSP rates and index rates to inflation, answering calls already made by “Raise the Rates” campaign and the “Income Security Advocacy Centre”;
- b) Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;
- c) Commit to jointly working between the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and the Ministry of Health on the best methods of assessing client needs and then matching those in need to the services they require;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Prince Edward Lennox and Addington Social Services, the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Hirsch, and Marcia Wallace, CAO



March 22nd, 2024

The Honourable Lisa Thompson
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor
77 Grenville St.
Toronto, ON M5S 1B3

RE: Township of Adelaide Metcalfe – Request to Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit

Dear Minister Thompson,

On March 18, 2024, the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe Council approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS farm drainage is of paramount importance in Ontario due to its significant impact on agricultural productivity and sustainability. Effective drainage systems help mitigate waterlogging, control soil moisture levels, and enhance soil structure, thereby optimizing growing conditions for crops;

WHEREAS improved drainage also facilitates timely field operations, reduces erosion, and minimizes nutrient runoff, contributing to environmental conservation efforts;

WHEREAS Ontario's diverse agricultural landscape, where weather variability is common, well-maintained drainage systems play a crucial role in ensuring stable yields, economic viability, and long-term resilience for farmers across the Province;

WHEREAS the Tile Loan Drainage Act, R.S.O 1990, c. T.8 allows for the borrowing of money for the purpose of constructing drainage works;

WHEREAS the maximum annual limit for these loans, unchanged since 2004, is currently set at \$50,000.

WHEREAS costs for Tile Drainage has increased markedly since 2004;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe requests that the Province through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) consider increasing the maximum annual Tile Loan limit to a minimum of \$100,000.

AND THAT this resolution be circulated the Honourable Lisa Thompson – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario municipalities.

Your consideration of Council's request is appreciated.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'MB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Barnier
Clerk & Manager of Legislative Services
Township of Adelaide Metcalfe
mbarnier@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca

Cc: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
All Ontario Municipalities

March 25, 2024

CL 4-2024, March 21, 2024

CSC 3-2024, March 6, 2024

CSD 7-2024, March 6, 2024

LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

2024 Property Tax Policy, Ratios and Rates

CSD 7-2024

Regional Council, at its meeting held on March 21, 2024, passed the following recommendation of its Corporate Services Committee:

That Report CSD 7-2024, dated March 6, 2024, respecting 2024 Property Tax Policy, Ratios and Rates, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations, **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the following tax ratios and sub-class reductions for the 2024 taxation year:

Property Classification	Tax Ratio	Sub-Class Reduction
Residential	1.000000	
New Multi-Residential	1.000000	
Multi-Residential	1.970000	
Commercial	1.734900	
Commercial – Excess Land	1.734900	
Commercial – Vacant Land	1.734900	
Industrial	2.630000	
Industrial – Excess Land	2.630000	
Industrial – Vacant Land	2.630000	
Pipeline	1.702100	
Farmland	0.250000	
Managed Forest	0.250000	
Farmland Awaiting Development 1	1.000000	25.00%
Farmland Awaiting Development 2	Class Ratio	
Landfill Sites	2.940261	

2. That the necessary by-laws **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Councils of the Area Municipalities for information; and

3. That Report CSD 7-2024 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Councils of the Area Municipalities for information.

Report CSD 7-2024 (report only), By-law No. 2024-18 and By-law No. 2024-19 are enclosed for your reference.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

:ab

CLK-C 2024-028

cc: H. Furtado, Director, Financial Management and Planning/ Deputy Treasurer
T. Harrison, Commissioner/ Treasurer, Corporate Services
K. Beach, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services

Subject: 2024 Property Tax Policy, Ratios and Rates

Report to: Corporate Services Committee

Report date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Recommendations

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the following tax ratios and sub-class reductions for the 2024 taxation year:

Property Classification	Tax Ratio	Sub-Class Reduction
Residential	1.000000	
New Multi-Residential	1.000000	
Multi-Residential	1.970000	
Commercial	1.734900	
Commercial – Excess Land	1.734900	
Commercial – Vacant Land	1.734900	
Industrial	2.630000	
Industrial – Excess Land	2.630000	
Industrial – Vacant Land	2.630000	
Pipeline	1.702100	
Farmland	0.250000	
Managed Forest	0.250000	
Farmland Awaiting Development 1	1.000000	25.00%
Farmland Awaiting Development 2	Class Ratio	
Landfill Sites	2.940261	

2. That the necessary by-laws **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Councils of the Area Municipalities for information; and
3. That Report CSD 07-2024 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Councils of the Area Municipalities for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to set the tax policy for 2024 which includes tax ratios, and other policy considerations which are required to set tax rates. Tax policy accounts for property assessment changes and affects the distribution of actual taxes paid by property owners or classes.
- The recommended tax policy for 2024, supported by Regional staff and Area Treasurers, is to maintain the status quo tax ratio adopted for the 2024 taxation year.
- 2023 represented the last year of the Council approved phase-out schedule of the commercial/industrial vacant/excess land subclass discounts of 7.50%.
- In order for the Area Municipalities to complete final tax billings in June, which includes Regional taxes, the Regional tax rate bylaw need to be established no later than April.
- The analysis in Appendix 1 to Report CSD 07-2024, is based on the actual Region's General Tax Levy for 2023 being \$444 million. The 2024 Budget presentation included \$7.4 million in assessment growth dollars or 1.66% on approved 2023 General Tax Levy. The tax policy decisions also apply to the Special Tax Levies for waste and transit.
- The proposed tax policy and approved Regional General Tax Levy will result in an increase of approximately \$126 for the typical residential property with a current value assessment (CVA) of \$298,000 for an annual Regional property tax of \$1,985.

Financial Considerations

There are no direct costs to the Region as a result of setting 2024 tax policy. There are however, taxpayer impacts as a result of tax shifts between property classes due to assessment growth and tax ratio/discount decisions. Detailed analysis of these impacts are included in the Tax Policy Study attached as Appendix 1 to Report CSD 07-2024.

Analysis

The *Municipal Act, 2001*, provides the Region with the responsibility to establish tax policy to raise levy requirements. Reassessment impacts, assessment growth and Provincial legislation can create tax shifts in burden across all property classes. These factors are outside the control of Niagara Regional Council and the budget process. The only opportunity to affect these is through a thorough analysis of options available for ratios and resulting impacts.

Regional staff engaged the Area Treasurers in the review of the tax study as completed by the Region's external tax consultant as well as discussed potential scenarios for

2024. Based on the feedback provided, both Regional staff and Area Treasurers are recommending to maintain the status quo tax ratio for the 2024 taxation year including the commercial/industrial vacant/excess land subclass discount phase-out from 7.50% to 0%, which results in a shift away from residential taxes and on the other classes of 0.10%, or \$0.3 million.

The following are the key factors that support the recommendation; these are expanded on further in this report:

- Prior to the delay in the reassessment cycle MPAC data indicated larger increases in residential assessment in relation to business classes may result which would result in significant shift of taxes onto the residential classes. While reassessment information is unknown at this time it would be prudent to anticipate the outcome.
- The BMA study demonstrates that all residential taxation categories are above the BMA study average and data provided by the Region's Affordable Housing Strategy Steering Committee indicates that many of the households in core housing need currently reside in single detached homes (included in the residential tax class).
- The Region and local area municipalities offer many incentive programs including tax increment and development charge related grants that reduce the actual tax burden experienced by some business property classes in Niagara.

Analysis of Current State

1. Assessment Growth

The overall real assessment growth that occurred in 2023 for the Region was 1.66%, equivalent to \$7.4 million in General Tax Levy dollars from new taxpayers. The overall assessment growth is net of reduction in assessment due to property assessment appeals.

