



Agenda
Owen Sound City Council

September 22, 2025
City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers
No Closed Session

The public can attend meetings in person. Meetings will be livestreamed to the City's Council and Committee webpage and can be viewed live on Rogers Cable TV or the Rogers TV Website. If there are technical issues with the livestream that can't be fixed within 15 minutes, the meeting will continue, and a recording will be available later, on the webpage or by contacting the City Clerk. People who can't attend the meeting in person for Public Forum, should send their comments to the City Clerk one business day before the meeting. These comments will be shared with members and included in the updated agenda.

	Pages
1. CALL TO ORDER	
2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
4. CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES	
4.a Minutes of the Closed Session of the Special Council meeting held on July 21, 2025	
4.b Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on September 8, 2025	4
5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	
<u>COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</u>	
6. PUBLIC MEETINGS	
There are no public meetings.	
7. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	
7.a Deputation from Tamara Sargent, Owen Sound Resident, Re: Circulating Petitions and Charter-Protected Rights at Public Events	
7.b Presentation from the City Manager Re: City Manager's Update	14
8. PUBLIC FORUM	

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF COUNCIL IS REQUIRED

There are no correspondence items being presented for consideration.

10. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

- | | | |
|------|--|----|
| 10.a | Report CM-25-027 from the City Manager Re: Update Following the July 28 Community Stakeholder Discussion to Foster a Vibrant River District | 28 |
| 10.b | Report CM-25-031 from the Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction Re: Municipal Support for Proposed Hydrogen Peaking Plant | 42 |
| 10.c | Report CS-25-104 from the Director of Community Services Re: High Priority Tree Removals | 55 |
| 10.d | Report CR-25-109 from the City Clerk Re: 2026 Election Report No. 1 | 61 |
| 10.e | Verbal Report from the Deputy Mayor Re: Grey County Council | |

11. CONSENT AGENDA

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|------|--|----|
| 11.a | Report CR-25-125 from the Manager of Corporate Services Re: Emergency Purchase - Water Treatment Plant Intake and Zebra Mussel Chlorine Line Repairs | 68 |
| 11.b | Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: River District Board of Management meeting held on July 9, 2025 | 72 |
| 11.c | Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lachile Liquidation and Afro Caribbean Groceries, a retail liquidation and Afro Caribbean grocery store at 1006 2nd Ave E• George Plester is the new owner of PWR Power Fade Golf, a golf simulator business located at 290 9th St E• Hawker and Peddler License issued to Ontario Festival Group to operate the 2025 Owen Sound Ribfest Show at the Bayshore from September 12 to 14• Hawker and Peddler License issued to the Owen Sound Agricultural Society to operate vendors at the Fall Fair from September 4 to 6 | |
| 11.d | Correspondence received which is presented for the information of Council | 79 |

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

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|------|--|-----|
| 12.a | Minutes of the Service Review Implementation Ad-hoc Committee meeting held on September 10, 2025 | 100 |
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12.b	Minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on September 11, 2025	104
13.	MATTERS POSTPONED	
13.a	Report CR-25-110 from the City Clerk Re: 2026 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar	109
14.	MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN	
	There are no motions for which notice was previously given.	
15.	DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS	
16.	MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT	
	<u>FORMAL SESSION</u>	
17.	MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	
18.	NOTICES OF MOTION	
19.	MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION	
	There is no Closed Session.	
20.	REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION	
	There is no Closed Session.	
21.	BY-LAWS	
21.a	By-law No. 2025-109	
	"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 22nd day of September, 2025"	
22.	ADJOURNMENT	



Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

September 8, 2025

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East

5:30 p.m. - Open Session - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Scott Greig
Councillor Jon Farmer
Councillor Brock Hamley (via video)
Councillor Marion Koepke
Councillor Suneet Kukreja
Councillor Carol Merton
Councillor Melanie Middlebro'

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Mayor Ian Boddy
Councillor Travis Dodd

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Phil Eagleson, Fire Chief
Bradey Carbert, Manager of Corporate Services
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Greig called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Greig provided remarks in recognition of the passing of Ann Kelly, former City Councillor. Council observed a moment of silence in honour of Ms. Kelly.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 2.a Councillor Farmer Re: Summerfolk Festival 50th Anniversary and Upcoming Civic Engagement Opportunities
- 2.c Councillor Middlebro' Re: Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular and AMO Update
- 2.e Deputy Mayor Greig Re: Concours d'Elegance

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hamley - Item 21.i - By-law 2025-103 Re: Executing a Contribution Agreement with His Majesty in Right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Transportation respecting a Connecting Links Program contribution - Intake 10 (Highway 26 at 16th St E pedestrian tunnel rehabilitation)

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest with item 21.i due to his personal employment with the Province of Ontario.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on July 21, 2025
- 4.b Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on July 21, 2025

R-250908-001
Moved by Councillor Koepke
Seconded by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT the minutes of the following Council meetings be adopted as printed:

- 1. The Special Council meeting held on July 21, 2025; and**
- 2. The Regular Council meeting held on July 21, 2025."**

Carried.

5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-250908-002
Moved by Councillor Koepke
Seconded by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT City Council now move into Committee of the Whole to consider public meetings, deputations and presentations, public question period, matters arising from correspondence, reports of City staff, consent agenda, committee minutes, matters postponed, motions for which notice was previously given and additional business."

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

6. PUBLIC MEETINGS

There were no public meetings.

7. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 7.a Deputation from Representatives of the Owen Sound Attack Hockey Club Re: Owen Sound Attack Update

Bob Severs and Amelia Boyd of the Owen Sound Attack Hockey Club provided a PowerPoint presentation and update on the Owen Sound Attack operations, including past milestones, economic highlights, and information on the upcoming 2025/2026 hockey season.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

- 8.a Chris Long, Owen Sound resident

Mr. Long provided comments respecting vandalism and encampments in the City's downtown core.

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that notes from the community stakeholder discussion to foster a vibrant River District held on July 28th will be brought to a future meeting and may provide additional insight to these concerns.

- 8.b James Ball, Owen Sound resident

Mr. Ball provided comments respecting the need for increased cameras and police presence in the City's downtown core.

Councillor Merton advised that attending a future meeting of the Owen Sound Police Services Board would be a beneficial avenue to share these concerns.

In response to a question from Committee, the City Manager noted that the purchase and installation of downtown cameras came through staff reports to

Council, and that cameras are typically installed at central intersections to maximize the captured area.

8.c Chris Long, Owen Sound resident

Mr. Long provided additional comments respecting downtown video surveillance and the importance of increased quality cameras.

Mr. Simmonds advised that the current cameras are high definition.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF COUNCIL IS REQUIRED**

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

10. **REPORTS OF CITY STAFF**

10.a Report CR-25-117 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: Development Charges Deferral Request - Bayshore Terrace

The Director of Corporate Services provided an overview of the report.

Deputy Mayor Greig relinquished the position of Chair to speak to the report. Councillor Merton assumed the position of Chair. At the completion of his comments, Deputy Mayor Greig resumed the position of Chair.

R-250908-003d

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-117 respecting Development Charges Deferral Request – Bayshore Terrace, City Council directs staff to collect Development Charges in accordance with the Act."

Prior to a vote on the motion, Councillor Farmer requested a recorded vote.

	In Favor	Opposed
Councillor Farmer	X	
Councillor Hamley	X	
Councillor Koepke		X
Councillor Kukreja		X
Councillor Merton	X	
Councillor Middlebro'		X
Deputy Mayor Greig		X

The resolution was defeated with four (4) votes opposed and three (3) in favour.

R-250908-004

Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-117 respecting Development Charges Deferral Request – Bayshore Terrace, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a deferral agreement, including the appropriate securities."

Prior to a vote on the motion, Councillor Koepke requested a recorded vote.

	In Favor	Opposed
Councillor Farmer		X
Councillor Hamley		X
Councillor Koepke	X	
Councillor Kukreja	X	
Councillor Merton		X
Councillor Middlebro'	X	
Deputy Mayor Greig	X	

The resolution was carried with four (4) votes in favour and three (3) opposed.

10.b Report CR-25-119 from the Manager of Corporate Services Re: Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre - Roof Rehabilitation - Project Update 1

The Manager of Corporate Services provided an overview of the report.

R-250908-005

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-119 respecting Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre – Roof Rehabilitation – Project Update #1, City Council approves the budget increase for this project from \$920,950 to \$1,270,950 to fund contemplated change orders and contingency allowance requirements related to unknown conditions that arise throughout the remainder of the project."

Carried.

10.c Report CR-25-108 from the City Clerk Re: 2026 Board and Committee By-law Housekeeping

The City Clerk provided an overview of the report.

R-250908-006

Moved by Councillor Hamley

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-108 respecting 2026 Board and Committee By-law Housekeeping, City Council directs staff to undertake the 2026 board and committee recruitment process as outlined in the report."

Carried.

10.d Report CR-25-110 from the City Clerk Re: 2026 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar

The City Clerk provided an overview of the report. Council expressed concern with the Special Meeting in January being the same date as the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference and the length of time between meetings due to the municipal election.

R-250908-007

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-110 respecting 2026 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar, City Council approves the 2026 Council and Committee meeting calendar as attached to the report."

Prior to a vote on the motion, a motion to postpone was brought forward.

R-250908-008

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-110 respecting 2026 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar, City Council postpones Resolution No. R-250908-007 until an additional staff report is presented at the Regular Council Meeting on September 22, 2025, which will address matters raised at the Council meeting of September 8, 2025."

Carried.

Deputy Mayor Greig relinquished the position of Chair. Councillor Merton assumed the position of Chair.

10.e Verbal Report from the Deputy Mayor Re: Grey County Council

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that Grey County Council received an update from County staff on the Future Ready Program, a program to advance energy efficient and sustainable development.

Deputy Mayor Greig added that the County has signed an agreement with the Province for approximately \$3,282,000 in homelessness prevention plan funding similar to last year, and that funds will be dispersed to community outreach and supports, emergency short-term accommodations and supportive housing. Additionally, Grey County Council has entered into a funding agreement with the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness for \$362,000 to support Grey County housing initiatives.

R-250908-009

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided September 8, 2025 from Deputy Mayor Greig respecting Grey County Council, City Council receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

Deputy Mayor Greig resumed the position of Chair.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

- 11.a Report CR-25-114 from the Purchasing and Claims Coordinator Re: Award of RFP-25-004 - Engineering Services for 4th Ave W Reconstruction - 15th St W to 20th St W
- 11.b Report CR-25-115 from the Purchasing and Claims Coordinator Re: Award of RFT-25-006 - Wastewater Treatment Plant Fine Screens
- 11.c Report CR-25-107 from the City Clerk Re: Appointment of Director to the River District Board of Management
- 11.d Report CM-25-028 from the Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction Re: AMO 2025 Delegation Update
- 11.e Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Grey Bruce Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Advisory Committee held on August 12, 2025
- 11.f Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences:
 - Alnasser Syrian Food, a restaurant located at 132 9th St E
 - Olga's Cafe, a cafe located in Heritage Place Mall at 1350 16th St E
 - Indulgence VIP, a members only social club located at 966 2nd Ave E
 - Name change of DBazaar, a grocery and convenience store previously named Clarks of Silcote located at 1210 3rd Ave E

- Rajnarine Boodoo is the new owner of Cali Nails, a nail salon located in Heritage Place Mall at 1350 16th St E
- Nakd Basics, a wellness store, has relocated to 1095 1st Ave W
- Gentle Feather Soaps, a home occupation located at 1123 3rd Ave W
- Mobile food business license issued to Misty Tye to operate The Soda Garden
- Mobile food business license issued to Jada Flight to operate The Flying Fork food truck
- Hawker and Peddler License issued to Opportunity Bridal to operate a pop up wedding dress sale at the Best Western on August 4, 2025
- Hawker and Peddler License issued to the 2025 Owen Sound Emancipation Festival to operate at Harrison Park on August 2, 2025
- Hawker and Peddler License issued to the Georgian Bay Folk Society to operate the 2025 Summerfolk Festival at Kelso Beach from August 14 to 17, 2025
- Hawker and Peddler License issued to Rogers Communications Canada Inc. to operate door to door sales
- Hawker and Peddler License issued to Morag Budgeon to operate fundraising events at the Owen Sound Farmer's Market

11.g Final approvals for the following City Hall Illumination Requests:

- Safe and Sound Grey Bruce for International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD)

11.h Correspondence received which is presented for the information of Council

R-250908-010

Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the September 8, 2025 Consent Agenda, City Council:

- 1. Receives Items 11.a to 11.h; and**
- 2. Approves the recommendations contained in Items 11.a to 11.d. "**

Carried.

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

There were no Committee minutes with recommendations for approval.

13. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no postponed matters.

14. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

15. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

15.a Summerfolk Festival 50th Anniversary and Upcoming Civic Engagement Opportunities

Councillor Farmer advised that the 50th anniversary of the Summerfolk Music and Crafts Festival was a great success and drew many visitors to the area.

Councillor Farmer highlighted a group called "We Vote Local", that is working to raise awareness for becoming engaged in local politics and elections. He added that the group is holding regular drop-in events beginning September 18, 2025, and to visit wevotelocal.ca for more information.

15.c Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular and AMO Update

Councillor Middlebro' highlighted that members of Council were in attendance at the Salmon Spectacular last Monday as bartenders and congratulated the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association on another successful event.

Councillor Middlebro' highlighted that members of Council and City staff attended the annual Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in Ottawa last month, and that all six of the City's delegations were well received by the applicable Ministries.

15.e Concours d'Elegance

Deputy Mayor Greig highlighted that the Concours d'Elegance is September 12-14. Festivities begin Friday night at the Art Gallery, Cars and Coffee and the Concours d'Lemons are both downtown on Saturday, and finishing with the Concours d'Elegance at Cobble Beach on Sunday.

16. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

R-250908-011

Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT the Committee of the Whole rise and report."

Carried.

FORMAL SESSION

17. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-250908-012

Moved by Councillor Koepke

Seconded by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT the action taken in Committee of the Whole in considering public meetings, deputations and presentations, public question period, matters arising from correspondence, reports of City staff, consent agenda, committee minutes, matters postponed, motions for which notice was previously given and additional business be confirmed by this Council."

Carried.

18. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

19. MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

Prior to moving into Closed Session, Deputy Mayor Greig advised that for those who are watching the meeting live on Rogers Cable TV or the Rogers TV website, the Rogers feed will not reconnect to the meeting upon Council returning to the open session to report out of the Closed Session and review the by-laws. If anyone would like to view the remainder of the open session, they can watch the livestream on the City's

Council and Committees webpage at www.owensound.ca/meetings. The video recording of the meeting will also be posted on this webpage following the meeting.

R-250908-013

Moved by Councillor Koepke

Seconded by Councillor Kukreja

“THAT City Council now move into Closed Session to consider:

- a. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Special Council meeting held on July 21, 2025; and**
- b. One matter regarding labour relations and employee negotiations respecting the Owen Sound Professional Firefighters Association.”**

Carried.

The Director of Corporate Services and Manager of Corporate Services left the meeting.

20. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that Council returned to the open session at 7:58 p.m. All Council and staff members above were present except for the Fire Chief.

