

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA  
CONSENT AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024**

**A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION**

- p. 1        1. Essa Building Department Report - April 2024.
- p. 2        2. Newsletter from Rural Ontario Municipal Association re: ROMA Board Highlights
- p. 3        3. Affordable Housing Bulletin Release from the Province of Ontario, re: Municipal Development and Community Benefits Charges, and Parkland – Effective June 1, 2024
- p. 8        4. Correspondence from Hemson Consulting Ltd. dated April 29, 2024, re: Municipal Finance Changes Arising from Bill 185.
- p. 15       5. Memo from MHBC dated April 30, 2024, re: Bill 185: Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024.
- p. 20       6. Memo from MHBC dated April 30, 2024, re: Proposed 2024 Provincial Planning Statement .
- p. 27       7. Correspondence from the Township of Amaranth dated March 12, 2024, re: Resolution – Operational Budget Funding.
- p. 28       8. Correspondence from the Town of Bracebridge dated March 14, 2024, re: Resolution – Funding Request to the Province of Ontario for New Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework.
- p. 30       9. Correspondence from the Town of Orangeville dated May 1, 2024, re: Ontario Heritage Act Amendment – Request for Deadline Extension.
- p. 34       10. Correspondence from the Municipality of Calvin dated January 30, 2024, re: Support Resolution - Provincial National Fire Fighting Strategy.
- p. 38       11. Policy Update from AMO, re: “Team Ontario” Federal Infrastructure Funding Agreement Negotiation and Bill 185 Comments to Standing Committee.
- p. 40       12. Correspondence from the Nottawasaga Conservation Authority:  
a) April 30, 2024 – Media Release – NVCA Board of Directors Advocates to Province to Maintain Free Testing for Private Wells.
- p. 41       b) May 7, 2024 – Media Release – Apply for NVCA Permits Early to Avoid Delays.
- p. 43       c) NVCA Board Meeting Highlights – April 2024.
- p. 46       13. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe, re: May 8, 2024 – County Council Highlights – Council Meeting (April 30, 2024) / Committee of the Whole Meeting (April 9, 2024).

**B – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR ACTION**

None.

**C – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR REVIEW AND REPORT TO COUNCIL**

None.

AI

Apr-24						
Current						
Permits Issued	# Permits Issued	# Permits Issued YTD	Monthly Construction Value of Permits Issued	Construction Value of Permits Issued YTD	Monthly Building Permit Fees	Building Permit Fees YTD
Residential	22	75	\$1,712,080.00	\$14,891,989.00	\$26,454.50	\$169,979.55
Commercial	2	7	\$502,960.00	\$953,360.00	\$2,440.00	\$8,992.00
Industrial	2	1	\$668,600.00	\$4,000,000.00	\$2,096.50	\$9,473.00
Institutional	1	3	\$1,000,000.00	\$688,600.00	\$650.00	\$2,296.50
Public Utilities	1	3	\$3,883,640.00	\$1,444,000.00	\$31,641.00	\$3,950.00
Agricultural	27	89	\$14,764,077.00	\$21,977,949.00	\$108,629.28	\$194,691.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>\$5,619,415.00</b>	<b>\$14,764,077.00</b>	<b>\$65,155.45</b>	<b>\$108,629.28</b>
Y.O.Y.	21	74				<b>79.23%</b>

NEW SFD CONSTRUCTION					
Dwelling Units Created					
Type	Current Month	YTD	Dwelling Const. Value	Dwelling Const. Value YTD	
SFD/SEMI/ROW	4	27	\$1,126,080.00	\$12,002,489.00	
Mult Res Bldgs		0		\$0.00	
Accessory Apt within Existing Res Bldg		0		\$0.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>\$1,126,080.00</b>	<b>\$12,002,489.00</b>	
Y.O.Y.	9	26	\$5,009,560.00	10,309,137.00	
	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>3.85%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>16.43%</b>	

Reviewed by CBO Pedro Granes



Sarah Corbett

Subject:

FW: ROMA Newsletter: Economic Development, Broadband Highlights



#### ROMA Board Highlights

- At the 2024 ROMA Conference, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Lisa Thompson launched a consultation process to create a new **Rural Economic Development Strategy**. The Ministry is seeking input from municipalities and the public on the strategy. AMO is providing feedback that includes input from the ROMA Board. Municipalities, associations and the public can provide additional feedback to the Ministry [online](#).
- In April, ROMA's Board voted to support efforts by the **Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) for a [five-year rural road safety initiative](#)**. OGRA is seeking provincial partnership for better approach to road design and safety features to reduce speeding and collisions on rural roads.
- **Broadband expansion remains a top priority**. The 2025 deadline for province-wide access to reliable internet service is approaching. Rural municipalities played a key role in securing broadband investment that promised to expand broadband to all Ontario residents. Municipalities are playing a key role again in successful roll out by working with internet service providers (ISPs) to support timely approvals. Watch for more information on this topic in an upcoming newsletter.
- Springtime is also conference season. ROMA is proud to provide funding to support upcoming conferences by [Ontario Small Urban Municipalities \(OSUM\)](#), [the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association \(NOMA\)](#) and the [Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities \(FONOM\)](#). All Ontario municipalities – regardless of size, type or tier – need to work together to advance shared priorities.

For more information about ROMA's April meeting, take a moment to watch the ROMA Board [video update](#).

## Municipal development and community benefits charges, and parklands

Information on how municipalities can predict and recover costs of development and help increase housing supply in Ontario.

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### Overview

Municipalities can help pay for the important local infrastructure, services, and parkland that growing communities need through municipal development-related charges (MRDCs), which include:

1. development charges
2. community benefits charges
3. parkland dedication

### Development charges

Municipalities can apply development charges on a new development to help pay for the capital costs of infrastructure to support new growth.

Development charges are discretionary fees. This means that municipalities can choose whether to use development charges and, if they are used, which services or infrastructure they want to include from the list of eligible services in the *Development Charges Act, 1997* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/97d27#BK4>). These services are:

- water supply services, including distribution and treatment services
- wastewater services, including sewers and treatment services
- storm water drainage and control services
- services related to a highway as defined in subsection 1 (1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/01m25#BK1>) or subsection 3 (1) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/06c11#BK4>), as the case may be
- electrical power services
- Toronto-York subway extension, as defined in subsection 5.1 (1) in O. Reg 192/07 Toronto-York subway extension (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/070192#s5s1>)
- transit services other than the Toronto-York subway extension
- waste diversion services
- policing services
- fire protection services
- ambulance services
- services provided by a board under the *Public Libraries Act* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p44>)
- services related to long-term care
- parks and recreation services, but not the acquisition of land for parks
- services related to public health

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- child care and early years programs and services under part VI of the *Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/14c11>) and any related services
- services related to proceedings under the *Provincial Offences Act* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p33>), including by-law enforcement services and municipally administered court services
- services related to emergency preparedness
- services related to airports, but only in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo

#### **How municipalities can implement a development charge**

Municipalities must pass a by-law to set development charges for different types of development. Before passing a development charge by-law, a municipality must prepare a development charge background study as set out in legislation (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/97d27#BK16>).

Municipalities must calculate development charges separately for each eligible service, or class of services, detailed in their development charge by-law.

To give more predictability and certainty about development charges:

- rates are frozen either at the time of site plan or zoning application and will remain frozen for a period of two years after the relevant application is approved.
- multi-year deferrals of payments apply for certain types of development, such as:
  - rental housing
  - institutional developments such as long-term care

To encourage the supply of affordable and rental housing:

- non-profit housing developments are exempt from development charges, community benefits charges and parkland dedication
- affordable and select attainable residential units are exempt from development charges, and developments that include this type of housing are subject to reduced community benefits charges and parkland dedication (effective June 1, 2024)
- purpose-built rental units receive discounts on development charges of up to 25% for family-friendly units

Development charge by-laws may be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/citizens-guide-land-use-planning/ontario-land-tribunal>). The application of development charge by-laws to specific sites may also be appealed to the Tribunal following a complaint to municipal council.

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## **Community benefits charges**

This is a flexible tool under the *Planning Act* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p13>) that helps municipalities tackle the costs of higher density in communities with new developments. This tool replaced the former section 37 height and density bonusing in the *Act*, subject to transition rules.