Table 1 summarizes the overall assessment growth that occurred in 2023 (see Assessment Growth Impacts column) as well as the impacts affecting each of the tax classes based on maintaining the status quo tax ratios and the adjustment to the vacant/excess land subclass discounts from 7.50% to 0% as per the Council approved phase-out schedule (Inter-Class Shift column). Note this phase-out schedule was approved by the Province and has been written into Provincial legislation. Any subsequent changes to the phase-out schedule would require Council to lobby the Province to amend the Ontario regulations 325/01.

The residential increase noted in Table 1 below of 6.92% (which is below the 2024 Regional levy impact of 7.02%) is net of the shift due to the subclass discount reduction (See Appendix 1, Table 6).

Table 1 – 2024 General Tax Levy Impacts by Property Class (Status Quo Policy)

Property Class	2023 Approved General Tax Levy (as revised)	Assessment Growth (AG) Impacts	Inter-class Shift*	2024 General Tax Levy Impacts (net of AG)	2024 Approved General Tax Levy	Avg. General Tax % Increase
Residential	326,174,688	5,485,557	(338,737)	22,895,692	354,217,200	6.92%
New Multi-Res	1,652,208	463,823	(2,161)	146,078	2,259,948	8.71%
Multi-Residential	16,640,413	172,083	(17,159)	1,160,631	17,955,968	6.87%
Farm	3,815,182	139,884	(4,033)	273,035	4,224,068	7.05%
Managed Forest	25,745	(448)	(26)	1,747	27,018	6.68%
Commercial	78,045,275	504,636	206,437	5,442,362	84,198,710	7.24%
Industrial	15,317,343	585,637	158,368	1,109,901	17,171,249	8.28%
Pipelines	2,718,425	17,973	(2,792)	188,903	2,922,509	6.55%
Landfill	57,811	-	(59)	3,991	61,743	6.80%
Total	444,447,090	7,369,145	(162)	31,222,340	483,038,413	7.02%
% Increase		1.66%	0%	7.02%	8.68%	

* Represents a tax shift away from residential of 0.10% as a result of the decrease in vacant/excess land subclass discount from 7.50% to 0% as per Council approved phase-out schedule.

2. Re-Assessment Phase-In and Tax Shift

Reassessments of all properties is mandated by the Province every four years, however, as a result of COVID-19, the 2020 re-assessment has been delayed and the Province has not provided any guidance as to when the next assessment cycle will take place. Therefore, the assessment values for the 2024 tax year will remain the same based on the 2016 valuation date resulting in no tax shift impacts caused by assessment phase-in changes.

Table 2 shows the relative tax share of each tax class from 2023 to 2024. The 2024 amounts are based on the recommended tax policy.

Table 2 – Multi-Year Tax Distribution by Tax Class

Property Class	2023 Year End (As Revised)	% Share	2024 Levy (As Revised)	% Share
Residential	\$326,174,688	73.39%	354,217,200	73.33%
New Multi-Residential	1,652,208	0.37%	2,259,948	0.47%
Multi-Residential	16,640,413	3.74%	17,955,968	3.72%
Farm	3,815,182	0.86%	4,224,068	0.87%
Managed Forest	25,745	0.01%	27,018	0.01%
Commercial	78,045,275	17.56%	84,198,710	17.43%
Industrial	15,317,343	3.45%	17,171,249	3.55%
Pipelines	2,718,425	0.61%	2,922,509	0.61%
Landfill	57,811	0.01%	61,743	0.01%
Total	\$444,447,090	100%	483,038,413	100%

3. Education Rates (no change)

The education tax rates are established by the Province to meet their revenue targets for the year. Typically, the education tax rates decrease from one year to the next as the Provincial policy is to maintain revenue neutrality. In prior years, this Provincial policy has created savings in Niagara which generally assist in offsetting municipal increases. Similar to 2023, the Province has maintained the education tax rates in 2024 for all classes. What this means is that with no changes in property assessment due to reassessment properties will typically pay the same dollars in education taxes as in the prior year.

4. Waste Management Special Levy Rates

Waste management Special Levy tax rates are also set based on the Regional tax ratios. The waste management requisition by municipality was approved through Report CSD 48-2023; however the by-law setting for the waste management special levy tax rates for the 2024 requisitions are brought forward with the 2024 general tax levy by-law as the rates are based on each municipality's assessment and are dependent on the tax ratios (with the exception of Niagara-on-the-Lake). The household impacts reported in the budget will vary based on the tax policy being approved in this report in addition to variations in final assessment growth.

Niagara Transit Commission Special Levy Rates

Similar to Waste Management, Niagara Transit Commission Special Levy tax rates are also set based on the Regional tax ratios. The Transit requisition by municipality was approved through Report NTC 17-2023 and BRC-C 40-2023; however, the by-law setting for transit special levy tax rates for the 2024 requisitions are also brought forward with the 2024 general tax levy by-law as the rates are based on each municipality's assessment and are dependent on the tax ratio. The household impacts reported in the budget will vary based on the tax policy being approved in this report in addition to variations in final assessment growth.

Tax Policy Considerations

The Region considers council priorities, the current environment, as well as utilizing several BMA tax related performance metrics as seen in Appendix 3 of Report CSD 07-2024 to assess policy options.

- Residential taxpayer - The residential class is responsible for 73.33% of the overall tax levy. Under the recommended tax policy, the tax shift away from the residential class will mitigate the overall levy increase on the class from 7.02% to 6.92% (see Table 1). As identified in the most recent BMA study, Niagara's average residential property taxes (including water and wastewater) payable as a percentage of household income is above the BMA study average (2023 - Niagara 5.24% versus BMA average 4.80%). This gap between Niagara and the survey average has increased from 2022 (Niagara 5.33% versus BMA average 5.00%). The benefit of reducing the subclass discount for commercial/industrial vacant/excess lands from 7.50% to 0% will assist with narrowing the gap between Niagara and the BMA average.
- Multi-Residential Tax Class - the multi-residential tax category consists of two property tax classes. The multi-residential class is responsible for 3.72% of the overall tax levy while the new-multi-residential category (which includes multi-residential structures constructed after 2003) is responsible for 0.47%. It is important to note that new construction of purpose-built rental would be in the new multi-residential class, which is taxed at the same rate as residential.

Appendix 3 provides BMA metrics related to two multi-residential structure types (Walk-up and Mid/High-Rise). The walk-up style structure was identified as above the survey average by \$328 and the high-rise structure types are also above the average by \$35 for 2023.

- **Industrial Tax Class** - The relative tax burden averages for standard industrial for the Region is higher than the BMA survey average as provided in Appendix 3 (Niagara is taxing \$2.00/square foot, while the BMA average is \$1.65/square foot). However, this is partially offset by the many incentive programs currently offered by the Region including tax increment and development charge related grants, specifically under the Employment and Brownfield pillars, that reduce the actual tax burden experienced by some industrial properties in Niagara.
- **Commercial Tax Class** - These properties pay the second largest share (after residential) of Regional taxes at 17.43%. Appendix 3 illustrates that Niagara taxation of office buildings and motels are lower than the BMA average (\$3.11 tax/square foot vs. \$3.21 tax/square foot and \$1,223 tax/unit vs. \$1,253 tax/unit respectively) while Niagara's taxation of shopping centres and hotels (\$4.39 tax/square foot vs. \$3.89 tax/square foot and \$2,054 tax/unit vs. \$1,675 tax/unit respectively) are above the BMA averages. Tax appeals in this class are significant and the property class has benefited from significant reduction due to assessment appeals such that it has generated the lowest assessment growth percentage. The impact of reduced assessment further increases the overall burden experienced by properties in other classes. This property class is also eligible for Employment and Brownfield related tax increment grant programs.

2023 Property Tax Impacts

Table 3 – Regional Tax Increases for Status Quo Policy

Taxation Class	2023 Avg. CVA	2023 Regional Taxes	2024 Avg. CVA	2024 Regional Taxes*	\$ Increase
Residential	\$298,000	\$1,859	\$298,000	\$1,985	\$126
Multi-Residential	\$2,517,300	\$30,913	\$2,517,300	\$33,033	\$2,120
Commercial - Occupied	\$846,692	\$9,157	\$846,692	\$9,784	\$628
Industrial - Occupied	\$1,095,946	\$17,967	\$1,095,946	\$19,200	\$1,232
Farmland	\$411,679	\$642	\$411,679	\$686	\$44

*Based on draft rates utilizing the recommended 2024 tax policy.