Deputy Mayor Greig advised that in Closed Session, City Council:

- Reviewed minutes of the Closed Session of the Special Council meeting held on July 21, 2025; and
- Discussed one matter regarding labour relations and employee negotiations respecting the Owen Sound Professional Firefighters Association and no direction was provided.

Councillor Hamley left the meeting.

21. BY-LAWS

21.a By-law No. 2025-095

"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 8th day of September, 2025"

21.b By-law No. 2025-096

"A By-law to amend Short-Term Rental By-law No. 2023-115 respecting housekeeping, human trafficking information, rental cap increase and removal of principal residence and rental cap in C1 zones"

21.c By-law No. 2025-097

"A By-law to amend Procedural By-law No. 2021-123 to incorporate provisions respecting Strong Mayor Powers"

21.d By-law No. 2025-098

"A By-law to amend Acting Mayor By-law No. 2022-117 to incorporate provisions respecting Strong Mayor Powers"

21.e By-law No. 2025-099

"A By-law to amend Notice By-law No. 2018-022 to remove budget notice requirements due to Strong Mayor Powers"

21.f By-law No. 2025-100

"A By-law to amend Delegation of Powers and Duties By-law No. 2014-109 to add provisions respecting Strong Mayor Powers"

21.g By-law No. 2025-101

"A By-law to amend Board and Committee By-law No. 2025-101 to add provisions respecting Strong Mayor Powers and make various appointments"

21.h By-law No. 2025-102

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a Grant Agreement with The Corporation of the County of Grey respecting a contribution towards the purchase of lands for affordable housing"

21.i By-law No. 2025-103

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute Contribution Agreement with His Majesty in Right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Transportation respecting a Connecting Links Program contribution – Intake 10 (Highway 26 at 16th Street East pedestrian tunnel rehabilitation)"

21.j By-law No. 2025-104

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Lease Agreement with Brandon Vanderschot respecting five parking stalls on 11th Street West, east of 1st Avenue West"

21.k By-law No. 2025-105

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with WSP Canada Inc., respecting 4th Avenue West reconstruction, 15th Street West to 20th Street West in accordance with RFT-25-004"

21.l By-law No. 2025-106

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with Baseline Constructors Inc., respecting Wastewater Treatment Plant fine screens replacement in accordance with RFT-25-006"

21.m By-law No. 2025-107

"A By-law to amend Fees and Charges By-law No. 2025-060 to amend fees for by-law enforcement activities"

21.n By-law No. 2025-108

"A By-law to adopt By-law Enforcement Policy AF012 and repeal Policy CrS-BL6"

R-250908-014

Moved by Councillor Koepke

Seconded by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT By-law Numbers 2025-095, 2025-097, 2025-098, 2025-099, 2025-100, 2025-101, 2025-102, 2025-103, 2025-104, 2025-105, 2025-106, 2025-107, and 2025-108 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

R-250908-015

Moved by Councillor Koepke

Seconded by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT By-law Number 2025-096 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

22. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Deputy Mayor Greig adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Scott Greig

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk



City Manager's Update

Committee of the Whole | Council

September 22, 2025

Highlights

- Camp TOM wrapped up in August. A total of 87 campers attended. Several spaces were held for youth to attend at no cost thanks to the sponsorship of the Kiwanis Club of Owen Sound.
- The Gallery received just under 300 submissions of works by 194 artists for the upcoming juried exhibition Convergence. Presented every two years, Convergence celebrates artistic innovation and excellence across a wide range of mediums in our region and province. Convergence opens at the TOM on October 18.
- TD Harbour Nights free music series concluded on August 10. Taking place at the Community Waterfront Heritage Centre, the series featured 11 performances. Thank you to the 2025 sponsors: Barriston Law, Owen Sound Gardens, Owen Sound Attack, Long & Mcquade, Country 93, Kelso Villa, Zoomer 92.3, Tahini's, and Shankar Law.

Highlights

- Tourism continued year 2 of a pilot project to deliver key visitor services at the TOM. Five summer students joined the team as Tourism and Events Ambassadors supporting customer service and events including Canada Day, TD Harbour Nights, Hottest Street Sale, and they set up Tourism booths at the Salmon Derby and Summerfolk. Four of the positions were supported by grant funding.
- Beta Launch of Tourism App – for the Salmon Tour.
- Cars & Coffee and Concours d’Lemons – positive economic impact on the City from hotel stays, to shopping, mainstreet draw and foot traffic. At any given time over the weekend beautiful cars old and new are seen parked on main street taking in the restaurants and shops. This is one of the most visually trackable events for success because of the influx and visibility of the cars.
- The Salmon Spectacular was a great success with the Owen Sound Tourism Tent on site through the entire weekend.

Highlights

- In July Owen Sound Tourism in partnership with the Owen Sound Tourism Development Fund launched a Natures Gateway Campaign and due to its success, an agreement was reached to continue the campaign through the fall months. A few metrics to report 3,369,596 impressions over 4 platforms and 18,135 click throughs to date. The fall campaign will run through the holiday season.
- The new scoreboard is up at Tom Williams Park. This scoreboard was made possible by generous donations in memory of Baily Derocher by his family, the Baysox and Minor Baseball.
- Summer camps wrapped up with excellent attendance and feedback from a variety of sessions. Report will be coming in November with more details.
- Staff played a large support role for Summerfolk50 which was a big success at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park.

Highlights

- The Bayshore Floor and boards project was substantially completed by early September. The Arena's team put the first floods on the new floor on September 11 with the ice painting, lines and logos installed on September 12. The project has remained on time and on budget. Looking forward to the Attack's home opener on Saturday, September 27.
- Arena staff installed new benches in the Bayshore dressing rooms, replacing the old wooden benches with a new recycled plastic material.
- Arena staff painted the steel siding on the upper concourse, brightening and refreshing the entire arena bowl. Contract painters continue to paint the remaining walls and washrooms on the second-floor concourse. Staff painted downstairs hallways and refinished floors in community halls
- JMRRC West Ice was installed early in August.

Highlights

- 16th Ave sanitary sewer replacement has started.
- Road Resurfacing is underway and is currently expected to be completed by October 3.
- Water meter project is more than 90% complete and will now be sending out final notices to people who have not responded to booking requests.
- Traffic Counting devices have been received, and staff training will follow.
- City will be launching a new garbage tag design shortly, with a larger size and improved visibility
- There are a number of active construction projects right now, so there is a lot of coordination between multiple divisions. The collaboration that goes into every project is critical to its success and shows each person's dedication to the City and to the satisfaction of doing a good job.

Corporate Services Committee

Second Thursday of each month - 5:30 p.m.

Lead Director: Kate Allan, ext. 1238

October 9

- 2025 T2 Financial Update
- External Communications Strategy Project Plan
- Joining the Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities
- Pay and Compensation Update
- Recruitment and Retention Update
- Update on Safety in the Council Chambers

Operations Committee

Third Thursday of each month - 5:30 p.m.

Lead Director: Lara Widdifield, ext. 1201

October 16

- Bus Stop Agreement – Skyline Retail Real Estate Holdings Inc. – Fronting East Side Shoppers Drug Mart
- Pedestrian Signal Status Update

Community Services Committee

Third Wednesday of each month - 5:30 p.m.

Lead Director: Pam Coulter, ext. 1252

October 15

- Design and Location of the Commemorative Forest Monument
- External Relations and Investment Attraction Plan
- Summer Recreation Programs 2025 Wrap-Up
- Report on Municipal Response to Provincial Bill 5
- Building Activity Update

In case you missed it - Media Advisories Issued July 21 – September 9

www.owensound.ca/news

1. Set Sail for Adventure, Movies and Music this Weekend!
2. A Collaborative Partnership to Advance New Affordable Housing Options in Owen Sound
3. Structure Fire at Vacant Building on Superior Street
4. City Continues Fire Hydrant Flushing into Zone B
5. Celebrating Community: Manitoba Plaque Unveiling at Midweek Music
6. Owen Sound Hosts Facilitated Discussion for River District Stakeholders
7. What's Open and Closed in Owen Sound for the Civic Holiday Weekend
8. Building Fire in the 900 Block of 2nd Ave E
9. Road Construction on 9th Avenue E and 6th Street E Down to One Lane
10. Notice of Intention to Pass Amendment to the Fees and Charges By-law
11. Kelso Beach at Nawash Park in Owen Sound posted unsafe for swimming (on behalf of Grey Bruce Public Health)
12. New 'Gather in Grey' Video Shines a Spotlight on Owen Sound's Culinary Scene
13. Fresh Start for a Familiar Site Across from the Bayshore Community Centre
14. Expressions of Interest for the Temporary Use of the "Rice House"
15. Flagging in Place on 9th Avenue E for Manhole Replacement
16. Public Notice: Seasonal Changes in Taste and Odour of Tap Water
17. Secure Your 2025 Salmon Spectacular Camping and Boating Permits Now
18. Summer Hydrant Flushing in Zone G Complete
19. Passing of Former City Councillor and Dedicated Volunteer, Ann Kelly

In case you missed it - Media Advisories Issued July 21 – September 9

www.owensound.ca/news

20. Lane Reductions on Eddie Sargent Parkway During Summerfolk Festival to Support Event Access
21. Household Hazardous Waste Event Happening Saturday, August 16
22. City of Owen Sound to Honour Former Public Works Employee, Paul Duncan
23. City of Owen Sound Officials Advocate for Local Needs at 2025 AMO Conference
24. Owen Sound Celebrates Groundbreaking of Major New Waterfront Housing Project
25. Owen Sound Delegates Advance Key Priorities at 2025 AMO Conference
26. Loading Dock Door Replacement at The TOM to Retire Iconic Mural
27. Leaf and Yard Waste Compost Site Closure Beginning Wednesday, August 27
28. Hockey Fest Celebrations Return to Owen Sound
29. Owen Sound and Partners Lead the Way: Ontario's First Great Lakes Coastal Cleanup Announced
30. Summer Hydrant Flushing in Zone D
31. What's Open & Closed in Owen Sound for Labour Day Weekend
32. Swimming advisory lifted for Kelso Beach - August 28, 2025 (on behalf of Grey Bruce Public Health)
33. Tom Thomson Art Gallery's 'Gallery Night at the Movies' Returns for 28th Season
34. City Seeks Sunday Free Skating Sponsors
35. Mill & Pave 2025- On-Street Parking Restrictions
36. Road Construction: 32nd Street East Watermain Replacement
37. City of Owen Sound Improves Wastewater Service Reliability for Residents
38. Hydrant Flushing in Zone E
39. Fire at 1005 2nd Ave E Quickly Contained

Engagement

Discover Your City: Owen Sound Community Open House

Monday, October 20 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Bayshore Community Centre.

This free, family-friendly event offers residents a unique opportunity to connect directly with City Council and staff, learn more about essential City services, and engage with community organizations that play a vital role in daily life.

- Learn about City services, programs, and resources
- Chat directly with City staff and have questions answered
- Explore current and upcoming City projects
- Connect with other community organizations offering essential services in the area
- A dedicated kids' space will be available with fun activities.

Salmon Discovery Day

Saturday, October 4

Tourism is partnering with the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority for Salmon Discovery Day which will take place on Saturday, October 4 from 11am – 3pm. It's designed as a self-guided adventure that takes you along the Sydenham River to watch the salmon on their journey upstream. Along the way, you can collect stamps in a Salmon Discovery Passport for a chance to win a prize. This family-friendly event starts at the West Side Boat Launch and ends at Inglis Falls Arboretum.

Year-To-Date Building Activity

Construction value of:

\$214,526,096



264 Building Permits Issued

Including all building, plumbing, demolition, heritage, and tents.

920 Building inspections.



\$905,576



Building permit fees collected.

Stay Connected

www.OwenSound.ca

www.OurCity.OwenSound.ca

www.OwenSound.ca/Reportaconcern

www.owensoundriverdistrict.ca

www.owensoundtourism.ca

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Meeting Date: September 22, 2025
Report Code: CM-25-027
Subject: Update Following the July 28 Community Stakeholder Discussion to Foster a Vibrant River District

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-25-027 respecting Update Following the July 28 Community Stakeholder Discussion to Foster a Vibrant River District, City Council receives the report for information purposes.

Highlights:

- Owen Sound City Council responded to a request from the Police Service Board by initiating a collaborative meeting with River District stakeholders to address downtown business conditions.
- The facilitated meeting, held at The Harmony Centre, brought together a diverse group of participants and successfully fostered open dialogue and strengthened relationships among stakeholders.
- More than 60 ideas were generated during the session, and staff are using the facilitator's report to guide future actions, with a focus on creating a coordinated management approach for River District operations.
- Staff have initiated actions and the next follow-up report, scheduled for October 6, will propose a project management framework to improve service delivery across departments and ensure timely, accountable progress on stakeholder priorities.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Safe City.

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Collaborative City.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Previous Report/Authority:

[Report CM-25-023](#) Community Organization Meeting Regarding River District

[Resolution No. R-250526-003](#) Regarding Request for Council to Arrange Meeting Respecting Downtown Business Conditions

Background:

The Owen Sound Police Service Board sent a communication dated May 6, 2025, to Owen Sound City Council (Attachment 2), requesting City Council convene a meeting with the River District Board, the Chamber of Commerce, and all downtown business owners to discuss current business conditions in downtown Owen Sound. The communication was discussed at Council on May 26, 2025. Council passed a motion to convene a meeting with River District stakeholders, including businesses, social service providers, members of the police and River District boards, and government representatives.

Further to that motion, staff then brought forward Report CM-25-023 to Council on June 30, 2025 outlining a plan for a facilitated meeting to foster productive dialogue between the various stakeholder groups. Council [passed a motion](#) directing staff to organize and plan a meeting regarding the River District as outlined in the report.

Staff engaged with a professional facilitator, Joel Pennington, to coordinate the meeting in alignment with the “Respect-Connect-Reflect-Direct” community engagement model developed by Tyson Yunkaporta and Mumma Doris Shillingsworth (*Sand Talk*, 2020).

Staff chose The Harmony Centre as the location for this meeting due to its accessibility and location within the River District. The meeting was initially booked in The Commons space, with the intention to arrange participants in

a circle. Due to high interest in attending the event, the plan was changed to the Auditorium to accommodate more participants while maintaining the format.

Staff selected to work with Fresh Roots Café & Catering, an innovative social enterprise by Canadian Mental Health Association Grey Bruce – Mental Health and Addiction Services, also located within the River District, to provide refreshments for the event. Staff also coordinated with OSHaRE in advance of the meeting to collect the leftover food for distribution through their community meal program.

Staff met with the facilitator and representatives from Grey County Social Services to discuss the invitation wording and distribution. Staff employed multiple methods of stakeholder outreach, including:

- Direct outreach via email or phone
- Distribution through the River District newsletter
- Hand delivery of invitations to River District businesses

A third party ticketing platform, [Eventbrite](#), was used to manage RSVPs for the meeting. Due to the high interest in the event, all stakeholders were asked to send one representative.

Staff took extra care to ensure that diverse perspectives were represented at the discussion, including additional outreach to business owners from newcomer and racialized communities, and Indigenous representatives from businesses, social services, and police services.

Analysis:

The Community Discussion to Foster a Vibrant River District achieved its intent of promoting productive dialogue between stakeholder groups. A total of 108 individuals pre-registered for the event. Of those, 55.6 per cent identified as small business or property owners, while 21.3 per cent identified as stakeholders from the social services sector, reflecting a diverse cross-section of the River District community. The final attendance count was 103 stakeholders. This was an unprecedented opportunity to listen, to share their perspectives, and to discuss how to collaborate further.