Municipalities can use community benefits charges to fund the capital costs of any public service associated with new growth, including parkland, if those costs are not already recovered from development charges and parkland provisions.

#### **How municipalities can implement a community benefits charge**

To set a community benefits charge, municipalities must:

- develop a community benefits charge strategy
- pass a by-law

Requirements for a community benefits charge strategy are included in regulation (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200509>).

Community benefits charges on a development cannot exceed 4% of the value of the land. Single-tier and lower-tier municipalities (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/llst-ontario-municipalities#section-1>) can levy these charges for developments with 10 or more residential units and

five or more storeys.

Community benefits charge by-laws may be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/citizens-guide-land-use-planning/ontario-land-tribunal>). Disputes about whether a charge exceeds the maximum allowable amount can be resolved through the land value appraisal process set out in legislation.

## Parkland dedication

The *Planning Act* (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p13>) lets municipalities fund the growth-related costs of land for parks and other recreational purposes.

This ensures that residents in growing communities will continue to have access to parks and greenspace.

### How municipalities can implement parkland provisions

Municipalities can get land for parks using the basic parkland dedication provisions (<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p13#BK66>) (up to 2% of the land proposed for development or redevelopment or the cash equivalent for commercial or industrial development or 5% for any other type of development or redevelopment).

In certain circumstances municipalities can also use the alternative rates (up to 1 hectare of parkland for every 600 dwelling units or if cash-in-lieu, a ratio of 1 hectare of parkland for every 1,000 dwelling units).

For sites that are five hectares or less, the maximum alternative parkland dedication requirement is capped at 10% of the site.

For sites greater than five hectares, the maximum alternative parkland dedication requirement is capped at 15% of the site.

Parkland by-laws that use alternative rates may be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/citizens-guide-land-use-planning/ontario-land-tribunal>).

Parkland by-laws that only use basic parkland rates cannot be appealed.

When a parkland requirement is imposed as a condition of approval of a plan of subdivision or consent, it may be appealed like any other condition.

When municipalities require cash-in-lieu, the value of land may also be appealed to the Tribunal.

## Exemptions and discounts from municipal development-related charges

Through the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, we introduced exemptions and discounts from municipal development-related charges (MDRCs) for affordable residential units. These exemptions and discounts come into effect on June 1, 2024.

### Affordable Residential Units for the Purposes of the *Development Charges Act, 1997* Bulletin

This bulletin is effective June 1, 2024, and applies until replaced by a new bulletin (anticipated June 1, 2025).

This bulletin sets out the market-based (that is, average purchase prices and market rents) and income-based thresholds that are to be used to determine the eligibility of a residential unit for an exemption from development charges and exclusions from the maximum community benefits charge and parkland dedication requirements.

Applicable units must be subject to agreements that provide for them to remain affordable residential units for 25 years. Units must also be sold or rented on an arm's length basis.

For ownership housing, a unit would be considered affordable when the purchase price is at or below the lesser of:

- Income-based purchase price: A purchase price that would result in annual accommodation costs equal to 30% of a household's gross annual income for a household at the 60th percentile of the income distribution for all households in the local municipality; and

**A3.** Market-based purchase price: 90% of the average purchase price of a unit of the same unit type in the local municipality.

For rental housing, a unit would be considered affordable when the rent is at or below the lesser of:

- Income-based rent: Rent that is equal to 30% of gross annual household income for a household at the 60th percentile of the income distribution for renter households in the local municipality; and
- Market-based rent: Average market rent of a unit of the same unit type in the local municipality.

In cases of disagreement, a person (or person's agent) required to pay a development charge may complain to the council of the municipality imposing the development charge that there was an error in the application of the development charge by-law.



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Data last updated: April 5, 2024

Displaying 1 results for "essa tp"

Affordable Residential Units for the Purposes of the Development Charges Act, 1997 Bulletin

Municipality	Affordable purchase price of a detached house	Affordable purchase price of a semi-detached	Affordable purchase price of a row/townhome	Affordable purchase price of a condominium/apartment	Affordable monthly rent of a bachelor unit	Affordable monthly rent of a 1-bedroom unit	Affordable monthly rent of a 2-bedroom unit	Affordable monthly rent of a 3+ bedroom unit
Essa Tp	\$441,900	\$441,900	\$441,900	\$441,900	\$1,020	\$1,284	\$1,485	\$1,709



Hemson Consulting Ltd.

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April 29, 2024

Dear Clients,

**Re: Municipal Finance Changes Arising from Bill 185**

This letter summarizes proposed changes to municipal finance matters, including development charges (DCs), brought about by Bill 185 (the *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024*) which was released for first reading on **April 10, 2024**.

The observations we make in this letter are informed by extensive consultation with our municipal clients as well as with the Municipal Finance Officers' Association (MFOA) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). However, the views expressed below are our own.

In our view, Bill 185 is very positive for municipalities as well as developers. In respect of DCs, it would repeal the exclusion of growth-related studies' costs and mandatory 5-year phase-in of charges. If passed, this will significantly increase DC revenues and support municipal efforts to deliver growth-related infrastructure. The bill also reduces the time limit of "frozen" DCs, modernizes DC notice requirements, and implements affordable housing DC exemptions. Similar exemptions for "attainable" housing are not addressed by the bill.

Among the other legislative changes proposed by Bill 185 that have potentially important consequences for municipal finances are those that repeal planning fee refunds under the *Planning Act* and modify the prohibition on "bonusing" under the *Municipal Act*.

Submissions on the bill can be made up until **May 10, 2024** through the Environmental Registry Office (ERO 019-8371) here:

<https://www.ontariocanada.com/registry/view.do?postingId=46834&language=en>

## A. DC CHANGES ARE POSITIVE FOR MUNICIPALITIES & DEVELOPERS

Bill 185 would amend the DC Act and DC Background Study process to:

1. Re-introduce growth-related studies as a DC-eligible capital cost.
2. Remove the requirement to phase-in maximum calculated DCs over five years.
3. Allow municipalities to make minor amendments to DC By-laws in certain circumstances.
4. Reduce the timeframe for which DC rates are “frozen”.
5. Update notice requirements where local newspapers are unavailable.
6. Implement affordable housing exemptions by June 1, 2024.

Our views on each of these amendments are set out below.

### 1. Reintroducing Growth-Related Studies

Growth-related studies typically cover land use plans, policies, and regulations as well as master servicing plans that establish growth-related infrastructure needs. The studies form the basis of long-term capital programs and, by extension, reflect the intentions of municipal councils in managing long-term growth. Typically, major capital works are not approved for construction unless appropriate studies have been completed. As such, the need for studies is largely driven by development and studies had been included as a cost eligible for DC funding as far back as the original DC Act of 1989.

Bill 185 appropriately restores the cost of growth-related studies, including formal DC background studies, as a DC-eligible cost. We notes that DC Background Studies completed by Hemson since December 2023 have generally included DC calculations for growth-related studies in anticipation of this change. If the legislation passes:

- studies could be included in DC calculations either as projects within individual services or as a stand-alone service under subsection 7(3) of the DC Act; and
- DCs for studies could be included in DC By-laws passed after November 22, 2022 and before Bill 185 takes effect without the need for a background study or public meeting under the DC Act. Amending a DC By-law in this way would have to be undertaken within six months of Bill 185 taking effect.

On a less positive note, the list of DC-eligible services continues to exclude municipal parking, housing services, cemeteries, and airports (outside the Region of Waterloo). In this regard, we note that DCs for parking were historically an important funding source for many local municipalities.

Moreover, the ineligibility of housing services continues to hamper efforts by municipalities and non-profit organizations to provide housing since housing services DCs can be used to pay for a portion of municipally constructed affordable units and to provide financial support for third parties to deliver those units. The objection to using DCs to fund social housing and affordable housing overlooks the substantial “benefit to existing” shares of municipal capital expenditures that are paid for by property tax payers.