Alternatives Reviewed

Regional staff considered alternatives to the recommendations proposed in this report. After engaging with the Area Treasurers and reviewing the tax study and historical Regional tax ratios, it was determined to maintain the status quo tax ratio for the 2024 taxation year.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

This tax policy report is aligned to Effective Region, Delivery of fiscally responsible and sustainable core services.

Other Pertinent Reports

- Bill 2023-95 – 2024 Operating Budget and Tax Levy
- CSD 3-2019 – Vacancy Program Revisions to Ministry of Finance
- CSD 48-2023- Waste Management Services Operating Budget and Requisition
- NTC 17-2023 and BRC-C 40-2023– NTC 2024 Operating Budget Additional Information

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Commissioner/Treasurer
Corporate Services

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Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Beth Brens, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, and reviewed by Helen Furtado, Director, Financial Management & Planning.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Niagara Region 2024 Tax Policy Report
Appendix 2	History of Regional Tax Ratios
Appendix 3	Performance Measures
Appendix 4	History of Regional Tax Ratios

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

BY-LAW NO. 2024-18

A BY-LAW TO SET AND LEVY THE RATE OF
TAXATION FOR REGIONAL GENERAL AND SPECIAL
PURPOSES FOR THE YEAR 2024

WHEREAS the Regional Council of The Regional Municipality of Niagara (hereinafter referred to as "The Regional Corporation") has prepared and adopted a budget including estimates of all sums it required during the year 2024 for the purposes of the Regional Corporation pursuant to Section 289 (1) of the Municipal Act 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Municipal Act");

WHEREAS Regional Council by By-law No. 2023-85 adopted the 2024 Waste Management Budget; and by By-law No. 2023-93 adopted the 2024 Transit Budget; and by By-law No. 2023-95 adopted the 2024 Operating Budget and Tax Levy;

WHEREAS for the purposes of raising the general levy for the Regional Corporation, the Regional Corporation shall pass a by-law directing each Lower-Tier Municipality to levy a separate tax rate, as specified in the by-law, on the assessment in each property class in the Lower-Tier Municipality rate table for the purposes of The Regional Corporation, pursuant to Section 311 (2) of the Municipal Act;

WHEREAS the tax ratios and the tax rate reductions for prescribed property classes for the 2024 taxation year have been set out in By-law No. 2024-19 of The Regional Corporation dated the 21st of March 2024;

WHEREAS The Regional Corporation is responsible for providing Waste Management services pursuant to By-laws 8280-96, 8281-96, 8282-96 and 8283-96;

WHEREAS Regional Council is desirous of imposing a special levy for Waste Management purposes and the sums required by taxation in the year 2024 for the said purposes are to be levied by separate rates by the applicable Area Municipalities as directed by Regional by-law pursuant to Subsection 311 (4) of the Municipal Act;

WHEREAS Regional Council is desirous of imposing a special levy for Transit purposes and the sums required by taxation in the year 2024 for the said purposes are to be levied by separate rates by the applicable Area Municipalities as directed by Regional by-law pursuant to Subsection 311 (4) of the Municipal Act;

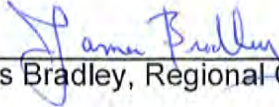
WHEREAS Regional Council established tax rates for property classes, and other decisions consistent with setting and levying rates of taxation for regional purposes for 2024.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Regional Municipality of Niagara enacts as follows:

1. That for the year 2024 in The Regional Municipality of Niagara the lower-tier municipalities shall levy upon the property tax classes set out in Schedule "A" the property tax rates applicable thereto.
2. That payment of all amounts directed to be levied pursuant to the provisions of this by-law and due to The Regional Corporation shall be due and payable in the amounts and at the times shown on Schedule "B" attached to this by-law.
3. That for the year 2024 in The Regional Municipality of Niagara, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake be required to pay \$1,963,233 to the Regional Corporation as the charges for Waste Management purposes set out in Schedule "C". The remaining area municipalities shall levy upon the property tax classes and applicable subclasses the tax rates for Waste Management purposes set out in Schedule "C" attached to this by-law.
4. That payment of all amounts directed to be levied pursuant to the provisions of this bylaw respecting Transit and due to The Regional Corporation shall be due and payable in the amounts and at the times shown on Schedule "D" attached to this by-law.
5. That for the year 2024 in The Regional Municipality of Niagara, the area municipalities shall levy upon the property tax classes and applicable subclasses the tax rates for Transit purposes set out in Schedule "E" attached to this by-law.
6. That if a lower-tier municipality fails to make any payment or portion thereof as provided in this by-law, the lower-tier municipality shall pay to the Regional Corporation interest due on the amount in default at the rate of fifteen (15) per cent per annum from the due date of the payment until the payment is made.

7. That this by-law shall come into force and effect on the day upon which it is passed.

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA


James Bradley, Regional Chair


Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

Passed: March 21, 2024

**Schedule A–2024 TAX RATIOS, SUB-CLASS REDUCTIONS, AND
RATES**

Property Classification	Tax Ratio	Sub-Class Reduction	Tax Rate by Class
Residential	1.000000	0.0%	0.00666111
New Multi-Residential	1.000000	0.0%	0.00666111
Multi-Residential	1.970000	0.0%	0.01312239
Commercial	1.734900	0.0%	0.01155636
Commercial - Excess	1.734900	0.0%	0.01155636
Commercial - Vacant	1.734900	0.0%	0.01155636
Landfill	2.940261	0.0%	0.01958540
Industrial	2.630000	0.0%	0.01751872
Industrial - Excess	2.630000	0.0%	0.01751872
Industrial - Vacant	2.630000	0.0%	0.01751872
Pipelines	1.702100	0.0%	0.01133788
Farmland	0.250000	0.0%	0.00166528
FAD 1	1.000000	25.0%	0.00499583
FAD 2	Class Ratio	0.0%	Class Ratio
Managed Forests	0.250000	0.0%	0.00166528

Schedule B – 2024 GENERAL TAX LEVY**2024 Upper-Tier General Levy and Dates by Local Municipality (Taxable Levy Only)**

Municipality	Interim Payment Due March 6, 2024	Interim Payment Due May 8, 2024	Final Payment Due August 7, 2024	Final Payment Due October 9, 2024	2024 Approved General Levy	Regional Dept.	Niagara Regional Police	Niagara Regional Housing	Niagara Peninsula Conserv Authority	Court Services
Fort Erie	6,959,861	6,959,861	8,496,813	8,496,813	30,913,348	18,108,936	12,061,987	282,382	465,278	(5,235)
Grimsby	8,445,732	8,445,732	9,869,660	9,869,660	36,630,784	21,458,191	14,292,857	334,608	551,331	(6,203)
Lincoln	6,911,590	6,911,590	8,058,220	8,058,220	29,939,620	17,538,529	11,682,052	273,487	450,622	(5,070)
Niagara Falls	23,254,765	23,254,765	27,174,829	27,174,829	100,859,188	59,082,973	39,353,948	921,311	1,518,035	(17,079)
Niagara-on-the-Lake	9,559,325	9,559,325	11,068,611	11,068,611	41,255,872	24,167,552	16,097,506	376,857	620,943	(6,986)
Pelham	4,743,460	4,743,460	5,692,131	5,692,131	20,871,182	12,226,268	8,143,665	190,650	314,133	(3,534)
Port Colborne	3,517,599	3,517,599	4,133,321	4,133,321	15,301,840	8,963,766	5,970,580	139,777	230,308	(2,591)
St. Catharines	28,209,204	28,209,203	32,355,874	32,355,874	121,130,155	70,957,638	47,263,417	1,106,478	1,823,134	(20,512)
Thorold	4,998,433	4,998,433	6,350,039	6,350,039	22,696,944	13,295,794	8,856,053	207,328	341,612	(3,843)
Wainfleet	1,662,599	1,662,599	1,967,985	1,967,985	7,261,168	4,253,568	2,833,214	66,328	109,288	(1,230)
Welland	9,297,393	9,297,393	11,177,596	11,177,596	40,949,978	23,988,360	15,978,150	374,063	616,339	(6,934)
West Lincoln	3,551,812	3,551,812	4,062,355	4,062,355	15,228,334	8,920,707	5,941,899	139,105	229,202	(2,579)
Regional Total Taxable Only	111,111,773	111,111,772	130,407,434	130,407,434	483,038,413	282,962,282	188,475,328	4,412,374	7,270,225	(81,796)