Early outcomes of the meeting include a noticeable shift in the tone and nature of communications between stakeholders and staff, with multiple attendees reaching out to share thoughtful, reflective responses building on

the ideas shared in the meeting and expressing a strong desire for further collaboration between all stakeholders.

Additional actions in advance of this report include:

- Grey County featuring the River District and Owen Sound businesses in the newest Gather in Grey video. Staff and political representatives also highlighted the format of the discussion during the August 7 Planning and Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting.
- Numerous social media posts and editorials by community members highlighting the safety and vibrancy of Owen Sound's River District.
- Delegations by the City of Owen Sound to the Solicitor General and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on issues relating to public safety, police funding, and affordable housing at the 2025 Association of Municipalities Conference in August.
- An invitation from Leigh Graves of The Harmony Centre to City staff and community members to share research on stand-alone public washroom options.
- A compiled infrastructure needs database has been created and input as a GIS layer to indicate and track known issues such as sidewalk repair, missing tree pods, or painted surfaces in need of refreshment.

Staff sought feedback from participants through email and in-person conversations, and found that the majority had a positive perception of the discussion and felt engaged, while acknowledging the complexity and need to humanize the conversation about downtown safety issues. Many expressed a desire for further engagement through regular meetings between stakeholders and also noted a strong desire to see real outcomes and progress on action items identified during the discussion.

The facilitator's report (Attachment 1) provides a comprehensive overview of the meeting and includes a series of recommendations generated through stakeholder engagement. Staff have reviewed these recommendations and will use the report as a foundational resource to present Council with more detailed actions and long-term opportunities to support the prosperity of the River District.

A key theme emerging from the facilitated discussion was a shared sense of urgency and the importance of timely action. Staff are preparing subsequent

follow up reports on key issues and the first of these, scheduled for the October 6 Council meeting, will focus on proposing a more streamlined and coordinated management approach to ensure effective oversight of the River District's operations and maintenance, and to prevent service gaps.

During the meeting, participants contributed over 60 ideas in response to the question, "What could this community of stakeholders do together to address the challenges of downtown and build a vibrant downtown?" Given the breadth and diversity of these ideas, staff have prioritized the development of a strong project foundation, informed by successful Service Review practices such as establishing a dedicated project team, appointing a project lead, creating a project charter, and applying the RACI model.

With operational responsibilities distributed across multiple City departments, the absence of a unified project structure has been identified as a significant gap. Staff believe that addressing this gap will deliver meaningful value by enhancing coordination, accountability, and execution across all aspects of River District service delivery.

Financial Implications:

The total cost for the event was \$1,440.00, which includes the facilitator's fee, venue space, and catering. Costs incurred were charged to the City Manager's 2025 operating budget and are expected to result in a budget overage.

Communication Strategy:

Communication regarding the event will be shared with the stakeholders and a copy of this report will be forwarded to the River District Board.

Consultation:

Joel Pennington, Facilitator

Attachments:

1. Facilitator Report - July 28 Community Stakeholder Discussion to Foster a Vibrant River District
2. Correspondence dated May 6, 2025, from the Chair, Owen Sound Police Service Board – Request to Arrange a Meeting

Recommended by:

Rebecca Ellerdiem, Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Tim Simmonds, City Manager at tsimmonds@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1210.

Facilitator Report on the July 28 Community Stakeholder Discussion to Foster a Vibrant River District

By Joel Pennington, Meeting Facilitator
Prepared for Owen Sound City Council
September 22, 2025

Overview

On Monday, July 28, approximately 100 community members gathered at the Harmony Centre for a facilitated dialogue regarding challenges and opportunities in downtown Owen Sound.

These included City and County staff, members of council, media, Chamber and River District board members, our MP, Police Chief and Medical Officer of Health.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring together diverse voices to build understanding and relationships that can support a thriving and inclusive downtown.

The engagement model was based on Indigenous and systems thinking approaches developed by Tyson Yunkaporta and Mumma Doris Shillingsworth.

Participants were invited to enter the space with clear expectations for respectful dialogue: no interruptions, no dehumanizing language, no scapegoating, and a shared understanding that everyone belongs in Owen Sound.

Structure of the Evening

The evening followed a four-step model:

1. Respect – Participants reviewed and agreed to the expectations for respectful, inclusive dialogue.
2. Connect – Through a series of one-on-one conversations and a movement-based activity, participants explored:
 - What brought them to the meeting
 - What is going well downtown

- How downtown challenges impact them
 - What gives them hope or concern about the current situation
3. Reflect – A facilitated values-alignment activity allowed participants to publicly express their perspectives on five key statements. These included support for downtown as a place where all people and businesses thrive, views on the current state of downtown, and beliefs about the role of organizations in improving it.
 4. Direct – In small, mixed-sector groups, participants responded to the question: “What could this community of stakeholders do together to address the challenges of downtown and build a vibrant downtown?”

Feedback from each group was shared with the full room and documented by four volunteer scribes representing different sectors. Those scribed notes are attached to this report.

The evening concluded with a final reflection: participants were invited to share what gave them hope.

Many speakers—including some who entered the evening feeling discouraged—expressed optimism, energy, and a renewed belief in the community’s ability to work together.

The attendees reflected a broad cross-section of the community in terms of sectors, experiences, and perspectives. Despite tensions that exist in public discourse, the tone of the evening was constructive, curious, and respectful.

Common themes in group discussions included:

- The need for improved communication between sectors
- Desire for concrete, collaborative action (public washrooms, beautification, safety enhancements)
- Recognition that addressing complex downtown issues will require long-term commitment, shared leadership, and inclusive planning.

Recommendations

Citizens expect the City to take leadership on downtown issues. This meeting demonstrated that stakeholders are ready to collaborate, and the City can play a convening, coordinating, and enabling role.

This includes not only continuing support for this type of structured dialogue, but also creating conditions for more organic, ongoing relationship-building.

To that end, the meeting facilitator has proposed the following actions:

- **Institutionalize Regular Dialogue**—Organize monthly or quarterly downtown stakeholder meetings, using the same inclusive, dialogue-based format. Ensure meetings continue to balance voices from business, services, and municipal leadership. Use these sessions to update on progress, surface issues early, and collaboratively design solutions. These sessions could also be expanded to include community leaders, residents, and folks representing marginalised sectors of the public.
- **Develop a Downtown Action Tracker**—Create a public-facing dashboard or action tracker to summarize ideas from stakeholder meetings, track which actions are being explored or implemented, provide transparency on timelines and responsibilities, and provide information on who is involved and how people can participate
- **Invest in Relationship Infrastructure**—Beyond formal meetings, the City can support informal, trust-building opportunities that encourage ongoing connection between sectors and community members. Possibilities include:
 - Downtown Drop-In Dialogues: Informal gatherings in accessible locations (e.g. cafés, the library, or community spaces) where residents, business owners, service providers, and City staff can engage in casual conversation. These rotating sessions would make it easier for people to share concerns, ask questions, and build relationships outside of formal processes.
 - Neighbourhood Walkabouts: Small group walks through the downtown core led by a rotating host (e.g. a local merchant, harm reduction worker, resident, or youth). These allow participants to experience the area from different perspectives and build shared understanding of the issues and assets in our public spaces.
 - Business-Service Exchange Events: Host informal mixers or “speed-networking” sessions between downtown businesses and service providers to build understanding of each other’s roles, pressures, and priorities. These can uncover unexpected synergies, reduce friction, and generate joint solutions (e.g. shared training, referral cards, coordinated hours)

- **Include diverse voices in River District Board meetings**—This action could include establishing a dedicated seat for a River District social service provider on the board and conducting an internal review in collaboration with River District business owners on how to improve communications, resource sharing, and relationship building among all stakeholders.
 - **Incorporate action items into workplans**—Recommend that staff review the suggestions arising from the July 28th meeting for prioritization during the development of future workplans.
-

Summary of Scribed Notes from July 28, 2025

Below is a compiled summary of the notes gathered during the Community Stakeholder Discussion. Participants were assigned to ten smaller breakout groups to discuss the same question:

“What could this community of stakeholders do together to address the challenges of downtown and build a vibrant downtown?”

A designated speaker from each of the ten groups reported back on their discussion to the broader group. These were recorded by four scribes representing different stakeholder groups: City of Owen Sound, Social Services, Local Business, and Other Stakeholders.

Scribe 1: Inclusion, Services & Safety

- Community includes **everyone**
- More **funding for support services**
- Promote vibrancy through **shared narrative** (not hiding problems)
- Need for **coordinated care**
- Emphasis on **accessibility and inclusion**
- Lack of **male violence prevention programming and life skills supports**
- Acknowledgment that **more needs to be done**

Scribe 2: Changing the Narrative & Public Space

- Change the “prescription” of downtown through **storytelling**
- More community **meetings**
- Clearer **contact points** for concerns
- Need for **education** about downtown challenges
- Easy wins: **public washrooms, cleaner streets, small visible changes**
- Summer **Main Street closures** to host events
- Promote **downtown pride**
- Need for a **shelter** with programs and activities
- **High vacancy tax** to discourage empty storefronts
- Encourage Sunday openings
- Expand **social service staff training**
- Support through **provincial/federal funding**
- **Compassion for downtown residents**
- Desire for everyone to **feel safe**
- Emphasis on **collaboration and shared momentum**

Scribe 3: Public Health, Business & Perception

- Campaigns to encourage **downtown traffic**
- **Higher-level funding** for support
- Treat the root causes, don’t ignore them
- Public **primary care** access downtown
- **Safety and perception of safety** matter
- Investment in **residential properties**
- Utilize **vacant properties**
- Introduce a **social navigator** to support businesses
- Moratorium on social services expansion
- Promote existing assets like the **farmers’ market**
- **Activities and events** to bring people downtown
- Maintain a balance: **compassion without sacrificing order**
- **City upkeep and maintenance**
- Proposals for **men’s shelters** located away from core
- Emphasis on **small, doable wins**

Scribe 4: Visibility, Activation & Pride

- Prioritize **available washrooms**
- Don't hide issues—address them visibly
- Use **small, visible wins** to shift the narrative
- Fund community initiatives with **sponsorship/advertising**
- Launch **campaigns** to encourage foot traffic
- Fill empty storefronts with **art and creative use**
- Raise the **vacancy tax rate**
- Support **Sunday openings**
- Improve the **vibrancy and activity** of downtown
- Promote **pride among downtown building owners**
- **Market the area as a hub**
- Close Main Street in summer for community use
- Explore **men's shelter education/activities**
- Balance between **the needs of a few and the many**
- Consider the **impact of decreased safety**



May 06, 2025

Mayor Boddy &
Owen Sound City Council Members
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, Ontario
N4K 2H4

Via Email

Mr. Mayor and Council,

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of a motion that was made at our April 23, 2025 Police Service Board meeting.

Moved by I. Boddy, seconded by C. Merton.

*"That the Owen Sound Police Service Board (OSPSB) write a letter requesting City Council to convene a meeting with the River District Board, the Chamber of Commerce, and all downtown business owners to discuss current business conditions in downtown Owen Sound. Invitations should also be extended to representatives from the Owen Sound Police Service, local provincial and federal prosecutors, and the area's Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP)." **CARRIED***

Background

Briefly, discussions around the table leading up to this motion included.

- It is no longer acceptable for shoppers to feel unsafe in the River District. At one time it could have been said that shoppers and visitors just felt uncomfortable downtown, but that feeling has changed and it is now a feeling of being unsafe and this no longer acceptable. These feelings can also be extended to business owners who are having to lock their doors during business hours to control those entering their place of business for non-business related purposes. The downtown core is truly suffering from these feelings regardless if they perceived or real.
- A review of the City's Nuisance Bylaw revealed it is meant to:
 - a. safeguard the quality of City communities and neighbourhoods;
 - b. protect the safety, health and well-being of the public; and

- c. ensure the continued enjoyment of public and private property for residents, visitors and property owners in the City.
- The Board discussed ongoing concerns regarding the limited effectiveness of current community programs and the challenges posed by a compliance-focused approach to bylaw enforcement. As summer approaches, a need for a shift towards proactive enforcement is required.
 - The position of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police has changed and it no longer supports the decriminalization of drug possession in small amounts unless there is proper support in place for people who use drugs.
 - An e-mail received in general correspondence spoke to the unacceptable “drug use downtown”.
 - As the warmer weather approaches, there will be an increase in activity in the River District, not only with more visitors but also with the public display of drug consumption. A proactive plan needs to be implemented and supported.

Thank you for making arrangements for this important meeting.

Yours truly,

John
Chair

Cc: Owen Sound Police Service Board

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Rebecca Ellerdien, Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction

Meeting Date: September 22, 2025

Report Code: CM-25-031

Subject: Municipal Support for Proposed Hydrogen Peaker Plant

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-25-031 respecting Municipal Support for Proposed Hydrogen Peaker Plant, City Council endorses the resolution attached to the report.

Highlights:

- Public Energy Inc. is proposing a new Long-Term Capacity Services Project for Owen Sound that would create and store clean hydrogen to meet peak energy demand using a hydrogen-powered turbine.
- The proposal requires proof of municipal support to satisfy the requirements of the Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) long-term capacity procurement process. The municipal support resolution does not circumvent the City's normal development approval process.
- The proposed Owen Sound Hydrogen Peaker Plant would strengthen our regional profile as a hub for advanced manufacturing and clean energy innovation and generate an estimated 400 jobs, including 20 full-time positions for long-term operating.
- The project is a direct result of the relationship between Hydrogen Optimized and Public Energy.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Green City.

The proposed project will support the efficient use of clean and renewable energy sources to meet anticipated growth in Ontario's energy needs.

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Prosperous City.

The proposed project will enhance Owen Sound's clean energy sector and attract new investment matched to our regional economic strengths.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

This supports the City's Climate Mitigation Plan objective to reduce the amount of energy consumption through technology and utilization of renewable energy sources.

Previous Report/Authority:

N/A

Background:

In July 2025, the City Manager, Mayor and the Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction (Senior Advisor) were invited to a meeting at Hydrogen Optimized to be introduced to Public Energy Inc. and learn about a [proposed long-term capacity project located in Owen Sound](#).

Since that initial meeting, the Senior Advisor has been working closely with Public Energy to promote the Owen Sound location as an ideal site to demonstrate their innovative technology.

Understanding Hydrogen's Role in Clean Energy Production

In *Energy for Generations (2025)*, Ontario's first Integrated Energy Plan, low carbon hydrogen is identified as a major economic development opportunity to support the decarbonization of the electricity system and create up to 135,000 jobs across Canada:

"Hydrogen-based technologies are uniquely suited to help fill gaps in the energy system that are technically or economically challenging to address through electrification alone. Hydrogen-based technologies may have the potential to:

- *Support peak electricity demand as a dispatchable generation resource;*
- *Provide long-duration energy storage to complement intermittent renewables;*
- *Reduce emissions in hard-to-abate sectors such as steel, cement, refining, and chemicals; and*
- *Serve as a clean fuel for heavy-duty transportation and industrial feedstock.”*

— [Chp. 6, Energy for Generations \(2025\)](#)

The Province has taken steps to secure additional capacity for anticipated increased energy needs, including new initiatives such as the Hydrogen Interruptible Rate Pilot program for hydrogen generation projects to capitalize on off-peak pricing and doubling investments through the Hydrogen Innovation Fund.