## 2. Removal of Mandatory Phase-in of Maximum DC Rates

Under the current DC Act, the maximum DCs calculated under a formal Background Study, if imposed under a new DC by-law, must be phased in over 5 years as follows:

5-Year Phase-in Requirement
Year 1 = 80%
Year 2 = 85%
Year 3 = 90%
Year 4 = 95%
Years 5 to 10 = 100%

Since its introduction through Bill 23 in November 2022, Hemson has expressed numerous concerns about the mandatory phase-in on the grounds of its unfairness, retroactivity, application to non-residential development, and fiscal impact. Other problems related to specific municipalities have also become apparent since the phase-in was enacted:

- DC rates have declined in municipalities where rate increases were less than 20%. In some cases, this has led to infrastructure delays.
- For municipalities with area-specific DC By-laws, or credit for service agreements, the phase-in has reduced the DC revenue needed to pay back developer front-ended costs. This has been especially problematic where agreements covered critical hard services in targeted growth areas.
- When combined with the freezing of DC rates, the phase-in has made calculations of the final DCs payable more complex for municipalities and less certain for developers.

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In this last respect, we note that currently frozen DCs will continue to be subject to the phased-in rates, which will be a significant financial loss for some municipalities.

Given then above, the cancellation of the mandatory phase-in should be welcomed by developers and municipalities alike. Municipalities may still wish to phase-in or otherwise delay the implementation of DC rate increases to respond to local conditions, as many have done in the past.

### **3. Streamlined Process for Some DC By-law Amendments**

Amending a DC By-law can be challenging as the DC Act requires that a DC Background Study and public meeting be a prerequisite to any amendment, no matter how minor. Under Bill 185, an amendment can be passed without these requirements if it:

1. Removes mandatory phase-in schedules from a DC By-law;
2. Adds a DC rate for growth-related studies into a DC By-law; and/or
3. Extends the life of a DC By-law from 5 years up to 10 years provided no other changes to the by-law are made, including changes to the DC rates.

Amendments 1 and 2 are only permitted for DC by-laws passed on or after November 28, 2022 and before the day the enabling section of Bill 185 comes into force. Additionally, the amending provisions will be revoked seven months after they come into force. This means that municipalities have six months to pass amending by-laws. A notice of passage of the amending by-law is still required, with necessary modifications.

Change 3 above is not limited by the six-month rule. However, any by-law amended to extend its expiry date remains subject to subsection 9(1) of the DC Act limiting the life of a by-law to 10 years.

### **4. Reduced Frozen DC Rate Period**

Under the current subsection 26.2 (5) of the DC Act, DC rates are frozen at the time of application for site plan approval or rezoning provided building permits are not issued within 2 years of application approval. Bill 185 proposes to reduce the 2-year time limit to 18 months to support the Bill's "use it or lose it" policies by incenting developers to move quickly on their projects.

In our view, this change will have little impact on either the speed of housing construction or municipal DC revenues. However, municipalities should note that frozen DC rates that apply to existing applications (pre-enactment of Bill 185) will be those that were in effect at the time of the freeze, including rates that were phased-in under Bill 23. Municipal DC tracking systems will therefore need to be quickly modified to address this complication.

## 5. Updated Notice Requirements

Providing “notice” of a statutory public meeting and passage of a DC by-law is an important part of the DC Background Study process. It allows people to be meaningfully involved in deliberations on DC rates and policies and informs them of their right to be involved, including, if necessary, their right to appeal a DC by-law. However, the requirement to publish notice either in a newspaper of sufficient circulation or by personal service, fax or mail to every landowner has been problematic as local newspapers are no longer available in many parts of the Province. Personal service and mail are extremely costly options for municipalities and most homeowners no longer own a fax machine.

The courts, as well as AMO, have promoted modernizing notice requirements for some time. The new Bill 185 provisions would allow municipalities without local newspapers to use digital options to provide notice which, in our view, would not undermine the main purpose to inform the public on DC matters.

## 6. Gearing Up to Implement Affordable Housing Exemption

The Province has been conducting extensive consultation on affordable and attainable housing DC exemptions. Under Bill 185, the affordable housing exemption would come into effect on June 1, 2024, with affordability being defined by the DC Act and Provincial “Affordable Residential Units” bulletins to be published on Ontario.ca. Affordable housing exemptions apply to both ownership and rental units and will be defined based on average market rents, average home purchase prices, and income thresholds.

It is noted that Bill 185 makes no mention of:

- standard forms of agreement to be used for the purposes of administering the affordable housing exemption, as provided for by the DC Act; or
- the DC Act’s attainable housing exemption, notwithstanding consultation on this matter that has occurred in recent months.

## B. OTHER MUNICIPAL FINANCE MATTERS

Bill 185 also proposed changes to the *Planning Act* and *Municipal Act* that have other potentially important consequences for municipal finances:

- **Planning Fees** – Among the changes to the *Planning Act* that affect municipal planning application review activities is the repeal of planning fee refunds that municipalities are required to provide if statutory application review timeframes are not met. This potentially significant fiscal liability has led to major changes to municipal review processes and a rising number of disputes over “complete” applications and pre-consultation requirements. In this regard, we agree with the Province’s own assessment that the fee refunds, rather than speeding up the review process, have in fact slowed housing approvals. It is noted that Bill 185 would also:
  - maintain eligibility for a fee refund for planning applications submitted between July 1, 2023, and the date of Bill 185 enactment;
  - exempt publicly-assisted universities from planning fees. This would mirror DC exemptions for universities, provided the development is related to their core functions, introduced to the *Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act* in 2020 and it intended to stimulate on-campus student accommodation;
  - maintain accelerated timeframes for processing applications; and
  - make pre-consultation voluntary at the discretion of the applicant.
  
- **Bonusing** – The proposed new s.106.1 of the *Municipal Act* would permit the Province to make regulations authorizing a municipality to grant direct or indirect assistance to specified manufacturing businesses or other industrial or commercial enterprises, subject to conditions. The proposal would seem to short-circuit the longstanding prohibition on municipal “bonusing” which has generally insulated local councils from pressures to subsidize individual businesses. The purpose of the change appears to be closer co-ordination of local economic development with municipalities. It may well have been inspired by the Province’s recent experience in attracting large electric vehicle operations to Ontario — notably Stellantis and Volkswagen’s EV battery plants in Windsor and St. Thomas and, most recently, Honda’s EV assembly and battery plants in Alliston (New Tecumseth). We foresee senior municipal finance officials playing a larger role in economic development decisions as a result of this change.

**C. HEMSON WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE CHANGES AND PROVIDE UPDATES**

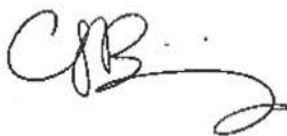
Hemson will continue to support changes to the DC Act that enable a fair and appropriate process for recovering development-related capital costs. We will continue consulting with the Municipal Finance Officers' Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and will closely monitor the financial impact of the Bill 185 changes generally and for specific clients.

Municipalities should be aware that while we expect Bill 185 to proceed swiftly through the legislative review process, it remains "draft" legislation and subject to change. A public hearing to discuss the bill has been scheduled for May 15, 2024.

In the meantime, should you have any questions about how the legislation affects your work please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours truly,

**HEMSON Consulting Ltd.**



Craig Binning  
Partner



Stefan Krzeczunowicz  
Associate Partner





PLANNING  
URBAN DESIGN  
& LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTURE

# MEMO

<b>To:</b>	Samuel Haniff, BURPI., MCIP, RPP Manager of Planning,
<b>From:</b>	Jamie Robinson, BES, MCIP, RPP
<b>Date:</b>	April 30, 2024
<b>File:</b>	Township of Essa
<b>Subject:</b>	Bill 185: Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024

## PURPOSE

To provide a high-level overview of Bill 185: Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 that received first reading on April 10, 2024. The overview focuses mainly on the amendments made to the *Development Charges Act*, *Municipal Act*, and the *Planning Act*.

## Bill 185 – PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The purpose of Bill 185 is to decrease the timeframe of government processes and meet its goal of building 1.5 million homes by 2031. The changes that are proposed are in response to stakeholder feedback. The Bill proposes to amend several prior government initiatives and proposes to amend fifteen (15) Provincial Acts, through the following fifteen schedules:

*Schedule 1: An Act to Incorporate the Trinity College School*

*Schedule 2: Arts Council Act*

*Schedule 3: Building Opportunities in the Skilled Trades Act, 2021*

*Schedule 4: City of Toronto Act, 2006*

*Schedule 5: Coroners Act*

*Schedule 6: Development Charges Act, 1997*

*Schedule 7: Hazel McCallion Act (Peel Dissolution), 2023*

*Schedule 8: Line Fences Act*

*Schedule 9: Municipal Act, 2001*

*Schedule 10: Niagara Parks Act*

*Schedule 11: Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*

*Schedule 12: Planning Act*

*Schedule 13: Poet Laureate of Ontario Act (In memory of Gord Downie), 2019*

*Schedule 14: Redeemer Reformed Christian College Act, 1998*

*Schedule 15: Université De Hearst Act, 2021*

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The following provides a brief overview of the above amendments that are relevant to the Township of Essa.