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY**2024 Upper-Tier Special Levy (Waste Management) and Dates by Local Municipality (Taxable Levy Only)**

Municipality	Interim Payment Due March 6, 2024	Interim Payment Due May 8, 2024	Final Payment Due August 7, 2024	Final Payment Due October 9, 2024	2024 Approved Special Levy
Fort Erie	\$856,542	\$856,542	850,933	850,933	3,414,949
Grimsby	\$630,425	\$630,425	618,513	618,512	2,497,875
Lincoln	\$534,804	\$534,804	577,180	577,181	2,223,969
Niagara Falls	\$2,232,108	\$2,232,107	2,174,732	2,174,733	8,813,680
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$488,057	\$488,057	493,567	493,566	1,963,247
Pelham	\$394,579	\$394,579	399,748	399,748	1,588,654
Port Colborne	\$556,439	\$556,439	540,663	540,663	2,194,204
St. Catharines	\$3,361,269	\$3,361,269	3,350,010	3,350,009	13,422,557
Thorold	\$516,071	\$516,071	572,188	572,187	2,176,517
Wainfleet	\$170,389	\$170,389	163,688	163,689	668,155
Welland	\$1,260,762	\$1,260,762	1,270,148	1,270,1149	5,061,819
West Lincoln	\$290,494	\$290,494	280,574	280,575	1,142,137
Regional Total Taxable Only	11,291,939	11,291,938	11,291,943	11,291,943	45,167,763

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY

Fort Erie Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	3,870,279,233	0.00073584	2,847,917
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00073584	-
Multi-Residential	43,161,796	0.00144960	62,567
Commercial	259,076,705	0.00127661	330,740
Commercial - Excess	5,143,488	0.00127661	6,566
Commercial - Vacant	20,963,200	0.00127661	26,762
Landfill	0	0.00216356	-
Industrial	49,960,854	0.00193526	96,687
Industrial - Excess	981,341	0.00193526	1,899
Industrial - Vacant	4,633,700	0.00193526	8,967
Pipelines	17,389,000	0.00125247	21,779
Farmland	58,959,800	0.00018396	10,846
FAD 1	0	0.00055188	-
Managed Forests	1,190,100	0.00018396	219
Taxable Total	4,331,739,217		3,414,949

Grimsby Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	4,624,114,679	0.00045422	2,100,391
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00045422	-
Multi-Residential	27,616,000	0.00089481	24,711
Commercial	334,070,763	0.00078803	263,258
Commercial - Excess	9,973,525	0.00078803	7,859
Commercial - Vacant	16,604,500	0.00078803	13,085
Landfill	0	0.00133553	-
Industrial	51,941,305	0.00119460	62,049
Industrial - Excess	3,617,295	0.00119460	4,321
Industrial - Vacant	4,157,600	0.00119460	4,967
Pipelines	8,287,000	0.00077313	6,407
Farmland	94,763,095	0.00011356	10,761
FAD 1	0	0.00034067	-
Managed Forests	584,800	0.00011356	66
Taxable Total	5,175,730,562		2,497,875

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY

Lincoln Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	3,559,530,667	0.00049480	1,761,250
New Multi-Residential	3,811,500	0.00049480	1,886
Multi-Residential	20,192,200	0.00097476	19,683
Commercial	226,733,342	0.00085843	194,635
Commercial - Excess	8,046,700	0.00085843	6,908
Commercial - Vacant	4,516,500	0.00085843	3,877
Landfill	0	0.00145484	-
Industrial	105,767,058	0.00130132	137,637
Industrial - Excess	2,875,600	0.00130132	3,742
Industrial - Vacant	7,345,000	0.00130132	9,558
Pipelines	21,728,000	0.00084220	18,299
Farmland	536,611,073	0.00012370	66,379
FAD 1	0	0.00037110	-
Managed Forests	926,700	0.00012370	115
Taxable Total	4,498,084,340		2,223,969

Niagara Falls Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	9,452,617,426	0.00058209	5,502,229
New Multi-Residential	54,737,900	0.00058209	31,862
Multi-Residential	334,774,189	0.00114672	383,892
Commercial	2,418,254,138	0.00100987	2,442,122
Commercial - Excess	35,777,850	0.00100987	36,131
Commercial - Vacant	128,995,400	0.00100987	130,269
Landfill	3,152,500	0.00171150	5,396
Industrial	110,564,392	0.00153090	169,263
Industrial - Excess	6,296,757	0.00153090	9,640
Industrial - Vacant	28,950,600	0.00153090	44,320
Pipelines	46,591,000	0.00099078	46,161
Farmland	83,474,398	0.00014552	12,147
FAD 1	0	0.00043657	-
Managed Forests	1,707,300	0.00014552	248
Taxable Total	12,705,893,850		8,813,680

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY

Niagara-on-the-lake Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Multi-Residential	N/A	N/A	N/A
Multi-Residential	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commercial	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commercial - Excess	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commercial - Vacant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Landfill	N/A	N/A	N/A
Industrial	N/A	N/A	N/A
Industrial - Excess	N/A	N/A	N/A
Industrial - Vacant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pipelines	N/A	N/A	N/A
Farmland	N/A	N/A	N/A
FAD 1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Managed Forests	N/A	N/A	N/A
Taxable Total			1,963,247

Pelham Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	2,803,859,339	0.00050702	1,421,625
New Multi-Residential	966,700	0.00050702	490
Multi-Residential	18,604,000	0.00099883	18,582
Commercial	106,255,150	0.00087963	93,465
Commercial - Excess	674,511	0.00087963	593
Commercial - Vacant	8,200,000	0.00087963	7,213
Landfill	0	0.00149077	-
Industrial	6,442,200	0.00133346	8,590
Industrial - Excess	45,100	0.00133346	60
Industrial - Vacant	101,000	0.00133346	135
Pipelines	17,967,000	0.00086300	15,506
Farmland	173,178,700	0.00012676	21,952
FAD 1	0	0.00038027	-
Managed Forests	3,491,000	0.00012676	443
Taxable Total	3,139,784,700		1,588,654

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY

Port Colborne Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	1,699,662,140	0.00095517	1,623,463
New Multi-Residential	913,000	0.00095517	872
Multi-Residential	39,890,000	0.00188168	75,060
Commercial	140,891,261	0.00165712	233,474
Commercial - Excess	501,900	0.00165712	832
Commercial - Vacant	2,385,400	0.00165712	3,953
Landfill	0	0.00280845	-
Industrial	80,427,390	0.00251210	202,042
Industrial - Excess	2,706,689	0.00251210	6,799
Industrial - Vacant	6,005,400	0.00251210	15,086
Pipelines	10,859,000	0.00162579	17,654
Farmland	57,683,974	0.00023879	13,774
FAD 1	1,359,300	0.00071638	974
Managed Forests	926,100	0.00023879	221
Taxable Total	2,044,211,554		2,194,204