Owen Sound’s Support for Hydrogen Innovators

Public Energy is proposing to locate a 100 per cent hydrogen peaking plant in Owen Sound as one of its Current H2 projects, which—if approved by IESO and the Province—has the potential to be the first of its kind in North America.

The proposed site is on a 1-2 acre parcel of privately-owned vacant industrial land at 1799 20th Street East next to Hydrogen Optimized’s manufacturing and demonstration facility in Owen Sound.

Hydrogen Optimized is a global leader in large-scale clean hydrogen production systems, drawing on the 100-year legacy of Stuart unipolar technology. Their patented RuggedCell™ electrolytic cell is manufactured using low-carbon electricity and is designed to produce the lowest levelized cost of clean hydrogen at large scale with configurable system architecture.

The use of this technology enables a high hydrogen yield for every kW of renewable electrical power, which increases the efficiency of these systems for large scale production.

Owen Sound has a strong track record of support for clean energy innovation and is strategically located to advance forward-looking projects as a member of the Clean Energy Frontier and part of the campus network of Georgian College—which received official designation in July 2025 as a Technology Access Centre and became the [first institution in Ontario to operate an Industry 5.0 sandbox](#).

Proposal for an Owen Sound Hydrogen Peaker Plant

The proposed facility in Owen Sound would use electrolyzers to produce clean hydrogen using carbon free power at night. The clean hydrogen would be stored and used to power new and innovative turbines powered solely by hydrogen to meet peak energy demand by providing energy back into the grid.

To satisfy the requirements of the IESO's second long-term "LT2" procurement process, applicants are required to demonstrate municipal support. Public Energy/Current H2 has requested a resolution of municipal support to advance this proposal as one of two sites being considered for a fully hydrogen-powered peaker plant.

Public Energy/Current H2 are also planning to submit applications for "hydrogen-ready" natural gas-powered peaker plants in other communities that could be converted to hydrogen-powered turbines in the future.

Hydrogen peaker plants, such as the one proposed for Owen Sound, would be a more environmentally conscious method of utilizing the excess energy produced by energy suppliers overnight while reducing reliance on carbon-intensive energy sources.

Analysis:

The Owen Sound Hydrogen Peaker Plant has the potential to be the first of its kind in North America using innovative 100 per cent hydrogen-powered turbines. This opportunity will further amplify our regional strength as a hub for advanced manufacturing and clean energy innovation, and will complement local expertise in large scale hydrogen production.

Staff have reviewed the proposal by Public Energy/Current H2 and are satisfied with the proponent's ability deliver the project in accordance with all applicable regulations and by-laws, and in consultation with Indigenous and community stakeholders. The municipal support resolution is a requirement to allow the advancement of the proponent's application to IESO and does not circumvent the City's normal development approval process.

In terms of community benefit, according to Public Energy/Current H2, the proposed project would create new construction and operational jobs and generate between \$80 million and \$400 million of investment.

However, this project also represents a significant opportunity to build on Hydrogen Optimized's successful track record of attracting global talent to Owen Sound. This supports the City's goal to grow as a clean energy sector hub and may lead to future economic activity.

Owen Sound is an ideal location for this type of innovative and forward-looking project and will continue to offer support to industrial partners who wish to invest in our community.

Financial Implications:

The proposed project does not require any municipal funding or land. The Senior Advisor will provide in-kind economic development support as needed to assist Public Energy/Current H2 and Hydrogen Optimized to further this project.

Communication Strategy:

Public Energy/Current H2 will host a public open house to provide information and answer community questions about the project.

Consultation:

N/A

Attachments:

1. IESO LT2c Prescribed Form - Municipal Support Resolution
2. Public Energy Owen Sound Hydrogen Peaker Plant Brief

Recommended by:

Rebecca Ellerdiem, Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Rebecca Ellerdiem, Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction at rellerdiem@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 x1254.

EXHIBIT A

FORM OF MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Resolution NO: _____ Date: _____

[Note: The Municipal Resolution in Support of Proposal Submission must not be dated earlier than seven (7) months prior to the RFP Effective Date.]

WHEREAS:

1. The Proponent is proposing to construct and operate a Long-Term Capacity Services Project located on Municipal Project Lands, as defined and with the characteristics outlined in the table below, under the Long-Term 2 Capacity Services (Window 1) Request for Proposals ("**LT2(c-1) RFP**") issued by the Independent Electricity System Operator ("**IESO**").
2. Capitalized terms not defined herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the LT2(c-1) RFP.
3. The Proponent has delivered, no later than sixty (60) days prior to the Proposal Submission Deadline, a Pre-Engagement Confirmation Notice to an applicable Local Body Administrator in respect of the Municipal Project Lands that includes the details outlined in the table below, except for the Unique Project ID which should only be required as part of the Pre-Engagement Confirmation Notice if available.

Unique Project ID of the Long-Term Capacity Services Project (if available): <input Unique Project ID>	
Legal name of the Proponent: <input legal name of the Proponent>	Current H2 Inc.
Name of the Long-Term Capacity Services Project: <input name of the Long-Term Capacity Services Project>	Owen Sound Hydrogen Peaker
Technology of the Long-Term Capacity Services Project: <input technology of the Long-Term Capacity Services Project>	Hydrogen Turbine

Maximum potential Contract Capacity of the Long-Term Capacity Services Project (in MW): <input the maximum potential Contract Capacity of the Long-Term Capacity Services Project (in MW)>	25.00
Property Identification Number (PIN), or if PIN is not available, municipal address or legal description of the Municipal Project Lands: <input the applicable description> (the "Municipal Project Lands")	37061-0230 (LT)

4. Pursuant to the LT2(c-1) RFP, if the Long-Term Capacity Services Project is proposed to be located in whole or in part on Municipal Project Lands, the Proposal must include Municipal Support Confirmation which may be in the form of a Municipal Resolution in Support of Proposal Submission;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

5. The council of <insert name of Municipality> The City of Owen Sound supports the submission of a Proposal for the Long-Term Capacity Services Project located on the Municipal Project Lands.
6. This resolution's sole purpose is to satisfy the mandatory requirements of Section 4.2(c)(iii) of the LT2(c-1) RFP and may not be used for the purpose of any other form of approval in relation to the Proposal or Long-Term Capacity Services Project or for any other purpose.
7. The Proponent has undertaken, or has committed to undertake, Indigenous and community engagement activities in respect of the Long-Term Capacity Services Project to the satisfaction of the Municipality.
8. The Municipal Project Lands <does/does not> does not include lands designated as Prime Agricultural Areas in the <insert name of Municipality> City of Owen Sound's Official Plan.
9. Where the Municipal Project Lands does include lands designated as Prime Agricultural Areas in the <insert name of Municipality> _____'s Official Plan as of the date of this resolution:
- a. The Municipal Project Lands are not designated as Specialty Crop Areas;

- b. The Long-Term Energy Project is not a Non-Rooftop Solar Project;
- c. The Proponent has satisfied the AIA Component One Requirement to the satisfaction of the Local Municipality; and
If the Proponent is selected as a Selected Proponent under the LT2(c-1) RFP, the council of *<insert name of Municipality>* _____ will engage in good faith with the Selected Proponent to enable the Selected Proponent to complete the AIA Components Two and Three Requirement

DULY RESOLVED BY THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

on the ____ day of _____, 20____

<Signature lines for elected representatives. At least one signature is required.>



Owen Sound Hydrogen Peaker Plant

Project Information Brief



Executive Summary

Current H₂ proposes to develop one of North America's first hydrogen peaking generation plants in Owen Sound. We finance, design, permit, install, operate, and maintain the facility as an Independent Power Producer (IPP), owning the assets and supplying power under long-term contracts. The project uses off-peak, surplus grid electricity to produce green hydrogen, stores it on site, and uses 100% hydrogen-capable turbines to deliver carbon-free electricity during peak demand—enhancing grid reliability and supporting community growth.

Project Overview

The facility integrates three core elements: 1) a grid-connected electrolyzer operating during off-peak hours to create green hydrogen; 2) safe, compliant on-site hydrogen storage (liquid or high-pressure); and 3) hydrogen-fueled turbines that generate electricity during peak periods.

- **IPP Ownership:** Current H₂ develops, owns, and operates under long-term contracts.
- **Green Hydrogen Production:** Uses clean off-peak electricity to create, store, and generate power from 100% hydrogen.
- **Community Focus:** Local jobs, tax base growth, and infrastructure upgrades.

Benefits for Owen Sound

1. **Grid Reliability:** Provides dispatchable power to rapidly respond to peak demand events and stabilize the grid.
2. **Economic Growth:** Generates incremental revenue, diversifies the tax base, and stimulates local businesses.
3. **Local Jobs & Procurement:** Creates construction and long-term skilled jobs, with local procurement targets.
4. **Decarbonization:** Reduces reliance on fossil-fueled peakers and cuts emissions during high demand.
5. **Infrastructure Upgrades:** Upgrades to local lines and substations that benefit the broader community.
6. **Innovation Leadership:** Positions Owen Sound as a leader in North American energy transition solutions.

Health, Safety, and Permitting

Current H₂ is committed to the highest standards of health and safety. The plant will be designed, constructed, and operated in accordance with all applicable Canadian and Ontario regulations to ensure the well-being of the community and our employees.

Environmental Permitting: The project will follow Ontario's streamlined environmental permissions process via an Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR) filing, ensuring compliance with provincial standards for air, noise, and water.

Regulatory Compliance & Standards: The facility will adhere to the Ontario Electrical Safety Code (OESC) administered by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) and fuel safety regulations via the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA). All equipment will meet or exceed relevant CSA Group standards for hydrogen technology.

Zoning and Land Use: The proposed site is within the City's 'M2 – General Industrial' zoning, which permits public utilities and industrial uses, an appropriate location for a modern energy facility.

Municipal Coordination

We are committed to a proactive partnership with the City of Owen Sound, collaborating across departments throughout planning, construction, and operations.

- **Roadways & Traffic:** A Construction Traffic Management Plan in consultation with the Public Works and Roads Department.
- **Water, Drainage & Stormwater:** Comprehensive Stormwater Management and Erosion & Sediment Control Plans meeting municipal standards.
- **Emergency Services:** Co-developed emergency response protocols and training with Fire, EMS, and Police; provision of site access information.

Coordination Framework:

- 1) Pre-application meetings to review conformity, servicing, and timelines;
- 2) Technical working groups with planning, engineering, and emergency services;
- 3) Ongoing communication, construction updates, and a designated community liaison officer.

Proposed Location

The proposed site is in an industrial park adjacent to Hydrogen Optimized and near local distribution lines. Ideally situated for grid interconnection and industrial compatibility.



How It Works

Off-Peak Power: Utilize clean grid electricity (renewables, hydro, nuclear) during off-peak hours.

Create Green Hydrogen: Use an electrolyzer to produce green hydrogen from water.

Store Hydrogen: Liquefy or store under high pressure for later use during peak hours.

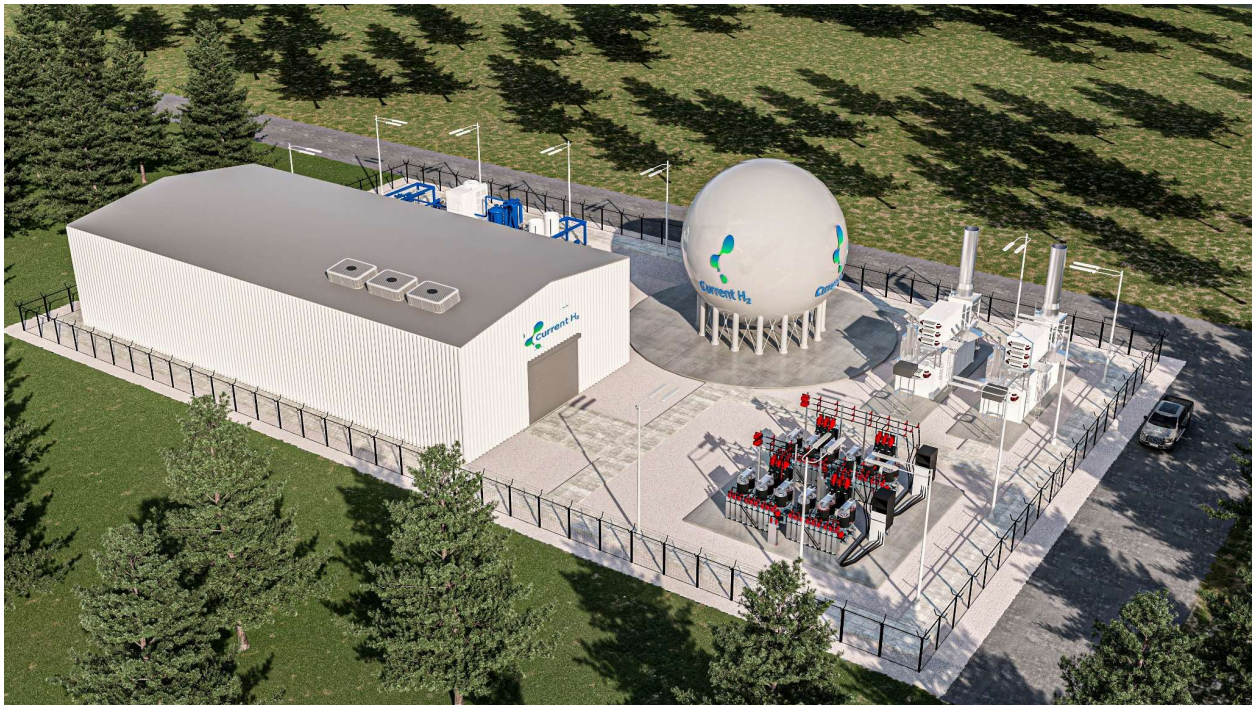
Generate Power: Operate 100% hydrogen-burning turbines to meet peak demand.

Supply Grid: Return electricity to the grid as a clean, dispatchable resource.

Proposed Timeline

Milestone	Target Date
LT2 Project Bid	December 2025
Project Award	April 2026
FEED & Permitting	Q3 2027
Construction & Commissioning	Q3 2028
Commercial Operation (COD)	Q4 2028

Conceptual Renderings





Contact

For inquiries about the Owen Sound Hydrogen Peaker Plant:

Email: info@currenth2.com

Phone: 416-453-8290

Project website: <https://www.OwenSoundH2Peaker.ca>

Staff Report

Report To: City Council

Report From: Eckhard Pastrick, Manager of Parks & Open Space
Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services

Meeting Date: September 22, 2025

Report Code: CS-25-104

Subject: High Priority Tree Removals – 2025

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-104 respecting High and Very High Priority Tree Removals, City Council authorizes the allocation of \$180,000 the anticipated 2025 operating surplus to remove very high and high hazard trees (approximately 288 trees) in the fall of 2025.