**Schedule 6: Development Charges Act**

Bill 185 proposes to revoke the five-year phase-in of new development charges (introduced through Bill 23). It further proposes to bring into force municipal development-related charge exemptions and discounts for affordable residential units. This is to aid in providing incentives for the development of affordable housing.

**Schedule 9: Municipal Act**

Through the proposed amendment, Municipalities will be able to by by-law, create a policy for the allocation of water supply and sewage capacity. This policy may include a tracking system for the water supply and sewage capacity that is available for new developments and criteria for the future allocation of the capacity to development applications. If municipalities choose to adopt this by-law, it would not be appealable to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Bill 185 grants the Lieutenant Governor in Council authority to make regulations authorizing a municipality to grant assistance, directly or indirectly, to a specific manufacturing, industrial or commercial enterprise when it is necessary to attract investment in Ontario.

**Schedule 12: Planning Act**

The amendments to the *Planning Act* are described separately below but pertain generally to the following matters:

1. Ontario Land Tribunal Appeals
2. "Use it or Lose it" Tools
3. Facilitating Standardized Housing Designs
4. Framework for Additional Units
5. Reduce Parking Minimums
6. Pre-Consultations
7. Application Fee Refunds
8. Upper Tier Municipalities
9. Exempt Universities from the Planning Act

In terms of the *Planning Act*, the goal of the Schedule 12 amendment is to expedite the supply of housing to local markets through improved government service delivery of development approvals. Some further detail of the proposed *Planning Act* amendments is provided below.

## **ONTARIO LAND TRIBUNAL APPEALS**

### **No Third Party Appeals**

Under Bill 23 the right to appeal a decision for minor variance, a draft plan of subdivision, or a consent to sever was limited to only the applicant, municipal authority, the Minister or a "specified person". This removed the right to appeal from third-party landowners, ratepayers and other members of the public. Further to these limited appeal rights, Bill 185 now proposes to extend the same limitation for municipally approved official plans, official plan amendments, zoning by-laws and zoning by-law amendments.

Bill 185 proposes that the above-mentioned rules will apply to new or existing appeals that do not have a hearing on the merits of the appeal scheduled before the Ontario Land Tribunal, with the cut-off for the transition being April 10, 2024.

### **Appeals of Settlement Area Boundaries Allowed**

Currently, there are no appeal rights for an official plan amendment or zoning by-law amendment application that would expand or alter an in-force settlement area boundary. Bill 185 proposes to allow an applicant to appeal the approval authority's refusal or non-decision, provided the proposed boundary expansion does not include land in the Greenbelt Area.

### **"USE IT OR LOSE IT" TOOLS**

As a way to free up and more closely manage the allocation of services to approved developments, Bill 185 proposes to expand municipal authority to include or retroactively impose time provisions for lapsing dates for approved site plans and draft plans of subdivision. The proposed changes will set the time period by regulation, with a default for no less than three years, if a regulation does not apply. Draft plans of subdivision will have a mandatory lapsing provision as set by regulation.

Draft plans of subdivision/condominium approved before March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1995 will lapse if they are not registered within three years of Bill 185 passing. Municipalities will be able to apply lapsing conditions on new and previous site plan control applications.

### **FACILITATING STANDARDIZED HOUSING DESIGNS**

Bill 185 proposes to create a regulation authority that would permit the creation of criteria to accelerate planning approvals for standardized housing. The changes would only apply to specific lands that meet certain criteria such as a minimum lot size. An example would be urban residential land with full municipal servicing outside of the Greenbelt. Elements of the *Planning Act* and/or *City of Toronto Act, 2006* are identified that could be overridden and/or certain planning barriers that could be removed if the criteria can be met.

### **FRAMEWORK FOR ADDITIONAL RESIDENTIAL UNITS**

New regulation making authority is proposed to be given to the minister to permit the removal of zoning barriers and include an increase in small multi-unit residential developments. If this provision

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is passed, these regulations would include the ability to remove maximum lot coverage and limits on bedrooms per lot.

### **REDUCE PARKING MINIMUMS**

The Bill is proposing that for Major Transit Station Areas and areas where minimum densities are required by official plans or provincial policies, municipalities are prohibited from having minimum parking requirements, other than to provide parking facilities for bicycles.

### **PRE-CONSULTATIONS**

Bill 185 proposes to eliminate a municipal planning authority's ability to require a pre-consultation for applications for official plan amendments, zoning by-law amendments, site plan approval and draft plans of subdivision. This will have the effect of making pre-consultations voluntary and at the discretion of the proponent.

Furthermore, currently an applicant has 30 days after a municipality has deemed the planning application incomplete to appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal. Bill 185 proposes to eliminate this deadline and permits applicants to bring a motion to determine the requirements for a complete application at any time after an application fee has been paid or a pre-consultation has begun.

### **FEE REFUND PROVISIONS**

Bill 185 is proposing to eliminate the fee refund requirements that had been introduced through Bill 109. Applications filed between July 1, 2023, and before the removal of the fee refund requirements may be eligible for a refund but any applications after the removal date will not be eligible for a refund.

### **UPPER TIER MUNICIPALITIES**

Halton, Peel, and York Region as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, will no longer have planning responsibilities. Dates to determine Planning changes for Waterloo, Niagara, Simcoe, and Durham have not been set.

### **EXEMPT UNIVERSITIES FROM THE PLANNING ACT**

Bill 185 proposes to exempt publicly assisted universities from the *Planning Act* and the planning provisions of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* for university-led student housing projects on and off campus.

MHBC would be pleased to assist you further in your review and consideration of the proposed legislative changes. Comments are being accepted on this proposed Bill until May 10, 2024. Bill 185 is posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting #019-8366 and comments can be submitted through the link found on the ERO [website](#).

Yours truly,

**MHBC**

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

Jamie Robinson, BES, MCIP, RPP  
Partner



PLANNING  
URBAN DESIGN  
& LANDSCAPE  
ARCHITECTURE

# MEMO

<b>To:</b>	Samuel Haniff, BURPI., MCIP, RPP Manager of Planning,
<b>From:</b>	Jamie Robinson, BES, MCIP, RPP
<b>Date:</b>	April 30, 2024
<b>File:</b>	Township of Essa
<b>Subject:</b>	Proposed 2024 Provincial Planning Statement

## PURPOSE

To provide a high-level overview of the proposed 2024 Provincial Planning Statement (the "PPS") that was released for comments on April 10, 2024. This overview focuses mainly on the proposed changes that apply to the Township of Essa.

## 2024 PROVINCIAL PLANNING STATEMENT – PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The vision of the draft statement includes an emphasis on building more homes for all Ontarians. The purpose of the proposed 2024 Provincial Planning Statement is to repeal the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and 2020 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and replace these documents with an integrated planning statement. Similar to the current PPS, all decisions would be required to be consistent with this new Statement. The Statement would be considered a policy statement in accordance with Section 3 of the *Planning Act*. All municipal decisions, as well as comments, submissions or advice affecting planning matters shall be consistent with the Statement. The effective date is yet to be determined.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has released the draft Statement to seek feedback. Written comments can be submitted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario responding to posting **ERO #019-6862**. The deadline for written comments is May 12, 2024. The Province intends to release the final policies to the public for a short period of time prior to them going into effect. Official Plans would not be required by the Province to be updated outside their regular review cycle (five or 10 years), however, all decisions on planning matters must be consistent with this Planning Statement regardless of whether the official plan has been updated or not.

The following is a brief overview of the applicable policy changes within the proposed 2024 Provincial Planning Statement.

## 1. GROWTH TARGETS

The Ministry of Finance creates 25-year growth projections, which are amended as necessary, and it is proposed that these projections will be the basis of population and employment growth forecasts for planning authorities.