St. Catharines Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	12,571,965,833	0.00073812	9,279,700
New Multi-Residential	141,355,620	0.00073812	104,337
Multi-Residential	678,919,668	0.00145410	987,217
Commercial	2,016,852,108	0.00128056	2,582,700
Commercial - Excess	9,195,129	0.00128056	11,775
Commercial - Vacant	22,309,700	0.00128056	28,569
Landfill	0	0.00217027	-
Industrial	158,673,485	0.00194126	308,026
Industrial - Excess	4,500,359	0.00194126	8,736
Industrial - Vacant	21,695,800	0.00194126	42,117
Pipelines	31,393,000	0.00125635	39,441
Farmland	162,242,600	0.00018453	29,939
FAD 1	0	0.00055359	-
Managed Forests	0	0.00018453	-
Taxable Total	15,819,103,302		13,422,557

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY

Thorold Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	2,640,994,960	0.00063876	1,686,982
New Multi-Residential	106,235,800	0.00063876	67,859
Multi-Residential	43,152,800	0.00125836	54,302
Commercial	177,702,596	0.00110818	196,926
Commercial - Excess	2,692,213	0.00110818	2,983
Commercial - Vacant	7,913,200	0.00110818	8,769
Landfill	0	0.00187812	-
Industrial	50,688,966	0.00167994	85,154
Industrial - Excess	3,374,734	0.00167994	5,669
Industrial - Vacant	17,765,100	0.00167994	29,844
Pipelines	27,113,000	0.00108723	29,478
Farmland	53,017,740	0.00015969	8,466
FAD 1	0	0.00047907	-
Managed Forests	531,400	0.00015969	85
Taxable Total	3,131,182,509		2,176,517

Wainfleet Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	961,108,525	0.00061294	589,100
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00061294	-
Multi-Residential	457,000	0.00120749	552
Commercial	21,603,605	0.00106339	22,973
Commercial - Excess	929,500	0.00106339	988
Commercial - Vacant	832,500	0.00106339	885
Landfill	0	0.00180220	-
Industrial	8,824,600	0.00161203	14,226
Industrial - Excess	85,300	0.00161203	138
Industrial - Vacant	132,000	0.00161203	213
Pipelines	6,016,000	0.00104329	6,276
Farmland	212,224,215	0.00015324	32,521
FAD 1	0	0.00045971	-
Managed Forests	1,848,789	0.00015324	283
Taxable Total	1,214,062,034		668,155

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY

Welland Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	4,699,985,491	0.00082338	3,869,864
New Multi-Residential	28,213,500	0.00082338	23,230
Multi-Residential	137,789,700	0.00162206	223,503
Commercial	391,327,283	0.00142848	559,003
Commercial - Excess	9,271,728	0.00142848	13,244
Commercial - Vacant	21,418,600	0.00142848	30,596
Landfill	0	0.00242095	-
Industrial	131,644,043	0.00216549	285,074
Industrial - Excess	3,570,500	0.00216549	7,732
Industrial - Vacant	6,345,500	0.00216549	13,741
Pipelines	22,108,000	0.00140148	30,984
Farmland	22,417,900	0.00020585	4,615
FAD 1	0	0.00061754	-
Managed Forests	1,134,200	0.00020585	233
Taxable Total	5,475,226,445		5,061,819

West Lincoln Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	1,848,487,509	0.00049959	923,480
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00049959	-
Multi-Residential	7,043,000	0.00098419	6,932
Commercial	79,198,299	0.00086674	68,644
Commercial - Excess	1,157,900	0.00086674	1,004
Commercial - Vacant	2,967,300	0.00086674	2,572
Landfill	0	0.00146892	-
Industrial	38,335,500	0.00131392	50,370
Industrial - Excess	387,300	0.00131392	509
Industrial - Vacant	1,032,000	0.00131392	1,356
Pipelines	29,179,000	0.00085035	24,812
Farmland	497,581,032	0.00012490	62,148
FAD 1	0	0.00037469	-
Managed Forests	2,481,900	0.00012490	310
Taxable Total	2,507,850,740		1,142,137

Schedule D – 2024 TRANSIT TAX RATES & LEVY**2024 Upper-Tier Special Levy (Transit) and Dates by Local Municipality (Taxable Levy Only)**

Municipality	Interim Payment Due March 6, 2024	Interim Payment Due May 8, 2024	Final Payment Due August 7, 2024	Final Payment Due October 9, 2024	2024 Approved Special Levy
Fort Erie	\$718,972	\$718,972	889,164	889,163	3,216,271
Grimsby	\$419,950	\$419,950	589,023	589,022	2,017,945
Lincoln	\$356,865	\$356,865	428,338	428,338	1,570,406
Niagara Falls	\$3,640,497	\$3,640,497	4,157,089	4,157,089	15,595,172
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$646,247	\$646,247	761,359	761,359	2,815,212
Pelham	\$279,630	\$279,630	193,639	193,638	946,537
Port Colborne	\$234,510	\$234,510	275,027	275,028	1,019,075
St. Catharines	\$5,442,724	\$5,442,724	5,068,239	5,068,239	21,021,926
Thorold	\$443,855	\$443,855	558,448	558,448	2,004,606
Wainfleet	\$62,349	\$62,349	65,989	65,990	256,677
Welland	\$1,762,220	\$1,762,220	1,349,636	1,349,636	6,223,712
West Lincoln	\$132,530	\$132,530	141,639	141,639	548,338
Regional Total Taxable Only	14,140,349	14,140,349	14,477,590	14,477,589	57,235,877

Schedule E – 2024 TRANSIT TAX RATES & LEVY

Fort Erie Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	3,870,279,233	0.00069303	2,682,226
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00069303	-
Multi-Residential	43,161,796	0.00136527	58,928
Commercial	259,076,705	0.00120234	311,498
Commercial - Excess	5,143,488	0.00120234	6,184
Commercial - Vacant	20,963,200	0.00120234	25,205
Landfill	0	0.00203769	-
Industrial	49,960,854	0.00182267	91,062
Industrial - Excess	981,341	0.00182267	1,789
Industrial - Vacant	4,633,700	0.00182267	8,446
Pipelines	17,389,000	0.00117961	20,512
Farmland	58,959,800	0.00017326	10,215
FAD 1	0	0.00051977	-
Managed Forests	1,190,100	0.00017326	206
Taxable Total	4,331,739,217		3,216,271

Grimsby Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	4,624,114,679	0.00036695	1,696,831
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00036695	-
Multi-Residential	27,616,000	0.00072289	19,963
Commercial	334,070,763	0.00063662	212,676
Commercial - Excess	9,973,525	0.00063662	6,349
Commercial - Vacant	16,604,500	0.00063662	10,571
Landfill	0	0.00107893	-
Industrial	51,941,305	0.00096508	50,128
Industrial - Excess	3,617,295	0.00096508	3,491
Industrial - Vacant	4,157,600	0.00096508	4,012
Pipelines	8,287,000	0.00062459	5,176
Farmland	94,763,095	0.00009174	8,694
FAD 1	0	0.00027521	-
Managed Forests	584,800	0.00009174	54
Taxable Total	5,175,730,562		2,017,945

Schedule E – 2024 TRANSIT TAX RATES & LEVY

Lincoln Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	3,559,530,667	0.00034939	1,243,667
New Multi-Residential	3,811,500	0.00034939	1,332
Multi-Residential	20,192,200	0.00068830	13,898
Commercial	226,733,342	0.00060616	137,437
Commercial - Excess	8,046,700	0.00060616	4,878
Commercial - Vacant	4,516,500	0.00060616	2,738
Landfill	0	0.00102730	-
Industrial	105,767,058	0.00091890	97,189
Industrial - Excess	2,875,600	0.00091890	2,642
Industrial - Vacant	7,345,000	0.00091890	6,749
Pipelines	21,728,000	0.00059470	12,922
Farmland	536,611,073	0.00008735	46,873
FAD 1	0	0.00026204	-
Managed Forests	926,700	0.00008735	81
Taxable Total	4,498,084,340		1,570,406