Highlights:

- The City's updated inventory identifies 22,039 public trees, with 18% ash, 31% maple, 32% other deciduous, and 18% conifers. Hazard ratings show 1,444 trees in *high* or *very high* hazard categories. An up-to-date asset inventory and condition assessment is a critical piece of managing the City's trees.
- Many trees pose significant risks due to structural defects, emerald ash borer damage, and poor condition. Without timely removals, the City faces increasing liability exposure in the event of property damage or injury.
- Current staffing and budgets cannot keep up with hazardous tree removals, pruning, or planting needs, leaving a backlog of high-risk trees.
- The City is projecting a 2025 year-end surplus, largely from a WSIB rebate tied to effective workplace risk management. Staff recommend allocating \$180,000 from this surplus.

- Council is asked to approve this one-time funding to remove approximately 288 of the highest-risk trees in 2025. The actual final number will be based on the tender results. This proactive investment would improve public safety, reduce liability, and support responsible asset management.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Safe City.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

This supports the objectives of the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan by strengthening the natural infrastructure, including the urban forest.

Previous Report/Authority:

[Report CS-23-132 from the Manager of Parks and Open Space Re: Tree Inventory Update](#)

Background:

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the 2025 year is tracking toward a surplus at year end and asked staff about high-priority projects that may be considered for part of these funds prior to year end. The purpose of this report is to present a tree removal project to Council's for consideration.

Tree Inventory

In 2014 and 2015 the City's first inventory of street trees and trees located in more public spaces, such as of parks and open spaces was completed. In 2022, as the City worked to address the impacts of the Emerald Ash Borer, the importance of updating and expanding the tree inventory was identified. In 2023, Council approved project 23D.13, Tree Inventory Renewal.

Like any other asset, an up-to-date and accurate inventory is an important tool in managing assets. An updated tree inventory will:

- Facilitate improved resource planning and allocation of maintenance action, including pruning and planting;
- Prioritize tree care and removals based on risks to public safety and property;

- Provide data for managing the urban forest;
- Provide a foundation for evidence-based, data-driven decision-making;
- Identify the density of ash trees and other species in hazard, ravine, and escarpment lands within a 20m buffer zone between City lands and private properties that may be impacted. (Trees in these lands under 10cm Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) were not to be inventoried.); and
- Update previously inventoried trees (removed, increased in size, updated hazard rating, etc.).

This work was presented to Committee and Council in report CS-23-132. Work to collect all parks asset data, including trees has continued.

Inventory Summary

The following information has been collected to date:

Species	Number	Approximate percentage of Urban Forest
Ash (all species)	4 113	18%
Maple (all species)	6 913	31.3%
Other Deciduous (ex. Ash and maple)	7 074	32%
Conifers (cedar, white pine, spruce, etc.	3 939	17.9%
Total	22 039	

Hazard Ratings:

While hazard assessment is subjective, several core parameters were considered through the inventory to determine the rating. Considerations include:

- structural integrity,
- significant defects,

- species and potential to cause damage. Weak branch attachment, significant lean, decay, minimal foliage, or root instability are some factors.

The inventoried trees are characterized by the following hazard rating:

Tree Hazard Rating	Number
Very low	2 019
Low	13 930
Medium	4651
High Hazard	1194
Very High Hazard	250

The condition and hazard rating are extremely helpful in directing resources and minimizing risk. There is valuable data that can be utilized to predict the potential structure and health of the urban forest.

The current staff complement cannot keep up with the influx of work orders, let alone planting and proactive pruning requirements. In the last few budget years, Council has supported additional operating dollars to allow for additional contracted removal of high-hazard trees.

While significant progress has been made, staff are concerned with the timeline to address the poor condition and high-hazard trees. This creates a significant risk management issue for the City. Comments from the City's Corporate Services Division indicate that with the information and inspections, the City faces potential liability exposure. In the event of a claim related to tree damage, the City's adjuster will request the inspection history and known concerns regarding City trees.

Council is requested to allocate funds from the anticipated 2025 surplus to contract tree removal.

This would allow the removal of very high and high-hazard trees, significantly reducing the City's potential liability. The final number of trees removed will depend on the actual tender results.

This work is packaged and ready to tender. The cost estimate was developed based on estimates from contractors.

Analysis:

Given the updated tree inventory data and the increasing volume of high- and very high-hazard trees identified as the ash borer disease progresses, there is a clear and pressing need to accelerate removals to mitigate risk to public safety and reduce the City's liability exposure. The current staffing and budget levels are insufficient to address the backlog of hazardous trees in a timely manner.

Allocating additional funds from the projected 2025 year-end surplus will enable the removal of approximately 288 of the most dangerous, very high and high hazard trees. This proactive investment supports responsible asset management, aligns with Council's previous commitments to urban forest health, and significantly reduces potential costs associated with future tree-related claims or incidents.

Financial Implications:

As previously reported in the 2025 T1 Financial Update, the City is tracking toward a year-end operating surplus, a portion of which has been attributed to a one-time rebate from the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB). This rebate, now confirmed, represents a return of insurance premiums due to the City's strong performance in workplace risk management, injury prevention, and system compliance.

While the full financial update for the second term will be provided in the upcoming Q2 Financial Update, it is reasonable to consider that the City's 2025 year-end position remains favourable at this time.

From a financial strategy perspective, the WSIB rebate should be viewed as a risk management surplus; a refund tied directly to the City's effective mitigation of workplace liabilities. In this context, allocating a portion of the anticipated surplus toward the removal of high- and very high-risk trees represents a logical and responsible reinvestment of those returned funds. These trees present ongoing liability exposure to the City. Removing them is a risk reduction measure, not unlike preventing workplace accidents, and aligns with the same principles that underpinned the City's eligibility for the WSIB refund in the first place.

This report recommends that Council authorize the allocation of \$180,000 from the anticipated 2025 operating surplus to fund the immediate removal of approximately 288 hazardous trees in fall 2025. This one-time investment

would significantly reduce the City's exposure to tree-related claims and public safety risks.

Communication Strategy:

The City would issue a media release to advise people in the area of these removals.

Consultation:

Richard Goetz, Tree Inventory and Park Asset Specialist

Attachments:

None

Recommended by:

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services
Eckhard Pastrick, Manager of Parks and Open Space

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Eckhard Pastrick, Manager of Parks and Open Space at epastrick@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 x 1221.

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Meeting Date: September 22, 2025
Report Code: CR-25-109
Subject: 2026 Election Report No. 1

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-109 respecting 2026 Election Report No. 1, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to amend the Election Sign By-law as outlined in the report.

Highlights:

- The next municipal election is on Monday, October 26, 2026.
- Internet and telephone voting will be the method used for the 2026 municipal election.
- The new term of Council begins on Monday, November 16, 2026.
- Direction is required for any election related by-laws.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: This report supports the delivery of Core Service.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Previous Report/Authority:

Municipal Act, 2001

Municipal Elections Act, 1996

Background:

Council is elected to a four-year term with the current term of Council set to expire on November 14, 2026. While the Clerk is responsible to conduct municipal elections, Council is the approval authority where issues require authorization by by-law. Preparation has begun for the 2026 municipal election and the following items are being brought to Council's attention for information and consideration.

Analysis:

Question on the Ballot

The *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* ("MEA") enables Council to pass a by-law to submit a question to the electors on the election ballot. The question must:

- Concern a matter within the jurisdiction of the municipality but not concern a matter which has been prescribed as a matter of provincial interest;
- Be clear, concise and neutral; and
- Be capable of being answered by a "yes" or "no".

Before passing a by-law directing the submission of a question to the electors, the Clerk must give at least 10 days' notice of the intention to pass the by-law and hold at least one public meeting. Following the passing of the by-law, notice must again be given within 15 days. The MEA prescribes the content of both the notice of intent to pass the by-law and the notice of passing. There is a 20-day appeal period.

For a question to be on the ballot for the 2026 municipal election, the process outlined above needs to be completed by March 1, 2026. For clarity, there could be more than one question on the ballot, but each question must be presented individually and follow the process outlined above.

Should Council wish to pursue a by-law to place a question on the ballot, a resolution requesting a staff report on the notice provisions, appeal provisions and determination of the question will be required.

Contribution Rebates

A municipality may, by by-law, provide for the payment of rebates for individuals who make contributions to candidates for office on the municipal council. Rebates would be funded by the municipality. The by-law shall

establish the conditions under which an individual is entitled to a rebate. The by-law may provide for the payment of different amounts to different individuals on any basis.

Traditionally, the City has declined to pass a by-law respecting contribution rebates and it has not been included in the election budget. Should Council be interested in taking a different approach, a resolution requesting a staff report will be required.

Language of Notice and Forms

Under the MEA, notice, forms and other information are required to be in English only unless Council passes a by-law allowing the use of French for prescribed forms and French or other languages, or both, in notices, forms and other information.

The MEA does require that notices, forms and other information be in both French and English where the information is related to an election for a French-language district school board. A by-law may also be passed in relation to these items to include other languages in addition to French and English.

Traditionally, the City has provided all notices, forms and other information in English only except the prescribed forms that must be in French and English. By-laws to require French or other languages where optional have not been enacted and would require a resolution of Council to initiate.

Recount Policy

The MEA provides the opportunity for a municipality to adopt a policy respecting the circumstances in which the municipality requires a recount. This type of policy would establish a threshold for when a recount must be taken. Absent a policy, the MEA provisions apply.

The MEA requires that a recount be held when:

- Two or more candidates receive the same number of votes and cannot both or all be elected to the office;
- A by-law submitted to the electors for approval has equal votes 'yes' and 'no';
- A question on the ballot has two or more answers with equal votes.

The MEA also allows the council of a municipality to pass a resolution, within 30 days of the declaration of results, to direct a recount for:

- All or specified candidates for an office on the council;

- All or specified answers to a question;
- Votes for or against a by-law.

A recount policy would require passage by by-law. The City does not currently have a recount policy as it has been previously determined that the provisions in the MEA are sufficient. A resolution of Council would be required to direct staff to bring forward a recount policy for consideration.

Election Sign By-law

In 2022, Council approved a standalone [Election Sign By-law](#). This by-law deals exclusively with signs related to federal, provincial and municipal elections which makes it easier for candidates to navigate the regulations.

In 2022, staff created an information sheet for candidates as a quick reference tool for the sign regulations. Attached to this staff report is the 2022 information sheet that will be updated for the 2026 election.

In reviewing notes from the 2022 election, the following changes to the Election Sign By-law are proposed by staff:

- Add a provision that election signs are not permitted in Owen Sound for candidates in municipal races that do not include electors from within the City (e.g. Georgian Bluffs candidates cannot erect signs in Owen Sound);
- Change “Election Help Centre” references to “Election Centre”; and
- Amend measurements relating to sign heights to address a typo.

In recent years, a number of municipalities have prohibited election signs on public property citing the: visual clutter; environmental impact; potential advantage for incumbents; cost of using election signs deterring potential candidates; cost of related enforcement issues and the principle that public space should not be used for advertising. If Council is interested in prohibiting election signs on public property or making any further changes to the by-law, a resolution of Council is required.

Financial Implications:

Notices of public meetings and intent to pass a by-law cost approximately \$500 each when placed in the local paper.

Introducing a contribution rebate policy could significantly impact costs, and no funding has been allocated for this in the current election budget.

Adding the requirement to produce notices, forms or other information in French or other languages will result in translation costs that have not, at this time, been factored into the election budget.

The overall election budget is \$80,000.

Communication Strategy:

Any by-laws will be accompanied by a public report and, where needed, a notice of public meeting or intent to pass a by-law will be given through the City's website and the local newspaper. All election related by-laws and information will be made available on the City's Election webpage. The webpage which will be launched in the new year.

Consultation:

Manager of Legislative Services

Attachments:

Election Sign Fact Sheet

Recommended by:

Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk

Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk at bbloomfield@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1247.

Important information about

Election Signs

General Regulations

- Election signs must be kept in a state of good repair.
- Election signs cannot use or display the City logo, crest or seal.
- Election signs cannot be erected on any public City property except road allowances.
- No election signs can be erected on road allowances that abut Greenwood Cemetery or public property dedicated to military veterans.
- Election signs cannot be mounted to anything on a road allowance (utility poles, trees, benches, etc.).
- No more than 2 signs advertising the same candidate or political party are allowed on each side of a City road between two consecutive intersecting roads.
- Election signs cannot be erected at a voting place or election help centre.

Election Sign Placement

Sign Distance	Location
Prohibited	• Within sight triangles
0.5 metres	• From sidewalks
2.0 metres	• From the travelled portion of a municipal roadway, including the shoulder
3.0 metres	• From fire hydrants
5.0 metres	• From driveways • From intersections

Questions?

Please call 519-376-4440 ext 1905 or email enforcement@owensound.ca for questions, or to report any sign-related issues.

Election sign support and size requirements

- Single or double-sided sign.
- Mounted on one or more poles or a steel or metal frame with a base intended to be pushed into the ground.
- Maximum dimension of 1.5m².
- Maximum height, including mounts, of 1.22 metres.

When can signs be placed and when must they be removed

Election	Start Date	Removal Date
Municipal Election	30 days before voting day (September 24, 2022)	72 hours after voting day
Provincial or Federal Election	The day the writ for an election or by-election is issued	72 hours after voting day

More important information to remember:

- All signs and sign placement must comply with City and County by-laws.
- Signs cannot be placed on private property without the owner's consent.
- For the full City by-law, visit www.owensound.ca/signbylaw.

For more information about signs on County roads visit www.grey.ca or call 1-800-567-4739.

Questions?

Please call 519-376-4440 ext 1905 or email enforcement@owensound.ca for questions, or to report any sign-related issues.

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Bradey Carbert, Manager of Corporate Services
Meeting Date: September 22, 2025
Report Code: CR-25-125
Subject: Emergency Purchase – Water Treatment Plant Intake and Zebra Mussel Chlorine Line Repairs

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-125 respecting Emergency Purchase – Water Treatment Plant Intake and Zebra Mussel Chlorine Line Repairs, City Council receives the report for information purposes.

Highlights:

- The City was made aware of damage to the water treatment plant intake and zebra mussel chlorine line in November 2024.
- Funding to complete the necessary repairs was included in the 2025-2029 Multi-year Capital Plan update in December 2024.
- A Purchase Order, acknowledging an emergency purchase scenario due to the threat of damage to City infrastructure, was issued in March 2025 so that repairs could be completed in a timely fashion and prior to the increased presence of zebra mussels at the intake.
- The work was completed in early July, with additional repairs being required due to the impacts of the 2024 damage. The total cost of the project was approximately \$194,120 and is funded through water user fees.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

This report supports the delivery of Core Service.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

This supports the objectives of the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan by strengthening the resiliency of City infrastructure or services.

Previous Report/Authority:

[Attachment 1](#) of [Report CR-24-143](#) included the addition of the water treatment plant intake and zebra mussel chlorine line repair project in the 2025-2029 Multi-year Capital Plan.

[Attachment 2](#) of [Report CR-24-143](#) included the capital detail sheet for the water treatment plant intake and zebra mussel chlorine line repair project.

Background:

Section 35 of By-law 2020-002 – Policy Respecting the Procurement of Goods and Services for the City (Purchasing Policy) includes provisions for the emergency purchase of goods or services. The situations are generally related to unforeseen conditions that impact public health and safety, maintenance of essential services, welfare of persons or public property, or the security of the City's interests. These types of purchases are generally related to the repair of assets, allowing them to continue providing services to the Community.

When an emergency purchase is required, the Purchasing Agent (Manager of Corporate Services) has the authority to issue a Purchase Order for the necessary services. When the value of the emergency purchase exceeds \$100,000, the Purchasing Agent shall provide a report to the Council as soon as practicable.