When creating and updating Official Plans, Municipalities will be required to have sufficient land available with an appropriate range and mix of land uses to meet the projected needs for a minimum of 20 years to a maximum of 30 years. The only exception to the above noted time frame is planning for infrastructure, public service facilities, strategic growth areas and employment areas, which may extend beyond the aforementioned timeframe.

For instances where the Minister has made a zoning order, the resulting development potential shall be in addition to projected needs over the planning horizon established in the Official Plan and is to be incorporated at the time of the next Official Plan update.

## 2. COMPLETE COMMUNITIES

The term "complete communities" has been integrated into the Provincial Planning Statement and has replaced "healthy, liveable and safe communities". The term was utilized in the Growth Plan and is now defined as:

*means places such as mixed-use neighbourhoods or other areas within cities, towns, and settlement areas that offer and support opportunities for equitable access to many necessities for daily living for people of all ages and abilities, including an appropriate mix of jobs, a full range of housing, transportation options, public service facilities, local stores and services. Complete communities are inclusive and may take different shapes and forms appropriate to their contexts to meet the diverse needs of their populations.*

The draft policy has removed specific considerations for planning authorities such as "avoiding development and land use patterns which may cause environmental or public health and safety concerns" and "promoting development patterns that conserve biodiversity".

## 3. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

The draft 2024 Provincial Planning Statement has removed the requirement for and definition of comprehensive reviews of Official Plans.

## 4. SETTLEMENT AREAS AND SETTLEMENT AREA BOUNDARY EXPANSIONS

Settlement areas continue to be focus of growth and development and with the removal of the comprehensive review requirement municipalities can consider settlement area expansions at any time. The 2024 draft of the PPS updated the language that the planning authority "should consider" to "shall consider" the following:

- a. The need to designate and plan for additional land to accommodate an appropriate range of mix of land uses;
- b. if there is sufficient capacity in existing or planned infrastructure and public service facilities;
- c. where the applicable lands comprise specialty crop areas;
- d. the evaluation of alternative locations which avoid prime agricultural areas and, where avoidance is not possible, consider reasonable alternatives on lower priority agricultural lands in prime agricultural areas;
- e. whether the new or expanded settlement area complies with the minimum distance separation formulae;
- f. whether impacts on the agricultural system are avoided or where avoidance is not possible, minimized and mitigated to the extent feasible as determined through an agricultural impact assessment or equivalent analysis, based on provincial guidance; and,
- g. the new or expanded settlement area provides for the phased progression of urban development.

Previously, a Municipality was required to demonstrate that there are insufficient opportunities to accommodate forecasted growth before expanding its settlement area boundaries, and the Growth Plan prohibited identifying new settlement areas. This "needs test" has been removed in the proposed 2024 draft. A planning authority may identify a new settlement area, only where appropriate infrastructure and public service facilities are planned or available to support the proposed settlement area.

Draft policy 2.3.1.4 encourages planning authorities to create minimum targets for intensification and redevelopment in "built up areas". Further, planning authorities are encouraged to establish density targets for new settlement areas or settlement area expansions based on local conditions. For reference, "Large and fast-growing municipalities" are encouraged to plan for a minimum density target of 50 residents and jobs per gross hectare.

Planning authorities will need to establish and implement phasing policies, when appropriate, to ensure that the development in designated growth areas is orderly and aligns with the time line expected for the provision in the infrastructure and public service facilities.

## 5. HOUSING

The definition of 'low and moderate income households' has been updated in the 2024 draft Statement. The new definition is:

- a) *In the case of ownership housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 percent of the income distribution for the municipality; or*
- b) *In the case of rental housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 percent of the income distribution for renter households for the municipality.*

This policy will require Service Managers to address all types of housing options, including affordable housing and encourages intensification of developed and redeveloped areas that would result in a net increase of residential units. Draft policy 2.2.1(b)2, specifically identifies



underutilized shopping malls and plazas as commercial sites that have the potential for redevelopment.

Municipalities will be required to establish and implement minimum targets for the provision of housing that is affordable to low and moderate income households, and coordinate land use planning and planning for housing with Service Managers.

## **6. STRATEGIC GROWTH AREAS**

Planning authorities are encouraged to identify and focus growth and development in specific strategic growth areas which are areas within settlement areas, nodes and corridors, and other areas identified by a municipality to be the focus of creating complete communities, different housing options, intensification, and mixed-use developments.

Polices encourage planning authorities to prioritize planning and investment for infrastructure and public service facilities, develop a student housing strategy, develop parameters for what would be the appropriate scale, type, and transition of development to adjacent areas, permit development and intensification to support the achievement of complete communities and a compact built form, and encourage redevelopment of retail areas to support mixed-use residential.

## **7. MAJOR TRANSIT STATION AREAS**

This section is not applicable to your municipality.

The draft Statement would incorporate the existing minimum density targets for major transit station areas from the Growth Plan. All municipalities that have major transit station areas are required to delineate the boundary on higher order transit corridors (within 500-800 metres) through a new official plan or an official plan amendment.

Draft policy 2.4.2.2 stipulates mandatory minimum density targets within major transit station areas on higher order transit corridors. The minimum density targets are being integrated from the Growth Plan. Planning authorities are encouraged to promote intensification and development within these areas by supporting the development of parking (including commuter lots) to be transit supportive and promote complete communities.

Major transit station areas should be enhanced to encourage multi-modal access that accommodates a range of mobility needs and supports. Planning authorities should plan intensification on lands adjacent to existing and planned frequent transit corridors. This term is a new proposed term, which means public transit service runs at minimum every 15 minutes in both directions throughout the day and into the evening every day of the week.

## **8. EMPLOYMENT AREAS**

The definition of 'employment areas' is proposed to be changed in both the Planning Act ("Area of Employment") and the proposed 2024 Provincial Planning Statement. Uses that cannot

locate in mixed use areas, such as heavy industry, manufacturing and large-scale warehousing are permitted in employment areas while residential, public service facilities, institutional, commercial, and retail and office not associated with the primary employment use are prohibited. The term "Employment Area" is now defined in the proposed 2024 Provincial Planning Statement as:

*means those areas designated in an Official Plan for clusters of business and economic activities including manufacturing, research and development in connection with manufacturing, warehousing, goods movement, associated retail and office, and ancillary facilities. Uses that are excluded from employment areas are institutional and commercial, including retail and office not associated with the primary employment use listed above.*

Municipalities can consider (and landowners can apply for) the removal of land from employment areas. The tests to be met include that there is an identified need for the removal, and the land is not required for employment area over the long term; the proposed uses would not negatively impact the overall viability of the employment area by: avoiding, or where avoidance is not possible, minimizing and mitigating potential impacts to existing or planned employment area uses in accordance with land use compatibility policies, and maintaining access to major goods movement facilities and corridors. Further considerations for evaluating a conversion proposal include that existing or planned infrastructure and public service facilities are available to accommodate the proposed uses; and the municipality has sufficient employment lands to accommodate projected employment growth to the horizon of their approved official plan. It is understood that long-term employment targets will be in Official Plans and be based on Ministry of Finance projections.

The draft Statement encourages mixed-use development, and the intensification of employment uses provided they are compatible and do not present potential adverse effects. Planning authorities are to encourage economic development and competitiveness through creating an appropriate transition between sensitive land uses and employment areas. Development of industrial, manufacturing, and small-scale warehousing uses that are compatible adjacent to sensitive land uses should be encouraged. This area should coincide with strategic growth areas and mixed-use areas where transit is accessible.

## **9. RURAL AREAS AND RURAL LANDS**

The 2024 Draft does not propose significant changes to the PPS (2020) policies in rural areas. The rural settlement areas are still to be focus of growth and development in rural areas. However, it is important to note that the draft statement does not specifically identify multi-lot residential development as a permitted use on rural lands. Instead, the more generally described permitted use of "residential development, including lot creation, where site conditions are suitable for the provision of appropriate sewage and water services" is included.

The 2024 draft Statement requires planning authorities to plan for land use compatibility between sensitive land uses and employment areas especially resource-related uses by directing non-related development to areas where it minimizes constraints on these uses.