Niagara Falls Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	9,452,617,426	0.00102996	9,735,837
New Multi-Residential	54,737,900	0.00102996	56,378
Multi-Residential	334,774,189	0.00202902	679,264
Commercial	2,418,254,138	0.00178688	4,321,130
Commercial - Excess	35,777,850	0.00178688	63,931
Commercial - Vacant	128,995,400	0.00178688	230,499
Landfill	3,152,500	0.00302835	9,547
Industrial	110,564,392	0.00270879	299,496
Industrial - Excess	6,296,757	0.00270879	17,057
Industrial - Vacant	28,950,600	0.00270879	78,421
Pipelines	46,591,000	0.00175309	81,678
Farmland	83,474,398	0.00025749	21,494
FAD 1	0	0.00077247	-
Managed Forests	1,707,300	0.00025749	440
Taxable Total	12,705,893,850		15,595,172

Schedule E – 2024 TRANSIT TAX RATES & LEVY

Niagara-on-the-lake Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	4,443,315,978	0.00045454	2,019,662
New Multi-Residential	3,041,000	0.00045454	1,382
Multi-Residential	16,745,500	0.00089544	14,995
Commercial	760,457,432	0.00078858	599,682
Commercial - Excess	15,324,278	0.00078858	12,084
Commercial - Vacant	17,702,000	0.00078858	13,959
Landfill	0	0.00133647	-
Industrial	44,828,100	0.00119544	53,589
Industrial - Excess	192,700	0.00119544	230
Industrial - Vacant	15,270,500	0.00119544	18,255
Pipelines	19,135,000	0.00077367	14,804
Farmland	584,396,423	0.00011364	66,411
FAD 1	0	0.00034091	-
Managed Forests	1,402,100	0.00011364	159
Taxable Total	5,921,811,011		2,815,212

Pelham Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	2,803,859,339	0.00030209	847,019
New Multi-Residential	966,700	0.00030209	292
Multi-Residential	18,604,000	0.00059512	11,072
Commercial	106,255,150	0.00052410	55,688
Commercial - Excess	674,511	0.00052410	354
Commercial - Vacant	8,200,000	0.00052410	4,298
Landfill	0	0.00088822	-
Industrial	6,442,200	0.00079450	5,118
Industrial - Excess	45,100	0.00079450	36
Industrial - Vacant	101,000	0.00079450	80
Pipelines	17,967,000	0.00051419	9,238
Farmland	173,178,700	0.00007552	13,078
FAD 1	0	0.00022657	-
Managed Forests	3,491,000	0.00007552	264
Taxable Total	3,139,784,700		946,537

Schedule E – 2024 TRANSIT TAX RATES & LEVY

Port Colborne Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	1,699,662,140	0.00044362	753,997
New Multi-Residential	913,000	0.00044362	405
Multi-Residential	39,890,000	0.00087393	34,861
Commercial	140,891,261	0.00076964	108,436
Commercial - Excess	501,900	0.00076964	386
Commercial - Vacant	2,385,400	0.00076964	1,836
Landfill	0	0.00130436	-
Industrial	80,427,390	0.00116672	93,836
Industrial - Excess	2,706,689	0.00116672	3,158
Industrial - Vacant	6,005,400	0.00116672	7,007
Pipelines	10,859,000	0.00075509	8,200
Farmland	57,683,974	0.00011091	6,398
FAD 1	1,359,300	0.00033272	452
Managed Forests	926,100	0.00011091	103
Taxable Total	2,044,211,554		1,019,075

St. Catharines Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	12,571,965,833	0.00115602	14,533,502
New Multi-Residential	141,355,620	0.00115602	163,410
Multi-Residential	678,919,668	0.00227736	1,546,144
Commercial	2,016,852,108	0.00200558	4,044,958
Commercial - Excess	9,195,129	0.00200558	18,442
Commercial - Vacant	22,309,700	0.00200558	44,744
Landfill	0	0.00339900	-
Industrial	158,673,485	0.00304033	482,420
Industrial - Excess	4,500,359	0.00304033	13,683
Industrial - Vacant	21,695,800	0.00304033	65,962
Pipelines	31,393,000	0.00196766	61,771
Farmland	162,242,600	0.00028901	46,890
FAD 1	0	0.00086702	-
Managed Forests	0	0.00028901	-
Taxable Total	15,819,103,302		21,021,926

Schedule E – 2024 TRANSIT TAX RATES & LEVY

Thorold Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	2,640,994,960	0.00058831	1,553,730
New Multi-Residential	106,235,800	0.00058831	62,500
Multi-Residential	43,152,800	0.00115897	50,013
Commercial	177,702,596	0.00102066	181,374
Commercial - Excess	2,692,213	0.00102066	2,748
Commercial - Vacant	7,913,200	0.00102066	8,077
Landfill	0	0.00172978	-
Industrial	50,688,966	0.00154726	78,429
Industrial - Excess	3,374,734	0.00154726	5,222
Industrial - Vacant	17,765,100	0.00154726	27,487
Pipelines	27,113,000	0.00100136	27,150
Farmland	53,017,740	0.00014708	7,798
FAD 1	0	0.00044123	-
Managed Forests	531,400	0.00014708	78
Taxable Total	3,131,182,509		2,004,606

Wainfleet Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	961,108,525	0.00023547	226,305
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00023547	-
Multi-Residential	457,000	0.00046388	212
Commercial	21,603,605	0.00040852	8,826
Commercial - Excess	929,500	0.00040852	380
Commercial - Vacant	832,500	0.00040852	340
Landfill	0	0.00069234	-
Industrial	8,824,600	0.00061929	5,465
Industrial - Excess	85,300	0.00061929	53
Industrial - Vacant	132,000	0.00061929	82
Pipelines	6,016,000	0.00040079	2,411
Farmland	212,224,215	0.00005887	12,494
FAD 1	0	0.00017660	-
Managed Forests	1,848,789	0.00005887	109
Taxable Total	1,214,062,034		256,677

Welland Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	4,699,985,491	0.00101238	4,758,151
New Multi-Residential	28,213,500	0.00101238	28,563
Multi-Residential	137,789,700	0.00199439	274,806
Commercial	391,327,283	0.00175638	687,319
Commercial - Excess	9,271,728	0.00175638	16,285
Commercial - Vacant	21,418,600	0.00175638	37,619
Landfill	0	0.00297666	-
Industrial	131,644,043	0.00266256	350,510
Industrial - Excess	3,570,500	0.00266256	9,507
Industrial - Vacant	6,345,500	0.00266256	16,895
Pipelines	22,108,000	0.00172317	38,096
Farmland	22,417,900	0.00025310	5,674
FAD 1	0	0.00075929	-
Managed Forests	1,134,200	0.00025310	287
Taxable Total	5,475,226,445		6,223,712

West Lincoln Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	1,848,487,509	0.00023985	443,364
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00023985	-
Multi-Residential	7,043,000	0.00047250	3,328
Commercial	79,198,299	0.00041612	32,956
Commercial - Excess	1,157,900	0.00041612	482
Commercial - Vacant	2,967,300	0.00041612	1,235
Landfill	0	0.00070522	-
Industrial	38,335,500	0.00063081	24,182
Industrial - Excess	387,300	0.00063081	244
Industrial - Vacant	1,032,000	0.00063081	651
Pipelines	29,179,000	0.00040825	11,912
Farmland	497,581,032	0.00005996	29,835
FAD 1	0	0.00017989	-
Managed Forests	2,481,900	0.00005996	149
Taxable Total	2,507,850,740		548,338

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

BY-LAW NO. 2024-19

A BY-LAW TO SET TAX RATIOS AND TAX RATE
REDUCTIONS FOR PRESCRIBED PROPERTY
SUBCLASSES FOR REGIONAL PURPOSES AND
AREA MUNICIPAL PURPOSES FOR THE YEAR 2024

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 308 (5) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 as amended (referred hereinafter as “the *Municipal Act, 2001*”), The Regional Municipality of Niagara (referred hereinafter as “The Regional Corporation”) may establish the tax ratios for The Regional Corporation and the Area Municipalities;

WHEREAS the tax ratios determine the relative amount of taxation to be borne by each property class;

WHEREAS the property classes have been prescribed by the Ministry of Finance pursuant to Section 7 of the *Assessment Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. A.31, as amended;

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 313 (1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, The Regional Municipality of Niagara may establish tax reductions for prescribed property subclasses for The Regional Corporation and the Area Municipalities; and,

WHEREAS the property subclasses for which tax rate reductions are to be established are in accordance with Section 8 of the *Assessment Act*.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Regional Municipality of Niagara enacts as follows for the 2024 taxation year:

1. That the tax ratio for property in:
 - a. The residential property class is 1.000000;
 - b. The new multi-residential property class is 1.000000;
 - c. The multi-residential class is 1.970000;
 - d. The commercial property class is 1.734900;
 - e. The industrial property class is 2.630000;
 - f. The pipelines property class is 1.702100;
 - g. The farm property class is 0.250000;
 - h. The managed forest property class is 0.250000;
 - i. The landfill property class is 2.940261.