This report has been drafted to provide Council with information regarding the emergency purchase for the water treatment plant intake and zebra mussel chlorine line repairs completed in July.

Analysis:

An unplanned inspection was conducted on the water treatment plant intake in the fall of 2024 due to ongoing issues with the intake, which revealed a significant amount of zebra mussels and sediment on the intake structure

and pipe, a damaged intake screen, and a chlorine line that requires removal and replacement. The combination of these items was deemed a significant threat to the Water Treatment Plant's low lift pumps. The failure of these pumps has a negative impact on the city's ability to draw the necessary water from the bay for treatment in the system. The required work needed to be completed in late spring / early summer 2025, once the conditions around the intake improved, so that the repairs could be made before additional zebra mussels migrated to the intake, thereby preventing damage to City infrastructure.

Staff received the inspection report, including suggested repairs and cost estimates, in November 2024. While this timing allowed staff to include this project in the 2025-2029 Multi-Year Capital Plan update, it did not allow sufficient time for the City to retain a consultant to develop specifications and drawings, thereby hindering a proper procurement process. The required work would have taken 3-4 months to complete, which would not have provided sufficient time for the contractor to coordinate the work or order the necessary materials to complete the work by the spring/summer of 2025. The work to be completed is specialized in nature and there are few contractors that have the knowledge and experience to work on municipal water intakes.

As such, the City issued a Purchase Order to ASI Marine to complete the work in order to prevent damage to City infrastructure at an estimated cost of \$170,341, including the City's non-refundable allocation of HST. This cost estimate was based on the 2024 inspection but did not include additional detailed inspections or additional deterioration that occurred between the original inspection and the construction field work.

The work was completed in July and included all of the deficient items included in the 2024 inspection report. Additional work was required beyond the work identified in the original scope of work, which was related to further deterioration and the presence of additional zebra mussels between the fall 2024 inspection and the work being completed in early July. The cost of the additional work totalled \$23,778.35, including the City's non-refundable allocation of HST. The financial implications of the required and additional work are detailed in the section below.

Financial Implications:

The 2025-2029 Multi-year Capital Plan included \$200,000 for the Water Treatment Plant Intake and Zebra Mussel Chlorine Line Repairs. The total cost of the work completed by ASI Marine was within budget, at \$194,120, including non-rebateable HST.

Communication Strategy:

Communication of the work was not required as the work was completed in coordination with the City's water treatment staff and did not result in water outages during the project.

Consultation:

City Manager
Director of Public Works and Engineering
Manager of Water and Wastewater
Water Treatment Superintendent
Purchasing and Claims Coordinator

Attachments:

N/A

Recommended by:

Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Bradey Carbert, Manager of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Bradey Carbert, Manager of Corporate Services at bcarbert@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1240.



Minutes

River District Board of Management

July 9, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dave Parsons
Vice Chair Richard Thomas
Councillor Travis Dodd (via video)
Member Tim Dwyer
Member Kathy Hannen
Member Olivia Legate
Member Jen Smith
Member Winnifred Walcott

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Josh Gurney, Owen Sound Police Service Sargent
Viveca Gravel, River District Coordinator
Allison Penner, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Parsons called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. All Board members and staff listed above were present except for Councillor Dodd.

2. MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

RD-250709-001

Moved by Vice Chair Thomas

"THAT the River District Board of Management now move into 'Closed Session' to consider one matter regarding personal matters about identifiable individuals respecting appointments to the River District Board of Management."

Carried.

3. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Chair Parsons advised that the Board returned to the open session at 5:37 p.m. All Board members and staff listed above were present except for Councillor Dodd.

During the Closed Session, the Board discussed one matter regarding personal matters about identifiable individuals respecting appointments to the River District Board of Management, and direction was provided to staff.

4. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 4.a Member Dwyer Re: Parking Time Limits
- 4.b Member Walcott Re: Garbage By-law
- 4.c River District Coordinator Re: Upcoming Stakeholder Meeting
- 4.d Member Legate Re: Block Captain Update

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 6.a Minutes of the River District Board of Management meeting held on May 14, 2025

RD-250709-002

Moved by Member Hannen

"THAT the minutes of the River District Board of Management meeting held on May 14, 2025 be approved as printed."

Carried.

7. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 7.a Deputation from Clark Finlay Re: Pedestrianization of 2nd Avenue East

Mr. Finlay provided a PowerPoint presentation respecting ideas to increase pedestrian use of 2nd Avenue East. Mr. Finlay noted alignments between pedestrianization and the Harbour and Downtown Master Plan. Mr. Finlay suggested actions that would support the River District, such as promoting walkability in new development and increasing the frequency of activations and events within the River District.

Mr. Finlay noted possible objections to pedestrianization such as challenges with deliveries, accessibility, safety, cost and parking, and further provided suggestions for how these challenges could be overcome.

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Finlay provided examples of other Ontario municipalities that have successfully pedestrianized streets on a seasonal or short-term basis.

In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Finlay advised that he believes long-term closure of the street is preferable to occasional events, and that more people will visit the River District if it is lively and there are things to do.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

8.a Ron Cole, River District Business Owner

Mr. Cole provided comments in opposition to the ideas proposed in Item 7.a. Deputation from Clark Finlay Re: Pedestrianization of 2nd Avenue East. Mr. Cole noted that he and other business owners have concerns about accessibility and social disorder. Mr. Cole requested that if the Board were to move toward permanent pedestrianization, a meeting of River District stakeholders be held.

Councillor Dodd joined the meeting via video.

8.b James Ball, Owen Sound resident

Mr. Ball provided comments respecting public substance use and police presence in the River District. Mr. Ball noted that he believes the price of goods sold in River District businesses and the cost of events around the City exclude people with fewer financial resources.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

10. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

10.a Verbal Report from the Owen Sound Police Service Re: Police Update

Sergeant Gurney advised that the Owen Sound Police foot patrol hours in the River District totalled 89.5 in May and 131 in June. Sergeant Gurney noted that officer training and a high volume of calls for service can limit capacity to conduct foot patrol.

In response to a question from the Board, Sergeant Gurney noted that Owen Sound Police have received limited response to their request that River District businesses provide impact statements related to possession and use of illicit drugs. Sergeant Gurney advised that while anonymous statements would be accepted, signed letters may be more impactful as the Police Service hopes to provide these letters to the courts to demonstrate the community impact of dismissing drug possession charges.

Chair Parsons requested that the River District Coordinator include the request for letters of support from the Owen Sound Police in the next River District newsletter.

RD-250709-003

Moved by Member Hannen

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided July 9, 2025, from Sergeant Gurney respecting a Police Update, the River District Board of Management receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

Sergeant Gurney left the meeting.

The Board discussed Item 11.a at this time.

11.a Matter Postponed from River District Board of Management Meeting held on May 14, 2025 Re: Feedback on Short-Term Rental Licensing Review

The City Clerk advised that in follow-up to the presentation provided at the May 14, 2025 meeting of the River District respecting feedback on short-term rental (STR) licensing review, staff are seeking direction from the Board with respect to whether they support removing the principal residence and rental cap requirements in the C1 and MC zones.

The Board discussed feedback received from members of the River District and noted that concerns heard were generally related to the potential to remove affordable housing from the River District and supportive comments were generally related to economic development potential.

In response to a question from the Board, the City Clerk advised that staff have committed to providing Council with a follow-up report to evaluate any changes made to the STR By-law one year following their implementation.

Councillor Dodd noted that Council will take the Board's feedback into consideration, but that Council will ultimately decide whether to make any changes to the STR By-law.

RD-250709-007

Moved by Vice Chair Thomas

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-035 and the presentation provided at the May 14, 2025 River District Board of Management Meeting and further discussed at the July 9, 2025 meeting respecting a review of the Short-Term Rental (STR) program, the River District Board of Management directs staff to forward a memo to City Council supporting the removal of the principal residence and rental cap requirements in the C1 and MC zones."

Carried.

The City Clerk left the meeting.

- 10.b Report CS-25-073 from Director of Community Services Re: River District Action Plan - Options to Approach for Update

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the report.

RD-250709-004

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-073 respecting the River District Action Plan Update, the River District Board of Management directs staff to:

- 1. Undertake the River District Action Plan Update using internal City resources; and**
- 2. Reallocate up to \$10,000 from the funds originally allocated to the River District Action Plan Update to the in-house work, and return the remaining \$20,000 to reserves."**

Carried.

- 10.c Report CR-25-096 from the Deputy Clerk Re: Appointment of Director to the River District Board of Management

The Deputy Clerk provided an overview of the report.

RD-250709-005

Moved by Vice Chair Thomas

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-096 respecting Appointment of Director to the River District Board of Management, the River District Board directs staff to send a memo to City Council requesting that the appointment of Adrienne Robinson be approved."

Carried.

- 10.d Verbal Report from the Board Treasurer Re: Board Finances

The Board Treasurer advised that the total balance of all accounts was \$169,953, and that \$553 in interest had been earned since the May meeting.

RD-250709-006

Moved by Member Hannen

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided July 9, 2025, from the Board Treasurer respecting Board Finances, the River District Board of Management receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

11. MATTERS POSTPONED

11.a Matter Postponed from River District Board of Management Meeting held on May 14, 2025 Re: Feedback on Short-Term Rental Licensing Review

Item 11.a was discussed after Item 10.a

12. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

13. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

13.a Final approvals issued for the following Business Licence:

- Tibbs Management Inc., an ATM and business equipment sales and service business located at 945 3rd Ave E.

RD-250709-008

Moved by Member Legate

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the July 9, 2025 River District Board of Management (RDBM) agenda, the RDBM receives item 11.a for information purposes."

Carried.

14. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

14.a Parking Time Limits

Member Dwyer advised that he is concerned about the parking time limits and how they may prevent visitors from extending the length of their stay in the River District.

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the current complimentary parking system. Ms. Coulter advised that the parking system currently in place was developed jointly by the Board and City Council, and that direction from the Board would be required for staff to undertake a review of the parking system.

In response to a question from the Board, the Director of Community Services advised that staff would confirm the timing of the next scheduled review of the Parking By-law.

In response to a question from the Board, the River District Coordinator advised that social media promotion of parking lots with 5-hour free parking could begin immediately.

14.b Garbage By-law

Member Walcott inquired about enforcement of the Garbage By-law with respect to non-compliance with the requirement to use garbage bag tags.

In response to a question from the Board, the Director of Community Services noted that garbage issues are an ongoing issue in the River District. Ms. Coulter noted that untagged garbage is an ongoing issue and that By-law Enforcement staff recently conduct an information blitz reminding occupants that bag tags are required. Ms. Coulter further noted that the River District Action Plan speaks to cleanliness and suggests conducting a waste audit.

14.c Upcoming Stakeholder Meeting

The River District Coordinator advised that a Community Stakeholder Discussion for a Vibrant River District will be held on July 28, 2025 at the Harmony Centre and that all River District businesses would be invited.

14.d Block Captain Update

Member Legate noted recent feedback she has received in her role as a block captain, including suggestions related to increasing garbage receptacles, providing funding to businesses to support minor repairs caused by vandalism, providing safe sharps disposal receptacles and the need to create a sense of community in the River District.

In response to a question from the Board, the River District Coordinator noted that there are two directories of River District businesses and that updates are forthcoming.

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

16. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Parsons adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Correspondence Items Presented for Information September 22, 2025

- 1) Correspondence from the Ministry of Transportation Re: AMO Delegation.
- 2) Correspondence from AMO Re:
 - a) AMO Policy Update – AMO Advocacy on Automated Speed Enforcement, Development Charges Advocacy, Federal Government Pre-Budget Announcements, Federal-Provincial-Territorial Housing Forum Commitments, and Blue Box Amendments.
 - b) AMO Policy Update – Federal Government Launches Build Canada Homes.
- 3) Correspondence from Conservation Ontario Re: 2025 and 2026 Federal Pre-Budget Submission.
- 4) Correspondence from the Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk, Municipality of Bluewater Re: Closure of Before and After School Programs.
- 5) Correspondence from the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, Township of Larder Lake Re: Resolution Requesting a Moratorium on Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate in the Timiskaming Forest.
- 6) Correspondence from the Mayor, Municipality of St. Charles Re: Natural Gas Expansion – Project Cancellation.

**Ministry of
Transportation**

Office of the
Parliamentary Assistant
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8

Tel: 416 327-9200

**Ministère des
Transports**

Bureau de l'adjoint
parlementaire
777, rue Bay 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8

Tél : 416 327-9200



August 29, 2025

107-2025-1820

Ian Boddy
Mayor
City of Owen Sound
iboddy@owensound.ca

Dear Mayor Boddy:

It was a pleasure to meet with you and your delegation at this year's Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference. I appreciated the opportunity to hear about your community's transportation needs and look forward to working together to strengthen and expand safe and reliable transportation infrastructure across Ontario.

The Ministry of Transportation remains dedicated to supporting municipal priorities through our programs, services and infrastructure investments. These projects are a part of our government's plan to protect Ontario by creating thousands of jobs and driving economic growth. With a historic investment of \$100 billion, we are delivering over 1,200 transit and highway infrastructure projects provincewide, including the largest transit expansion in North America. As we move forward, we continue to collaborate with our municipal partners to build safe, fast and reliable transportation infrastructure that keeps Ontarians moving.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to Cindy Lee, Director of Strategic Planning at cindy.lee3@ontario.ca.

Thank you for making the time to meet with me at the conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hardeep Grewal".

Hardeep Grewal
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation

AMO Policy Update – AMO Advocacy on Automated Speed Enforcement, Federal Development Charges Advocacy, Federal Government Pre-Budget Announcements, Federal-Provincial-Territorial Housing Forum Commitments, and Blue Box Amendments

Top Insights

- In response to recent comments by Premier Ford about municipal use of **automated speed enforcement**, AMO wrote a letter to the Premier and Minister of Transportation. ASEs are evidence-based and cost-effective tools to support road safety that have broad public support.
- AMO is advocating to the federal government that any **federally mandated reductions to development charges** will need to be replaced with a new, equally predictable, and sufficient revenue source that make Ontario municipalities whole.
- The federal government announced a new **federal industrial strategy** which will include a new “Buy Canadian” procurement policy, including a roadmap for provinces and municipalities to adopt.
- AMO stands ready to work with the provincial government to support conversations with the federal government about commitments agreed to by the **Federal-Provincial-Territorial Forum on Housing**.
- The province finalized amendments to the **Blue Box Regulation**, addressing some municipal concerns.

AMO Advocacy on Automated Speed Enforcement

Earlier today, [AMO sent a letter](#) to the Premier and Minister of Transportation highlighting the important evidence-based role that automated speed enforcement (ASE) plays in improving road safety:

- Automated speed enforcement is making roads safer. Automated speed enforcement cameras in Toronto reduced speeding vehicles by 45 per cent.
- ASE is cost effective. ASE allows police officers to focus on other high-impact activities and net ASE revenues are reinvested in community safety improvements.
- ASE is supported by most Ontarians. Nearly three-quarters of Ontario drivers support the use of ASE in targeted areas like school zones or community centres.

Municipalities understand the need to use these tools thoughtfully and can be counted on to do so. AMO has sought to collaborate with the province to ensure that ASE is used effectively and to improve public understanding of their importance.