## 10. AGRICULTURE

In the new draft PPS, Municipalities are not required to use the provincially mapped Agricultural System but are required to use an agricultural system approach, based on provincial guidance, to maintain and enhance a geographically continuous agricultural land base and support and foster the long-term economic prosperity and productivity of the agri-food network. Municipalities will be required to designate and protect prime agricultural areas for long-term use for agriculture. Planning authorities are encouraged to support local food, near urban and urban agriculture and encourage a strong agri-food network.

Draft policy 4.3.2.4 permits an agricultural operation to have a principal dwelling in prime agricultural areas as an agricultural use, except when restricted by policy 4.3.3. In addition to the principal dwelling, draft policy 4.3.2.5 permits two additional residential units provided they comply with the minimum distance separation formulae, are compatible with surrounding operations, have appropriate sewage and water services, and are able to address public health and safety concerns. Furthermore, the size of the additional dwellings are limited and are to be located within, attached or in close proximity to the principal dwelling or farm building cluster, and minimize the amount of agricultural land being taken out of agricultural production.

Draft policy 4.3.3.1 discourages lot creation in prime agricultural lands but provides criterion for three specific circumstances for lot creation including for agricultural uses; agriculture-related uses; and up to one residence surplus to an agricultural operation for farm consolidation. As such, additional residential units can only be severed if they can satisfy the residence surplus to an agricultural operation for farm consolidation, and only one may be severed at that time.

Non-agricultural uses, Draft policy 4.3.5.2 requires an agricultural impact assessment or equivalent analysis based on provincial guidance in areas that it is not possible to avoid impacts of non-agricultural (new or expanding) uses on surrounding lands.

## 11. NATURAL AND HUMAN-MADE HAZARDS

Planning authorities are to collaborate with conservation authorities (where they exist) to identify hazardous land and hazardous sites and manage possible development within them following provincial guidance.

The 2024 draft statement removes the requirement for planning authorities to support through, planning and development approvals, the on-site and local reuse of excess soil, while protecting human health and the environment.

## 12. OTHER NOTABLE CHANGES

- A new term has been included "large and fast-growing municipalities". These municipalities are listed on Schedule 1 of the proposed 2024 Provincial Planning

Statement and are comprised of 29 municipalities that make a large portion of Ontario's current population. Effectively these municipalities include: Toronto, York, southern Durham, Peel, Halton, Hamilton, London, Waterloo, Kitchener, Ottawa, Brantford, Guelph, Kingston, Niagara Falls and St. Catharines. These municipalities are required to identify and focus growth in strategic growth areas through specific policy requirements such as minimum density targets (Proposed Policy 2.4.1).

- When planning for lands for employment outside of *employment areas* and taking into account the transition of uses to prevent *adverse effects*, a diverse mix of land uses, including residential, employment, *public service facilities* and other institutional uses shall be permitted to support the achievement of *complete communities*. Official Plans and Zoning By-laws cannot be more restrictive than the above noted policy except for the purpose of public health and safety (Proposed Policy 2.8.1.3 and 2.8.1.4).
- All Municipal decisions, including Zoning By-laws and permitting processes, must be consistent with the proposed 2024 Provincial Planning Statement, even before a Municipality's Official Plan has been updated (Proposed Policy 6.1.6 and 6.1.7).
- The term "housing options" has been revised to include: laneway housing, garden suites, rooming houses, additional needs housing, multi-generational housing, student housing, farm worker housing, culturally appropriate housing, supportive, community and transitional housing.

Yours truly,

**MHBC**



Jamie Robinson, BES, MCIP, RPP  
Partner



374028 6TH LINE • AMARANTH ON • L9W 0M6

March 12, 2024

Hon. Paul Calandra  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Sent by email to: Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org

**Re: Operational Budget Funding**

At its regular meeting of Council held on March 6, 2024, the Township of Amaranth Council passed the following resolution.

**Resolution #: 4**

**Moved by: G Little**

**Seconded by: A. Stirk**

Whereas all Ontario municipalities are prohibited from running budget deficits for operating purposes, and;

Whereas all Ontario municipalities have similar pressures with respect to aging infrastructure and operating costs for policing, and;

Whereas the City of Toronto has recently received Provincial funding to cover a \$1.2 billion dollar operating shortfall and approximately \$12 million in Federal and Provincial funding for their Police operating budget, and;

Whereas the City of Toronto has the lowest tax rates in the Province, approximately 40% less than the average Dufferin rural municipal tax rate.

**Be It Resolved That** the Township of Amaranth call on the Province of Ontario to treat all municipalities fairly and provide equivalent representative operational budget funding amounts to all Ontario municipalities.

**CARRIED**

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any further information on this matter.

Yours truly,

Nicole Martin, Dipl. M.A.  
CAO/Clerk  
C: Premier of Ontario; AMO; Ontario Municipalities



March 14, 2024

**Re: Item for Discussion – Resolution of Support Regarding Request to the Province of Ontario for New Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework**

At its meeting of March 13, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motion #24-GC-053, regarding Resolution of Support Regarding Request to the Province of Ontario for New Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework, as follows:

**"WHEREAS** the current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

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

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

**AND WHEREAS** unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

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

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

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

**AND WHEREAS** the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

**AND WHEREAS** municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Town of Bracebridge calls on the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking, with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;

1000 Taylor Court  
Bracebridge, ON  
P1L 1R6 Canada

telephone: (705) 645-5264  
corporate services and finance fax: (705) 645-1262  
public works fax: (705) 645-7525  
planning & development fax: (705) 645-4209

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AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Finance; the Local Member of Provincial Parliament; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO); the Muskoka and Area Indigenous Leadership Table (MAILT); and all Ontario Municipalities."

In accordance with Council's direction, I am forwarding you a copy of the resolution for your reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional clarification in this regard.

Yours truly,



Lori McDonald  
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk



Town of Orangeville

87 Broadway, Orangeville, ON L9W 1K1

Tel: 519-941-0440

Fax: 519-415-9484

Toll Free: 1-866-941-0440

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**Corporate Services**

May 1, 2024

**Re: Ontario Heritage Act Amendment**

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Orangeville, at its Regular Council Meeting held on April 29, 2024, approved the following resolution:

**Whereas the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* (Bill 23) received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022. As part of this omnibus Bill, several changes were implemented to various pieces of legislation, including but not limited to, *The Planning Act, The Development Charges Act, The Conservation Authorities Act, and The Ontario Heritage Act;***

**And 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, 2024 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 Section 29(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* on or before January 1, 2025;**

**And whereas, the Heritage Orangeville committee comprises of a handful of dedicated volunteers who are not able to review the current non-designated register containing 454 properties on or before the deadline of December 31, 2024;**

**And whereas, Heritage Orangeville committee along with staff members would need to review the municipal heritage register, research the heritage value and interest of listed 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;**



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And whereas the above noted work involving 454 listed properties in the Town of Orangeville is extremely time-consuming and cannot be completed by December 31, 2024 with the current resources available given other competing interests including reviewing and supporting new housing development proposals;

Now therefore be it resolved that:

1. The Council of the Town of Orangeville request 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; and
2. That the Mayor be authorized to send a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario and Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, John Ecker, Chair, Ontario Heritage Trust; and
3. That the Town Clerk be directed to send a copy of this motion to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Provincial MPPs, Municipal Councils across the province, and the Architectural Conservatory of Ontario (ACO).

Carried Unanimously.

Yours truly,

*Raylene Martell*

Raylene Martell  
Town Clerk

May 6, 2024

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

Dear Premier Ford,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing today to bring to your attention a matter of significant importance to the Town of Orangeville, regarding an element of the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Bill 23).

As you are aware, this omnibus Bill introduced several changes to various pieces of legislation, including the Planning Act, the Development Charges Act, The Conservation Authorities Act, and the Ontario Heritage Act. It is within the context of the latter that I am reaching out to you today.

Specifically, I wish to draw your attention to subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act, which stipulates that any non-designated heritage property that is listed on the municipal register as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, shall be removed from the register on or before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, unless the Council of the municipality gives notice of intention to designate the property under section 29(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Heritage Committee for the Town of Orangeville, comprised of dedicated volunteers, alongside our staff members, have diligently worked to review the current non-designated register, which contains a staggering 454 properties. However, despite their best efforts, they are unable to complete this monumental task by the looming deadline due to resource constraints and competing interest, most notably the urgent need to review and support new housing development proposals.