2. That the municipal purpose tax reduction for:
 - a. The first class of farmland awaiting development in the residential, multi-residential, commercial or industrial property classes is 25%;
 - b. The second class of farmland awaiting development in the residential, multi-residential, commercial or industrial property classes is 0%.
3. That for the purposes of this bylaw:
 - a. The industrial property class includes all properties classified as industrial and large industrial as per Ontario Regulation 282/98;
 - b. The first class of farmland awaiting development and the second class of farmland awaiting development consists of land as defined in accordance with Ontario Regulation 282/98.
4. That this by-law shall come into force and effect on the day upon which it is passed.

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA


James Bradley, Regional Chair


Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

Passed: March 21, 2024

March 25, 2024

Via Email:

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Re: Memorandum from H. Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator, dated February 2, 2024 re: Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Request that Council Support the Ontario Energy Board's Decision to end the Gas Pipeline Subsidy

Please be advised that at its meeting held on March 18, 2024, the Council of the Town of Whitby adopted the following as Resolution # 50-24:

Whereas residents are struggling with energy bill increases and need relief; and,

Whereas natural gas is no longer the cheapest way to heat homes because electric heat pumps are now much more efficient, can provide all heating needs even in cold climates, and result in far lower energy bills compared to gas heating; and,

Whereas natural gas is methane gas, which is a fossil fuel that causes approximately one-third of Ontario's GHG emissions, and must be phased out because it is inconsistent with all climate targets, while heat pumps result in the lowest GHG emissions and are consistent with a zero-carbon future; and,

Whereas the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decided to end a subsidy for methane gas pipelines to be built in new construction developments, effective 2025, finding that this would lower energy bills for existing gas customers and improve affordability for new homebuyers, but this decision is at risk of being overturned by the provincial government; and,

Whereas the OEB decision will help lower energy bills and encourage heating systems that are consistent with climate targets and plans; and,

Whereas the construction of new methane gas pipelines, which have 60-year lifetimes, should not be subsidized because they are inconsistent with the Town's climate targets and will result in higher carbon emissions, higher energy bills, higher future decarbonization retrofit costs to phase out fossil fuel heating, and a

continued financial drain as dollars leave the province to pay for fossil fuels extracted in other jurisdictions.

Now therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Town of Whitby expresses its support for the decision of the Ontario Energy Board to end the gas pipeline subsidy and ask the Ontario Government to allow the decision to stand; and,
2. That this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford; the Minister of Energy, Todd Smith; the Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; the Associate Minister of Housing, Rob Flack; President of AMO, Colin Best, the Region of Durham, and all local Ontario municipalities requesting support of the proposed changes.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Klein, Director, Strategic Initiatives at 905-430-4338.



Kevin Narraway
Sr. Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk

Copy: C. Harris, Director, Legislative Services/Town Clerk – clerk@whitby.ca
S. Klein, Director, Strategic Initiatives – kleins@whitby.ca

Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Energy
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Rob Flack, Associate Minister of Housing
Colin Best, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario
A. Harras, Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of Durham
All Ontario Municipalities



Council Resolution Form

Date: 21 Mar 2024 No: Resolution No.61-24
Moved By: Councillor Popkie Disposition: CARRIED.
Seconded by Councillor Thomson
Item No: 12.1

Description: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

RESOLUTION:

That Council support the resolution passed by the Council of Tay Township during their December 20, 2023 Council Meeting regarding the Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request, including that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider several points of concern to assist municipalities with the growing concern of cemetery transfers;

And furthermore, that a copy of this resolution and a copy Tay Township's resolution be circulated to the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Recorded Vote Requested by:

.....n/a.....

	Yea	Nay
J. Levesque	_____	_____
T. Popkie	_____	_____
L. Thomson	_____	_____
R. Tripp	_____	_____
R. Weir	_____	_____


MAYOR

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

.....n/a.....

Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),
abstained from discussion and did not vote

TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street
PO Box 100
Victoria Harbour, Ontario
L0K 2A0



Received December 21, 2023
C-2023-442

December 21, 2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

sent via email Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org

Dear Hon. Todd McCarthy,

Re: Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request – Tay Township

Tay Township Council passed the following resolution during the December 20, 2023 Council Meeting regarding the Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request:

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;

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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 of the Township of Tay 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 and all Ontario municipalities.

Sent on behalf of Tay Township Council.

Yours truly,

Katelyn Johns, MPPA
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities/MPP, and all Ontario municipalities.

March 26, 2024

Sent by E-mail
sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
5th Floor - 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Re: Public Health Ontario Labs

Dear Minister Jones,

At its regular meeting held March 12, 2024, the Council of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood passed a resolution expressing concern about the possible closure of regional Public Health Ontario (PHO) laboratories, as stated in the [Office of the Auditor General of Ontario's Value-for Money Audit: Public Health Ontario](#).

WHEREAS the mission of Public Health Ontario (PHO) is to "enable informed decisions and get actions that protect and promote health and contribute to reducing health inequities", there are grave concerns that the closure of six community-based PHO labs will increase health inequities, especially for rural communities; and

WHEREAS combined these labs collect and process thousands of water samples and time sensitive medical tests each day; and

WHEREAS there are grave concerns about the integrity of samples being compromised if travel time is increased by centralizing all tests to a few locations; and

WHEREAS these labs already process overflow tests and samples when labs such as Toronto and Ottawa cannot keep up to demand and many scaled up to meet demand during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS frequent drinking water testing services is vital for Ontarians who draw their water from private drinking water systems (i.e. wells) and protecting groundwater quality and quantity is a shared responsibility.

As stewards of care for the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2022*, Council urges the provincial government to take caution against acting on the recommendations stated in the aforementioned audit report.

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Sincerely,



Melanie Hudson, Clerk
Township of Asphodel-Norwood

Encl./ Letter of Concern from former senior managers of Public Health Ontario (PHO)

Cc: MPP David Piccini | david.piccinico@pc.ola.org
MP Philip Larence | philip.lawrence@parl.gc.ca
Ontario Municipalities

Letter of Concern regarding Regional Public Health Ontario Laboratories

December 18, 2023

We, the undersigned, are a group of retired senior managers who were long term employees of Public Health Ontario (PHO), with extensive knowledge of regional laboratory operations and the public health system. We are writing to express our concerns with PHO's laboratory modernization plan, discussed recently in the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario's *Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario* (report dated December 2023).

Our major concern rests with the recommendation to close 6 of the 10 regional, fully accredited laboratories based in Peterborough, Orillia, Hamilton, Kingston, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins, which serve communities in 15 public health unit jurisdictions. This change will impact about 85 laboratory personnel and a number of Infection, Prevention and Control (IPAC) staff who are also housed in some of those sites. In addition to these closures, there is a concerning recommendation to gradually eliminate drinking water testing services for Ontarians who draw their water from private drinking water systems (e.g. wells). We believe the associated risks to public health were not properly analyzed during the investigative process and such measures, if approved by the Ontario government, could be detrimental.