Federal Development Charges Advocacy

The federal government's election platform pledged \$6 billion federal funding over four years for Development Charge (DC) discounts of 50% for multi-unit residential housing projects. The platform also committed to working with provinces and territories to make municipalities whole.

AMO [has advocated to Minister Robertson](#) and his ministry that DCs are a long-term and relatively stable revenue source, and any federally mandated reductions to DCs will need to be replaced with a new, equally predictable, and sufficient revenue source.

The foregone revenue loss for Ontario municipalities would be significant. Federal funding must fully compensate Ontario municipalities with an increase in direct, stable and multi-year funding to match the full municipal revenue loss from any reduction in DCs. Additional financing tools or short-term funding commitments will not be enough to support Ontario's long-term infrastructure needs.

AMO has also highlighted the broader issue of chronic underinvestment in Ontario's municipal infrastructure and called on the federal government to work with the province and municipalities to establish new and innovative mechanisms that will provide sustainable, predictable and enhanced funding for local infrastructure.

Federal Government announces new industrial strategy to combat US tariffs

Last week, Prime Minister Carney said to expect a fall budget with austerity and investment measures.

Providing more insight into the planned investments, the Prime Minister [announced](#) six new strategic measures. These measures are designed to support workers and businesses most impacted by US tariffs and trade disruptions. They focus on helping workers acquire new skills and businesses retool their production and diversify their products, finding ways to increase their sales nationally through new and existing programs.

One key initiative is the introduction of a new “Buy Canadian Policy” to boost domestic demand for Canadian businesses. As part of this new procurement policy, the federal government will provide a roadmap that provinces and municipalities can adopt for their own procurement practices. AMO will continue to work closely with the province to ensure new procurement measures – including this roadmap - reflect the needs of Ontario municipalities. AMO Policy will review and share insights on the “Buy Canadian Policy” and roadmap for municipalities once its released.

AMO will also monitor its [Major Projects Office](#), which is charged with fast-tracking nation building projects, for announcements that impact Ontario municipalities.

Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Forum on Housing and Homelessness

The forum of federal, provincial and territorial ministers (FPT) across Canada met to discuss solutions to key housing and homelessness issues facing people in Canada. As detailed in a [news release](#), the forum focused on a coordinated approach to advancing housing and homeless priorities and resulted in commitments to working together including to renew intergovernmental partnerships on affordable housing beyond the expiry of the National Housing Strategy (NHS) in 2028.

AMO is pleased to see this commitment for continued FPT collaboration. Continued NHS funding is crucial because of the role it plays in providing access to safe, affordable, and inclusive housing by increasing housing supply, improving housing quality, and supporting vulnerable populations. These contributions are essential to helping to strengthen the social and economic prosperity of communities. AMO stands ready to support the Ontario government in conversations with their federal counterparts through a Team Ontario approach.

Blue Box Regulation Amendments

On September 4th, the province [released](#) finalized Blue Box Regulation (O. Reg 391/21) amendments. The regulation shifts the financial and operational responsibility of the blue box program from municipalities to industry.

In July, [AMO sent a letter to Minister McCarthy](#) outlining municipal concerns about proposed Blue Box Regulation amendments. AMO is pleased to see that the government listened and adjusted some amendments in response. In particular, we are pleased that the province has:

- Delayed enforceable recycling targets by two years instead of five, and
- Delayed, instead of canceling, the expansion of service to multi-residential buildings.

AMO will continue to advocate for a strong recycling system where manufacturers are responsible for their packaging and incentivized to reduce waste.

An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).

*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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

Christina McLean

From: Briana Bloomfield
Sent: September 15, 2025 12:21 PM
To: Christina McLean
Subject: FW: AMO Policy Update – Federal Government Launches Build Canada Homes

Info pack.

Briana Bloomfield
City Clerk
Corporate Services Department

City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Ave East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4
519-376-4440 ext. 1247
bbloomfield@owensound.ca
www.owensound.ca



From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2025 12:10 PM
To: Briana Bloomfield <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>
Subject: AMO Policy Update – Federal Government Launches Build Canada Homes

External sender <policy@amo.on.ca>

Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.



AMO
Policy



AMO Policy Update – Federal Government Launches Build Canada Homes

Top Insights

- Yesterday, AMO's President and Executive Director were invited to Ottawa for the launch of **Build Canada Homes**. Ontario municipalities are ready to work with the province and federal government to transform the housing landscape and increase affordable, supportive and transitional housing in Ontario.

Federal Government Launch of Build Canada Homes

AMO welcomes the Government of Canada's [announcement](#) launching [Build Canada Homes](#), a new Special Operating Agency within Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC). AMO's President Robin Jones and Executive Director Lindsay Jones attended the announcement with Prime Minister Carney and Minister Robertson (Housing and Infrastructure of Canada).

Responsive to AMO's market sounding guide [submission](#), Build Canada Homes (BCH) will focus primarily on non-market housing, supporting a mix of income needs as part of a national effort to double housing construction, restore affordability, and reduce homelessness. BCH aligns with AMO's recommendations about Ontario's municipal priorities:

- The agency will work with municipalities, provinces, territories and Indigenous Communities to fight homelessness by building supportive and transitional housing with an investment of \$1 billion and will seek to pair these federal investments with employment and health care supports in provinces and territories.
- A new acquisition program to protect existing affordable rental housing, the \$1.5 billion Canada Rental Protection Fund, will help the community housing sector in acquiring at-risk apartment buildings to ensure their affordability over the long term.
- BCH will also work with the private sector to deploy modern methods of construction to create a new Canadian housing industry using Canadian materials. Prioritization initially will be placed on creating 4000 factory-built units in six select Canadian cities, including Toronto and Ottawa, with additional capacity of up to 45,000 units across the portfolio.

BCH will be headed by Ana Bailão as the agency's Chief Executive Officer. As a former Toronto City Councillor and chair of Toronto Community Housing, Ana will bring her knowledge of housing in Ontario to the leadership position.

AMO will work with both the federal and provincial governments to ensure the conditions for BCH's success in Ontario given our unique municipal responsibility for community housing and homelessness prevention services. This will include working with the Ontario government to match federal capital dollars with provincial operating funding for the necessary wrap around supports for supportive housing. AMO looks forward to working with the federal government on the potential expansion of the initiative to create new factory-built units on federal lands in more Ontario communities – large urban, small urban, rural, northern and southern.

The federal government will announce additional measures in Budget 2025 to lower costs for builders and to catalyze private capital in homebuilding. AMO asks the federal government to avoid imposing new development charge (DC) exemptions or discounts. DCs have been a key funding source for municipal capital investments for decades. Reductions will be counterproductive unless DCs are fully replaced with another equally predictable and stable revenue source.

An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).

*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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Conservation
ONTARIO
Natural Champions

2025 and 2026 Federal Pre-Budget Submission

*Conservation Ontario's Pre-Budget
Submission in Advance of the Federal Budget*



RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Safeguard Canada's flood insurance market and reduce disaster recovery costs by continuing to invest in resilient critical infrastructure, businesses, and homes.

- 1.1** That Natural Resources Canada continues to invest and build on the 4-year commitment (2022/23-2025/26) of \$15 million for Ontario and \$164.2 million across Canada through the Flood Hazard Identification Mapping Program (FHIMP). This will deliver the most up-to-date data to local governments and decision-makers, informing long-term planning and ensuring new and existing development can be insured.
- 1.2** That Natural Resources Canada continues to invest further to the 4-year commitment (2024/25-2027/28) of \$4.1 million for Ontario and \$41 million across Canada into the Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities (CRCC) program and build on the existing investment to co-develop long-term funding solutions with provincial and municipal governments to scale local adaptation actions and reduce insured losses.
- 1.3** That Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada continues to invest and build on the 14-year commitment (2018/19-2031/32) of \$4 billion for the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) to repair and address aging water and erosion control infrastructure, protecting large capital assets such as dams, dykes, channels, and erosion control structures vital to public safety and to keep flood and erosion hazards from becoming costly disasters.

2 Unleash economic opportunities by bolstering local food supply chains through continued investments in resilient agricultural landscapes.

- 2.1** That Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada continues to invest further to the 5-year commitment (2023/24-2027/28) of \$56.7 million for Ontario through the Resilient Agriculture Lands Program (RALP) to support local farmers in implementing nature-based solutions that strengthen the long-term viability and prosperity of Ontario's farmland and watercourses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3 Build one Canadian economy by investing in local and entry-level employment through conservation programs that fight climate change.

3.1 That Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) partners with Conservation Ontario to deliver the Canadian Nature Protection Fund through a \$12 million investment in 2025-2026. This will build on the \$23.6 million investment that has been made by ECCC since 2021 under the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund and Canada Nature Fund where Conservation Authorities leveraged \$35.2 million in matching funds through municipal, local, regional, and watershed partners.

3.2 That Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) continues to partner with Conservation Ontario and Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities to foster local and entry-level employment through the Canada Summer Job Program.

4 Uphold binational and provincial commitments to protect the Great Lakes and Canada's freshwater.

4.1 That the Canada Water Agency and ECCC continue to invest, on average, \$50 million annually into local projects under the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative (GLFEI) to adhere to the commitments made under the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) and to strengthen and renew the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA), protecting our shared boundary waters.



THE CHALLENGE

Flooding is the leading cause of public emergencies in Ontario

Conservation Ontario and Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities play a vital role in safeguarding our communities from the devastating impacts of flooding and erosion. By collaborating with municipalities, provincial ministries, federal departments, and agencies, Conservation Authorities deliver local cost-effective programs and services to our watershed residents that are grounded in science and reduce the physical and financial risks that can take years for communities to recover from. Conservation Authorities' proactive approach to flood management ensures that homes, businesses, roads, hospitals, and critical municipal infrastructure are built outside of floodplains and accessible by first responders.

Ontario's strong land use policies have reduced flood hazard risks to existing housing compared to other provinces. The successful collaboration between Conservation Authorities, the province, and local governments in prohibiting development in high-flood risk areas, effectively minimizes flood risks to housing.¹

THE OPPORTUNITY

Strengthen Canada's Front Line of Flood Defence

Investments in local flood management delivered through Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities are a proven, cost-effective strategy that:

- 1 Supports Canada's National Adaptation Strategy and fights climate change.
- 2 Reduces disaster recovery costs, business disruptions, and insurance claims.
- 3 Enhances resilient infrastructure and public safety.
- 4 Advances the implementation of nature-based solutions.

Despite our best efforts, in 2024, extreme flood events across Southern Ontario caused extensive damage to homes, businesses and municipal infrastructure, resulting in \$1 billion in insured losses emphasizing the need for continued local investments.²

¹Canadian Climate Institute. (2025). Close to Home: How to Build More Housing in a Changing Climate. [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Close-to-Home-Report-Canadian-Climate-Institute.pdf](https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Close-to-Home-Report-Canadian-Climate-Institute.pdf)

²Insurance Bureau of Canada. (2025). Toronto and GTA Flash Flood Anniversary Underscores Urgency of Severe Weather Preparedness. <https://www.ibc.ca/news-insights/news/toronto-and-gta-flash-flood-anniversary-underscores-urgency-of-severe-weather-preparedness>

ONTARIO'S EXPERTS IN FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE



In 2025 and 2026, Conservation Ontario and Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities remain committed to advancing our shared priorities that protect communities and local businesses, fueling the fastest-growing economy in the G7. Our ongoing collaborations:

- 1 Reduce risk to people and property from flooding and erosion events through hazard mapping studies.
- 2 Bolster local mitigation, prevention, and adaptation actions against flood and erosion events through cutting-edge hybrid, green and grey infrastructure projects.
- 3 Foster resilient agricultural lands through the implementation of innovative nature-based solutions.
- 4 Safeguard the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River water quality and lead scalable coastal resilience actions.

ACHIEVING RESULTS THROUGH LOCAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Conservation Authorities:

- 1 **Monitor and model flood conditions across 402 municipalities**, ensuring early detection of flood events for our communities.
- 2 **Issue over 300 flood warning messages each year** to watershed and coastal communities across Ontario, enhancing public safety and minimizing costly disruptions to businesses and essential services.
- 3 **Manage \$4.1 billion of flood control and prevention infrastructure**, including 987 dams, dykes, channels, and erosion control structures.
- 4 **Regulate development in hazardous areas and have mapped 26,800 km of flood-prone areas** delivering the best available data to decision-makers.



Conservation Authorities

Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities are local, watershed-based, natural resource agencies located throughout the province. They are legislated under Ontario's *Conservation Authorities Act* and serve as Source Protection Authorities under the *Clean Water Act*. **Click here to find your local Conservation Authority.**

Conservation Ontario

Conservation Ontario is the member organization of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities, working with all levels of government to advocate for funding to enhance watershed programs and services.

Contact

Angela Coleman, General Manager/CAO

acoleman@conservationontario.ca | 289-763-4807

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket, ON L3Y 3W3



September 4, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office
Room 281
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education
15th Floor
438 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5

via email: premier@ontario.ca
minister.edu@ontario.ca

RE: Closure of Before and After School Programs

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Calandra,

The Council of the Municipality of Bluewater passed the following resolution at their September 2, 2025 regular meeting:

MOVED: Councillor Harris **SECONDED:** Councillor Whetstone

WHEREAS on August 19, 2025, London Bridge Child Care Services Inc. advised that they will be closing all London Bridge Huron County Before and After School Programs, which affects Bluewater Coast Elementary School, Exeter Elementary School, and Precious Blood Catholic School; and

WHEREAS London Bridge Child Care Services Inc. cites ongoing staffing shortages in Huron County and across the province as the reason for this closure; and

WHEREAS the closure of the London Bridge Before and After School Programs, along with the Preschool Program at Bluewater Coast Elementary School, are creating a significant and immediate challenge for families with young children; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater recognizes the importance of before and after school programs which provide a trusted, safe, and consistent environment for children outside of regular school hours – support that many working parents and guardians rely on to balance their jobs and family responsibilities; and

WHEREAS the Avon Maitland District School Board and the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board do not operate licensed childcare programs, but partner with childcare providers to make use of school spaces where possible;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater urges the Province of Ontario to immediately implement other service delivery models that are being successfully modeled elsewhere in the province to address the Early Childhood Educator shortage.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education, and all Ontario Municipalities. **CARRIED.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander", with a large, stylized initial "A".