Therefore, on behalf of Council for the Town of Orangeville, I am requesting an amendment to subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act, extending the deadline from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2030. This extension will provide the necessary time and resource allocation to thoroughly assess each property's heritage value, engage with property owners, and take the appropriate steps to designate those deemed significant under the provisions of section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

In light of the urgency of this matter, I kindly ask for your support in facilitating this amendment. I have been authorized to by my Council to send this letter and its attached resolution, which received unanimous support at our Council meeting on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

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Thank you in advance for your quick attention to this pressing issue, and I look forward to your prompt consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lisa Post'.

Lisa Post  
Mayor

- cc. Hon. Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
- Hon. Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin/Caledon, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
- John Ecker, Chair of the Ontario Heritage Trust
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- All Ontario MPPs
- Municipal Councils across the Province
- Architectural Conservatory of Ontario (ACO)



## Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin Council Resolution

**Date:** January 30, 2024

**Resolution Number:** 2024-31

**Moved By:** Councillor Moreton

**Seconded By:** Councillor Manson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Results: Carried**

**Recorded Vote:**

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

# AMO Policy Update: "Team Ontario" Federal Infrastructure Funding Agreement Negotiation and Bill 185 Comments to Standing Committee

## "Team Ontario" Approach

On April 18, Minister Calandra sent a [letter](#) to AMO's President proposing a collaborative "Team Ontario" approach to federal infrastructure funding agreement negotiations. AMO strongly supports municipalities working collaboratively with the province to achieve the alignment needed across all the levels of government to get housing built in Ontario.

These much-needed investments could help offset some of the approximately \$100 billion in municipal capital expenditures planned over the next 10 years - but the funding requirements need to make sense for Ontario. While details remain unclear regarding eligibility for upper-tier municipalities, the potential impact of the proposed development charge freeze is a definite concern for all municipalities with populations over 300,000. A potential three-year freeze on development charges on these municipalities could actually reduce their ability to keep pace with anticipated growth.

AMO will continue to work with municipal staff and provincial officials to ensure the federal government understands the impacts these restrictions would have on development in Ontario. By municipalities and the province working together, we can ensure these federal funds are accessible and effectively address the critical infrastructure needs of all Ontario municipalities.

For a broad overview of key infrastructure funding programs, AMO has developed this helpful resource to give our sector a full picture of its [infrastructure funding](#).

## Bill 185 Comments to Standing Committee



All

Yesterday, AMO commented and [provided a written submission](#) on the Bill at the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs' public hearings. Comments focused on the positive outcome of the province's collaboration with municipalities, demonstrated with the reversal of two key Bill 23 development charge reversals. AMO called for the reversal of additional development charges to enable municipalities to fund the infrastructure required for growth.

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\*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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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NVCA Board of Directors advocates to province to maintain free testing for private wells**

UTOPIA, Ontario (April 30, 2024) – Today, NVCA’s Board of Directors sent a letter to the Province of Ontario to call on the province to not phase out free well-water testing for private wells.

Ontarians who get their drinking water from municipal sources are protected by the *Clean Water Act* and *Safe Drinking Water Act*. Although residents on private wells have benefitted from free water testing provided by the Ontario government, they do not have the same legislated protections, putting the residents responsible for protecting and monitor their own drinking water sources.

“Free well-water testing is a critically important public service and a vital public-health measure for rural residents across our watershed,” said Jonathan Scott, Vice Chair of the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA). “The NVCA board urges the provincial government to maintain free well-water testing. It’s the right thing to do to ensure equitable access to safe drinking water.”

Well water safety largely depends on the activities conducted around the well. Even if a well is properly installed and maintained, bacteria can contaminate the drinking water if septic systems, manure or pet waste is located too close to the well.

A large proportion of residents in the Nottawasaga Watershed rely on private wells for drinking water. Through local health units, the Ontario government tests water from private wells for bacteria such as E. coli to prevent serious gastrointestinal illnesses.

NVCA encourages watershed residents to contact their local health unit for more information about private well water testing, or download the [Testing and Treating Private Water Wells factsheet](#) developed by the Government of Ontario.

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**Nottawasaga Valley**  
Conservation Authority

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Apply for NVCA permits early to avoid delays**

UTOPIA, Ontario (May 7, 2024) – Property owners in the Nottawasaga Watershed are urged to apply early for permits from the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) to avoid unexpected delays.

Property owners may need to get a permit from NVCA to do projects on or near a watercourse, river, stream, pond, wetland, steep slope, floodplain or the Georgian Bay shoreline. These areas are considered natural and hazardous. Depending on the complexity of the project, getting a permit may take longer than anticipated.

“We require specific information from property owners to determine if the project will be safe from flooding, erosion and other natural hazards,” said Ben Krul, Manager of Development Planning & Permits. “In some cases, technical studies are required, and may take property owners some time to develop. We try our best have a quick turnaround for projects that are considered low risk and do not require technical studies, but it may still take up to 30 days.”

NVCA is responsible for regulating activities in natural and hazardous areas to avoid damage to property and loss of life due to flooding and erosion. Through provincial regulations that came into effect on April 1, 2024, NVCA will issue permits within 90 days of receiving a complete application.

Property owners are encouraged book a pre-consultation with NVCA’s Planning team. At the pre-consultation, staff will review project plans and provide the steps required to complete the permit application.

To learn more about common natural hazards found in the Nottawasaga Watershed and where development should be placed in order to be safe, [visit NVCA’s website](#).

For more information and to book a pre-consultation, call NVCA’s Planning team at 705-424-1479 or email [permits@nvca.on.ca](mailto:permits@nvca.on.ca).

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**About NVCA:** The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands.

**Media contact:** Maria Leung, Senior Communications Specialist, 705-424-1479 ext.254, [mleung@nvca.on.ca](mailto:mleung@nvca.on.ca)



## NVCA April 2024 Board Meeting Highlights

**Next Meeting: May 24, 2024, held virtually**

For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit [NVCA's website](#).

### NVCA Vice Chair acclaimed as Vice Chair on Conservation Ontario Board of Directors

On April 15, 2024, Jonathan Scott, the Vice Chair of NVCA's Board of Directors was acclaimed as vice chair of Conservation Ontario during the association's annual general meeting in Richmond Hill.

### 2023 Financial Statement

NVCA receives clean audit for 2023.

Board members received the 2023 NVCA audited financial statements as presented by KPMG LLP Chartered Accountants. [The financial statement is available on NVCA's website](#).

### Presentation on Enforcement and Compliance

Meagan Kieferle, NVCA's Senior Regulations Officer gave a presentation regarding NVCA's enforcement and compliance.

Through the *Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act)*, NVCA is responsible for protecting life and property from natural hazards such as flooding and erosion.

Enforcement tools and compliance measures play a vital role in achieving this goal by ensuring the requirements *CA Act* and associated regulations are enforced.

If activities contravene the *CA Act*, NVCA's regulations officers work with the parties involved to mitigate impacts to the environment and obtain compliance.

NVCA's regulation officers assess the violation to determine where the potential for risk is

highest, and focus efforts on resolving matters that have the most significant impacts.

Although every person who is convicted of an offence would be liable for a penalty, NVCA prefers to resolve non-compliance through voluntary compliance when possible.

Where voluntary compliance is possible, NVCA will work with the landowner to restore the work area to pre-existing conditions to avoid further enforcement action. Depending on the activity, NVCA may consider retroactive approvals.

With recent changes to the *CA Act*, NVCA officers now have additional tools such as stop work orders to reduce negative impacts to the environment.

### Deputation

Andrew Pascuzzo from Pascuzzo Planning Inc. gave a presentation regarding NVCA Permits for Wood Avenue Semis.

### Customer Satisfaction Report

In 2013, NVCA adopted a Customer Service Charter and Strategy that sets out the authority's commitment to providing excellence in customer service. Continuous improvement is a key element of the charter.

[Please visit NVCA's website to view the 2023 Customer Service Satisfaction Report.](#)

### Regulations

In 2023, 67 individuals and organizations completed a client survey on the NVCA permit application process. The survey is sent to all those receiving NVCA permits.

The responses that were ranked as good or excellent in 2023 was 73%, slightly higher than the 68% rating received in 2022.