The regional laboratory sites serve all of PHO's clients located outside the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). They act as a first contact when specific testing is required by public health units, hospital and community labs, long term care homes, clinicians and private citizens within their regions; and they provide access to over 270 diagnostic tests related to diseases of public health significance listed in O. Reg 135/18 under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. The high number of specimens processed during the COVID pandemic at these locations is a testament to the ability of these labs to respond quickly to emerging pathogens, to manage outbreaks and to assist with surveillance.

The Auditor General's report has a financial focus, and in this respect, inefficiencies are outlined which we acknowledge need to be addressed. However, PHO's regional laboratory sites indicated for closure offer analyses requiring specialized training, such as the identification of parasites, ticks (important due to the increasing risk of Lyme disease), and pathogenic fungi. Having multiple sites competent in these specialty tests adds backup support into the system and enables the management of surge capacity, especially in outbreak situations. Two of these regional sites are also associated with postsecondary institutions, providing academic placements and research opportunities.

In addition to the diagnostic testing of medical samples, regional laboratory locations conduct the majority of testing for indicators of bacterial contamination in private drinking water systems, as well as public drinking water and beach water submitted by Ontario Parks and public health unit staff, supporting their Safe Water programs under Ontario public health standards. With water samples being time and temperature sensitive, any increase in the transportation time can have a negative impact on sample integrity. The current geographical configuration of PHO's laboratory network allows clients direct access to information and testing, and samples are transported from drop off depots in the communities quickly and efficiently. Loss of these regional labs could result in increased courier costs, increased turn-around times, and possible rejection of samples, due to integrity issues. In short, their closing will have a direct and dramatic impact on PHO's ability to achieve its mandate: the protection and promotion of public health.

PHO's laboratory sites test between 150,000 to 175,000 private drinking water samples each year at no cost to the submitter. With the recommendation to phase out PHO's drinking water service, private citizens who do not have access to municipally treated drinking water will have to submit their samples to a licensed private laboratory, which currently can cost more than \$150 per sample. Considering the current economic state in Ontario, some residents may consider the cost prohibitive and decide not to monitor their water source, thereby reducing sampling rates. As a result, people will be unaware of the quality of their drinking water, which can put them at a higher risk of contamination. Private drinking water sources, in particular, are susceptible to contamination at significantly higher rates than municipal systems. With the removal of this testing service at PHO, there will also no longer be a centralized database containing bacteriological test results that are available for PHO's researchers or public health unit staff, who use it to determine contamination rates in their regions.

The *Report of the Walkerton Inquiry* (2002) discusses the tragic impact of provincial budget cuts on water testing services in the 1990s in Walkerton, Ontario. In 1996, the Ministry of Environment regional laboratories were closed as a cost saving measure, and the testing that they performed on municipal drinking water systems was privatized. Justice Dennis O'Connor, who authored the Walkerton report, highlighted how this action "connected directly" to the Walkerton *E.coli* O157:H7 and *Campylobacter jejuni* outbreak in May 2000 (part 1, p. 406), which resulted in seven deaths and 2,300 illnesses. Recognizing the importance of the private drinking water testing service offered by Ontario's public health laboratory sites, Justice O'Connor suggested that the province maintain free, bacteriological water testing for private well owners.

Overall, we are concerned that, if the recommendation to close 6 of the 10 regional PHO locations and to phase out private water testing is approved, there will be serious negative impacts on public health. Rather than reduce health inequities across the province of Ontario, we feel the proposed changes will do the opposite. We caution the provincial government against acting on these recommendations without fully understanding the ramifications and the complex logistics required in specimen handling to deliver timely results. While the Auditor General's report has a financial focus, which is important, we caution that an up-to-date, independent impact assessment be carried out using a *public health* focus. Stakeholders, including members of the public, should be consulted, as well. As we have seen in the past, an effective public health network is needed, not only to ensure essential day-to-day testing, but also to respond to emerging public health emergencies, such as Walkerton, SARS, West Nile and COVID.

Key Resources

O'Connor, Dennis R. (2002). *Report of the Walkerton Inquiry*. 2 parts. Toronto: Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. https://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/e_records/walkerton/index.html

Office of the Auditor General of Ontario. (2023). *Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario*. https://auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arreports/en23/AR_publichealth_en23.pdf

Signatories

Rena Retallick

Former Operations Director, Regional Public Health Laboratories

CONTACT: rena.retallick@gmail.com

Jean Cousineau

Former Technical Manager, Timmins Regional Public Health Laboratory

Elizabeth Pszczolko
Former Manager, Thunder Bay Regional Public Health Laboratory

John Jessop
Former Manager, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Timmins Regional Public Health Laboratories

Leslee Shuttleworth
Former Manager, Ottawa Public Health Laboratory

Robin Eddington
Former Manager, Orillia Public Health Laboratory

Cindy Froats
Former Manager, Kingston Public Health Laboratory

Pamela O'Brien
Former Manager, Peterborough Public Health Laboratory

Suzan Breton
Former Manager, Sault Ste. Marie Public Health Laboratory

Monica Murphy
Former Quality and Technical Manager, Public Health Laboratories
Former Manager, Windsor Public Health Laboratory

Debbie Sikora
Former Manager, Kingston Public Health Laboratory

Doreen Graham
Former Senior Manager, Central North Region

Dr. Fred Ball
Former Manager, Thunder Bay Public Health Laboratory

Twyla Harcourt
Former Manager, Peterborough Public Health Laboratory

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Niagara Transit Commission – Solar Eclipse Service Plan

Date: March 27, 2024

To: Regional Council, Area CAO's, Niagara Transit Commission Board

From: Rob Addy, Deputy General Manager Transit Operations

After careful consideration regarding the suspension of transit services during the Solar Eclipse on April 8th, initially discussed at the February 20th Niagara Transit Commission (NTC) Board meeting, the NTC's Operations Team has opted to maintain regular service throughout the day. Niagara Region Transit (NRT) will operate at full capacity on April 8th, albeit with anticipated significant delays. Our communications team will advise riders to limit non-essential travel and expect delays accordingly. To ensure operational efficiency, a full complement of supervisors will be deployed across all hubs and terminals to monitor service adjustments as necessary.

Due to expected network congestion, CAD/AVL services may experience limitations or interruptions as indicated by the Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC). Consequently, vehicle communications and tracking will rely on our LMR radio system exclusively.

Our decision to maintain service aligns with feedback from key stakeholders, including post-secondary institutions and health services, who have not planned schedule alterations. Additionally, heightened event activity in key communities and on campuses underscores the need for uninterrupted transit services.

In Niagara Falls, we will assist in moving attendees to and from events with the WEGO fleet. The service normally supports major events in the tourism core and will focus on moving people to or away from the Table Rock or main stage areas before and after concerts etc. connecting with the Niagara Parks Commission's Greenline WEGO buses and GO trains. Planned route alterations will be similar to New Year's Eve service and other large events in the Clifton Hill, and Queen Victoria Park tourism areas.

For our specialty services providers, we recommend limiting pre-bookings on April 8th. On the day, bookings for all vehicles will be open to optimize ride distribution and accommodate traffic disruptions, ensuring efficient delivery of specialized trips.

As a safety precaution, viewing glasses will be provided to staff, with explicit instructions against their use while driving. During the period of totality, all buses will pull over under the direction of Supervision.

The plans around the day remain fluid, as more information comes in. NRT remains committed to prioritizing safety in our service delivery, despite potential reliability challenges on that day. There are planned meetings with supervisory staff, and community partners to ensure we can effectively address concerns and provide up-to-date information to help keep the buses moving.

NTC Operations is dedicated to providing safe, reliable transit service to our riding public. While reliability may be compromised on April 8th, our unwavering focus on safety will remain paramount.

Respectfully submitted and signed by



Rob Addy
Deputy General Manager Transit Operations