In 2023, NVCA contracted Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. to review planning and regulation program rates and assess the full cost of providing plan review and permitting services, applicant affordability, competitiveness, and industry best practices.

Based on the recommendations received, NVCA staff have developed and presented an updated fee structure to the Board of Directors. The draft fees have been circulated to the development community, member municipalities, the agriculture community, aggregate industry and members of the public for comment.

Once the province lifts the freeze on conservation authority planning and development fees, and subject to the Board's approval, the new fees will be phased in over a two-year period.

## **Lands**

NVCA's conservation areas received 89 reviews in 2023, one from a customer satisfaction survey, and 88 reviews on Google's business listings.

Ninety-three (93%) of the reviews received on Google were 4-star or 5-star reviews. The conservation areas that received the most reviews were Nottawasaga Bluffs Conservation Area, Edenvale Conservation Area and Minesing Wetlands Conservation Area.

## **Education**

NVCA's environmental education program provides hands-on, curriculum-aligned programs for JK to grade 12 students. Thousands of students take part in these programs each year.

In 2023, 8 teachers submitted feedback surveys on NVCA's virtual environmental education programs.

Of those responding, 100% of the respondents ranked the program as excellent.

## **Stewardship**

NVCA's stewardship services include the Nottawasaga River Restoration Program, the

Healthy Waters grant program, and other projects to protect and enhance our watershed.

Comments received from funders and landowners generally describe the expertise and results achieved by that NVCA's stewardship staff.

## **Weddings**

In 2023, the Tiffin Centre for Conservation hosted 24 wedding celebrations. Ten of these couples responded to a wedding feedback survey.

Of those responding, 100% rated NVCA's customer service as excellent, and 100% said they would recommend the Tiffin Centre as a wedding venue to others.

## **Update of Administrative Bylaws for the Board of Directors**

NVCA's Board of Directors approved updates to the administrative bylaws to simplify the NVCA Board of Director election process.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Arbor Day**

NVCA will hold its 34th annual Arbor Day Tree Sale. A variety of bareroot tree and shrub seedlings will be available for sale. Trees and shrubs are sold in bundles of 10 for \$35 each. Tree availability is on a first come first serve and cannot be reserved.

**Date:** May 11, 2024

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

### **Tree Planting Event on the Mad River**

Volunteer to plant trees along the creek with Friends of the Mad River and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority from 9 a.m. to noon. This is a great way for students to get their volunteer hours. Pre-registration required. [Register here.](#)

**Date:** May 5, 2024

**Location:** 2295 Nottawasaga Concession 6 Creemore, ON L0M 1G0

**Let the River Flow: Mad River benefit concert**

A benefit concert in support of "The Friends of the Mad River", a local, community-based group of volunteers who are committed to restoring and sustaining the Mad River as a healthy habitat for all who rely on it. [Free registration encouraged on Eventbrite](#). This is a "Pay What You Can" event, cash donations at the door or donate online at the [Canada Helps link](#).

**Date:** May 26, 2024

**Location:** St. John's United Church, 192 Mill Street Creemore, ON L0M 1G0

**Tiffin Nature Program (for preschoolers)**

Tiffin Nature Program will help preschoolers gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet. Children learn about risky play, and develop a better understanding of their relationship with the land.

**Half Day Dates:** Tuesdays March 19, 2023 – June 4, 2024

**Full Day Dates:** Thursdays March 21, 2023 – June 6, 2024

**Location:** Tiffin Centre for Conservation

Sarah Corbett

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Subject:

FW: County Council Highlights - Meeting Held April 30, 2024



Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based on approved material from within the associated agenda packages, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agendas from the **Council Meeting on April 30, 2024** and the **Committee of the Whole Meeting on April 9, 2024**. For more information on any item covered in the Highlights, each article is hyperlinked to the appropriate report, which can be accessed by clicking on the title. Images are also linked to relevant resources.

A recording of these sessions is also available for public viewing on the [County's YouTube channel](#).

- Service Simcoe

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## Council - April 30, 2024

During County Council, Warden Basil Clarke reiterated his congratulations to the Town of New Tecumseth and the region on Honda Canada's history-making decision to expand its operations and continue investing in Simcoe County, at its Alliston facility. With this being a major employer in our region for over 38 years, the County is proud to expand this partnership. This is the single largest investment by an international auto manufacturer



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in the history of Canada, the impact on our region will be felt for decades to come.



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## Committee of the Whole – April 9, 2024

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## Public Access Defibrillation Program Update

The County of Simcoe Paramedic Services (CSPS) engaged in the Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program beginning in 2005 to help increase the survival rate of citizens suffering from cardiac arrest in this region. This program has empowered both citizens and visitors of Simcoe County to play an active role in the chain of survival during sudden cardiac arrest in the community.

Since 2005, the County of Simcoe has been working with the community to enhance survival rates of out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrests (SCA).

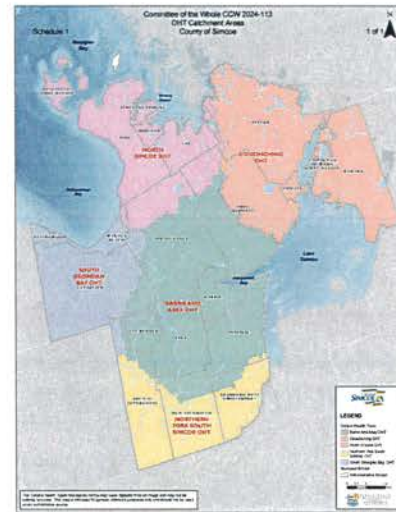
Through strategic initiatives focused on boosting public awareness and education, providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid training, and strategically placing Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in public locations, the County has emerged as a leader in advocating for the widespread adoption and utilization of AEDs.

This program has empowered both citizens and visitors of Simcoe County to play an active role in the chain of survival during sudden cardiac arrest in the community. Purchasing a defibrillator and joining the program provides participants with installation assistance, on-site training, compliance and support programs, access to additional training, and aftercare support, ensuring they are well-equipped to respond effectively in critical situations.

Heart & Stroke Canada reports that “an estimated 60,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of a hospital. Most cardiac arrests happen in public places or at home, and only one in 10 survives. But survival rates can double if someone takes fast action and performs CPR and uses an automated external defibrillator (AED).”

## Ontario Health Team Program

In 2019, the Government of Ontario, through Connecting Care Act, established a new model of care to enable patients, families, communities, providers, and system leaders to work better together, innovate, and build on what is best in Ontario’s health care system. This model of care is called Ontario Health Teams (OHTs).



OHTs are comprised of groups of providers and organizations that are clinically and fiscally accountable for delivering a full and coordinated continuum of care to a defined population of Ontarians (based on geographic area). Once provincially designated, OHTs will be responsible for the health outcomes of a population within a specific geographic area.

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The OHT model's goal is transformation of healthcare funding and service delivery in Ontario through integration focused on improving outcomes and experiences. This is grounded in the experience and expertise of front-line health care providers and focuses on supporting the patient journey across the full continuum of their care.

The County OHT program recognizes the significant role of the County as a primary stakeholder in the planning, coordination and delivery of health care services. County participation is imperative to ensure integrated and collaborative programs and services that build vibrant, healthy and sustainable communities across the region.

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## Year End Financial Report for the Corporation of the County of Simcoe

The Year End Financial Report informs County Council of the financial results, and year-end performance indicators for 2023. The report provides the County's statement of operations, with a comparison to the 2023 budget, in addition to the balances for both the reserves and the financing requirements. The report highlights some key performance indicators to supplement year-end financial reporting to allow for measuring, reporting, and monitoring of progress to manage, maintain and improve business performance. The first section of the report highlights the Consolidated County level information, and the second section provides the details by department with the variance explanations.

Overall, the 2023 year-end operating deficit was \$67K or 0.01% of the County of Simcoe \$574M operating expense budget. Capital surplus was \$195K resulting in a total surplus of \$128K.

Council approved that the 2023 surplus be allocated to the General Contingency Reserve.

For 2023, the credit rating firm, Standard and Poors, provided the following: affirmed credit rating on the County of Simcoe at 'AA+' with a stable outlook. The rating reflects Standard & Poor's assessment of the County's stable economy, healthy budgetary performance, and strong liquidity.

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Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - April 9, 2024

Council Meeting Agenda - April 30, 2024

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