Chandra Alexander
Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk

cc: All Ontario Municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE
69 FOURTH AVENUE, P. O. BOX 40, LARDER LAKE, ON P0K 1L0
PH: 705-643-2158 FAX: 705-643-2311
LARDERLAKE.CA

September 10, 2025

To whom it May Concern:

RE: Resolution #18, September 9, 2025 - Resolution Requesting a Moratorium on Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate in the Timiskaming Forest

Please be advised that at the Township of Larder Lake's Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 9th, 2025, the following resolution was adopted:

Moved by: Councillor Armstrong

Seconded by: Councillor Kelly

CARRIED

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, plans to begin aerial spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides starting on or before August 10th, 2025, in the Timiskaming Forest; and

WHEREAS the Timiskaming Forest covers a significant portion of the Municipality of Larder Lake, and this activity may impact residents and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS new scientific evidence published since Health Canada's last assessment of glyphosate in 2017 has linked glyphosate-based end-use products to cancer, metabolic and neurological diseases, reproductive toxicity, and ecosystem harm; and

WHEREAS the Province of Quebec banned the use of glyphosate for forestry purposes in 2001 and replaced aerial herbicide spraying with manual forest thinning as a safer alternative forest management method; and

WHEREAS many residents have expressed concern regarding the potential environmental and public health risks associated with aerial spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Larder Lake formally requests that the Honourable Mike Harris Jr., Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, reconsider the planned use of glyphosate-based herbicides in the Timiskaming Forest and suspend the aerial spraying initiative until further independent research and updated risk assessments are completed and reviewed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be forwarded to:

The Honourable Mike Harris Jr., Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health

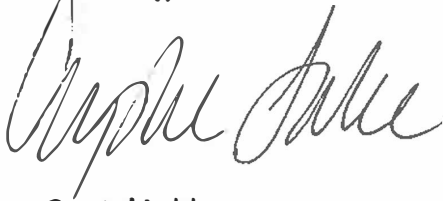
MPP John Vanthof, Timiskaming–Cochrane

AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario)

FONOM (Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities)

All municipalities within Northeastern Ontario

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Crystal Labbe', written in a cursive style.

Crystal Labbe

CAO/ Clerk Treasurer

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Committee of the Whole

Agenda Number: 3.2.3.
Resolution Number 2025-214
Title: Report to Council - Natural Gas Expansion - Project Cancellation
Date: September 3, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Laframboise
Seconded by: Councillor Lachance

WHEREAS the Municipality of St.-Charles benefited from the Natural Gas Expansion Program Phase 2 expansion funding announced on June 9, 2021;

AND WHEREAS on August 13, 2025, the Municipality of St.-Charles was notified that the expansion project was cancelled due to mounting costs associated with inflation and difficult terrain;

AND WHEREAS Northern Ontario is on the cusp of substantial growth largely related to accessing critical minerals that will drive expansion in the mining sector;

AND WHEREAS with this economic expansion comes the need to support growth in traditional sectors such as farming, healthcare, forestry, and education;

AND WHEREAS employment growth will create increased demand for new housing developments to ensure that workers have a place to live, work, and play, all of which are closely tied to accessing natural gas as an affordable energy source and essential infrastructure for future residential, commercial, and industrial development;

AND WHEREAS current energy challenges force developers to explore alternatives such as oil and propane, which, while serving as temporary solutions, come with high costs and raise environmental concerns;

AND WHEREAS there is an urgent need for investment in sustainable energy solutions that are affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible to support both current and future development;

AND WHEREAS natural gas is recognized as a clean, economical, and domestically sourced energy option that will lower energy costs for residents, farms, and businesses, while also enhancing opportunities for northern communities to grow by attracting new housing developments and commercial investment;

AND WHEREAS natural gas serves as a critical transition fuel that reduces reliance on higher-emission sources such as oil and propane, while enabling time and capacity for future investments in renewable and low-carbon energy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles respectfully requests the Government of Ontario to support and approve the expansion of natural gas infrastructure to rural municipalities such as St.-Charles by undertaking a review of the Ontario Energy Board's Profitability Index model to incorporate a Northern Cost Adjustment that fairly accounts for the higher costs of construction in Northern Ontario caused by terrain challenges such as bedrock and wetlands, as well as the realities of distance, climate, and lower population density, to ensure that rural and northern communities are not disadvantaged in accessing natural gas infrastructure;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipality of St.-Charles requests the Province to embed northern natural gas expansion as a priority in Ontario's Integrated Energy Plan and regional economic growth strategies;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be forwarded to FONOM, ROMA, AMO and all northern municipalities to build collective support for equitable natural gas expansion in Northern Ontario.

CARRIED


MAYOR



Minutes

Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc Committee

September 10, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Ian Boddy
Vice Chair Marion Koepke
Councillor Melanie Middlebro'
Scott Greig

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support
Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Boddy called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on July 9, 2025
- 4.b Minutes of the Closed Session Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on July 9, 2025
- 4.c Minutes of the Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on July 16, 2025

SR-250910-001

Moved by Vice Chair Koepke

"THAT the Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc Committee approves the minutes of the following meetings:

- 1. The Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on July 9, 2025;**
- 2. The closed session of the Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc meeting held on July 9, 2025; and**
- 3. The Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc meeting held on 16, 2025."**

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no deputations or presentations.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions or comments from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

- 8.a Report CR-25-105 from the Director of Corporate Services Re: Current State Assessment and M365 Optimization Roadmap - Update

The Director of Corporate Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Allan noted that the financial impacts for the recommended phase 2 projects are between \$40,000 and \$100,000 which are already in the software transformation budget and clarified that these are not additional funds being requested.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Allan noted that the large range of costs is due to the variable of how much work can be done internally versus through consultants.

SR-250910-002

Moved by Councillor Middlebro'

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-105 respecting Current State Assessment and M365 Optimization Roadmap – Update for Committee, the Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

9.a Report CR-25-106 from the City Clerk Re: Project 1c5 - Provision of By-law Services - Staffing

The City Clerk provided a presentation on Project 1c5 - Provision of By-law Services.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Bloomfield clarified that a part-time permanent position would be a year-round position working 3 days a week, and that the days and hours would be determined as needed operationally.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Allan noted that the contract for parking enforcement costs approximately \$50,000 annually. The City Manager added that the future need of the parking contract could be reconsidered once new staff are in place. Additionally, he noted that while the Owen Sound Police Service (OSPS) do foot patrols downtown, additional by-law patrols would provide the City increased oversight over how often these patrols are happening, and that the OSPS patrols could be additional to this. He noted that the addition of a mobile phone designated for the River District enforcement would increase the ability for immediate response for business owners and residents.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Simmonds noted that having by-law officers continually patrolling the River District will begin to set a standard and precedent of having an enforcement presence in the area.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Allan clarified that the parking enforcement contract is paid for through the River District levy. By-law officers typically would not be able to be funded by these levies, as they benefit the City as a whole.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Bloomfield noted the proposed full-time officer is intended to be dedicated to the River District. She added that the proposed part-time officer would have flexible hours, and the schedule could be determined to best fit operational needs.

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-106 respecting Project 1c5 - Provision of By-law Services - Staffing, the Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to include a By-law Enforcement Supervisor and a part-time By-law Enforcement Officer in the Mayor's 2026 budget for consideration by the Mayor (Option 1b)."

Carried.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

There were no correspondence items presented for information.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Boddy adjourned the meeting at 9:49 a.m.



Minutes

Corporate Services Committee

September 11, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Melanie Middlebro'
Member Kelly Carmichael
Deputy Mayor Scott Greig
Member Neil McCutcheon (via video)
Councillor Brock Hamley
David Crane

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Vice Chair Travis Dodd
Member Meghan Robertson

STAFF PRESENT: Phil Eagleson, Fire Chief
Bradey Carbert, Manager of Corporate Services
Christine Gilbert, Deputy Treasurer
Lauren Stewart, Purchasing and Claims Coordinator
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support
Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Middlebro' called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.a Minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on July 10, 2025

"THAT the Corporate Services Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on July 10, 2025."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no deputations or presentations.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions or comments from the public.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

8.a Fire

8.a.1 Report CR-25-124 from the Fire Chief Re: Fire Marque Inc. Update

The Fire Chief provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Eagleson clarified that the 30% service charge is not included in the revenue numbers provided in the report as it is collected before the funds are received by the City.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Eagleson noted that unsuccessful claims are either cases without insurance, or without sufficient fire department costs listed in their policy.

CR-250911-002

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-114 respecting Fire Marque Inc. Update, the Corporate Services Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.b Corporate and Facility Services

8.b.1 Report CR-25-121 from the Purchasing and Claims Coordinator Re: Bi-Annual Summary of Awarded Purchases between \$50,000 and \$249,000 from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025

The Purchasing and Claims Coordinator provided an overview of the report.

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-121 respecting Bi-Annual Summary of Awarded Purchases between \$50,000 and \$249,999 from January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025, the Corporate Services Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.c Taxes and Revenue

8.c.1 Report CR-25-111 from the Tax Collector Re: MPAC's Revised Role for s.357 Applications - Cancellation, Reduction or Refund of Property Taxes

The Deputy Treasurer provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Gilbert noted that one of the rationales of the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) changing these regulations was to provide increased flexibility to municipalities. She added that the threshold percentages as presented are in line with other municipalities that have already put thresholds in place.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Eagleson clarified that properties would not receive insurance monies for instances such as loss due to fire without a receipt from paying the property taxes, so there isn't a risk for "double dipping". Ms. Gilbert added that a fulsome application process built into the procedure could also aid in this.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Gilbert noted that there is between approximately 5-15 applications under section 357 annually.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Gilbert clarified that this program is only applicable within the year of loss. She added that under 357(1)(g), the amounts are prorated for only the time in which renovations were actively taking place. Ms. Gilbert noted that any additional assessment value created from completed renovations are still added onto the assessment role, just not to today's value, and are added in 2016 dollars to be relative to the latest assessment.

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-111 respecting MPACs revised role for s.357's – Cancellation, Reduction or Refund of Property Taxes, the Corporate Services Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Direct staff to bring forward a policy and procedure for administering applications under Section 357 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, including:
 - a. A case-by-case approach for applications made under subsection 357(1)(d)(ii) (substantially unusable buildings), where thresholds for tax relief will be established through the forthcoming policy, and will guide the amount of tax relief provided;**
 - b. A standardized approach under subsection 357(1)(g) (repairs/renovations), where property tax relief will be determined using a percentage reduction capped at 25%, based on the vacant portion's notional value and deemed unusable square footage returned provided by MPAC; and**
 - c. Maintaining existing processes for all other subsections of Section 357;****
- 2. Approve the two current Section 357 applications as outlined in the report (Rockview Apartments and Parkway Plaza); and**
- 3. Direct staff to bring forward a by-law to amend the Delegation of Authority By-law to delegate authority to the Treasurer, or designate, to administer and approve future applications consistent with the finalized Section 357 Policy."**

Carried.

8.d Accounting

None.

8.e Clerks

None.

8.f Information Technology

None.

8.g Human Resources

None.

8.h Parking and By-law Enforcement

None.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

There were no correspondence items presented for information.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Middlebro' adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Meeting Date: September 22, 2025
Report Code: CR-25-110
Subject: 2026 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-110 respecting 2026 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar, City Council approves:

1. The 2026 Council and Committee meeting calendar as attached to the report;
2. Shortening the 2026 budget amendment period from 30-days to 25-days; and
3. Shortening the over-ride of the Mayor's veto period, if required, from 15-days to 14-days.

Highlights:

- There are 77 Council, Board and Committee meetings proposed for 2026.
- The 2026 Council and Committee meeting calendar has been developed with consideration given to accommodating the 2026 Municipal Election.
- Between July 2024 and June 2025, staff presented 307 reports to Council and Committee.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

This report supports the delivery of Core Service.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

There are no anticipated climate or environmental impacts.

Previous Report/Authority:

[Board and Committee By-law](#)

Background:

Each year, City Council approves the Council and Committee meeting calendar for the following year. Early approval of the calendar of meeting dates provides Council, Board and Committee members, staff, the public, and the media with advance notice of all meeting dates.

Analysis:

2026 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar Highlights

Attached is a draft of the 2026 Council and Committee meeting calendar. While reviewing the calendar, staff wish to highlight the following:

- Where possible, Regular Council meetings have been scheduled on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.
- A Special Council meeting to review the multi-year capital plan has been scheduled for June 2026.
- Semi-annual meetings with the Owen Sound Police Service Board have been scheduled in June and December, in keeping with the Protocol Agreement.
- A summer hiatus is included in the month of August.
- Municipal Election Day is October 26, 2026.
- River District Election Day is November 9, 2026.
- Several Special Council meetings are scheduled in November and December 2026 for the purpose of education and training of Council members following the election.
- No committee meetings have been scheduled after the Municipal Election in anticipation of possible changes to the committee structure, pending a review report to be presented in November 2025.
- Major municipal conferences have been noted in the legend.
- Meetings of Boards that Council members are appointed to are noted in the legend.

- Community organization committees that Council members are appointed to are not included in the legend because they do not meet on set schedules.
- The River District Board meetings are set in accordance with their Constitution and noted on the calendar because City staff act as the administrator and liaison.
- Grey County Council meeting dates/times have been avoided.

A similar number of Regular Council meetings is being proposed for 2026 compared to 2022, the last year in which a Municipal Election was held. The chart below provides the number of Regular Council meetings each year since 2022.

Year	Number of Regular Meetings
2022	18
2023	20
2024	21
2025	20
2026	18 (proposed)

In addition to the 20 Regular meetings scheduled in 2025, Council has held 6 Special Meetings, for a total of 26 Council meetings over the course of the year. In 2026, 4 Special meetings have been scheduled, and 9 orientation sessions.

Committee meetings proposed in the 2026 calendar follow a similar schedule to 2025. In 2025, Committee of Adjustment was moved from the third Thursday of each month to the fourth Tuesday; staff are recommending that Committee of Adjustment meetings be held on the first Tuesday of the month to balance staff workloads. The proposed 2026 calendar is attached to this report and is described in the chart below.

Committee	Day of Month	Time
Community Services	3 rd Wednesday	5:30 p.m.
Corporate Services	2 nd Thursday	5:30 p.m.
Operations	3 rd Thursday	5:30 p.m.

Committee	Day of Month	Time
Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory	1 st Wednesday, quarterly	2:00 p.m.
Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc	2 nd Wednesday, bi-monthly	9:00 a.m.
Committee of Adjustment	1 st Tuesday	3:00 p.m.

There are currently 77 Council, Board and Committee meetings scheduled for 2026.

Response to Requests from September 8, 2025 Council Meeting

Staff presented [Report CR-25-099](#) respecting strong mayor powers at the July 21, 2025 Council meeting. This report outlined the proposed 2026 budget cycle and Council passed a resolution which included:

- Direction to add a Special Meeting on January 19, 2026 to review the Mayor's budget;
- Shortening the budget amendment period from 30-days to 29-days; and
- Shortening the over-ride of the Mayor's veto period, if required, from 15-days to 11-days.

When Report CR-25-099 was drafted, the date of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference (ROMA) was not confirmed.

The 2026 Council and Committee meeting calendar was presented at the September 8, 2026 Council meeting. The 2026 calendar included the January 19, 2026 Special meeting and the date of the 2026 ROMA Conference. Based on feedback from that meeting, attached to this report is a revised calendar with the Special Meeting being held on Friday, January 16, 2026 rather than Monday, January 19, 2026. Moving this meeting requires an adjustment to the 2026 budget cycle that was presented on July 21, 2025. The revised process is noted below with changes highlighted in yellow.

Date	Milestone	Citation
December 22, 2025	Mayor's Budget Tabled – Distributed to Council and Clerk; posted publicly; media advisory issued. NOTE: The budget is not tabled at a formal meeting of Council.	s. 284.4(2): Starts 30-day Council amendment window
January 16, 2026	Budget Meeting – Council may propose amendments by resolution (simple majority vote). Amendments must be made at a public meeting.	Falls within 30-day amendment window
Planned Action:	Staff recommend that Council formally shorten the 30-day amendment period to conclude on January 16, 2026 (25-days)	Permitted under O. Reg. 530/22, s. 7(4)
January 26, 2026	Veto Deadline – Last day for the Mayor to veto amendments, with rationale.	s. 284.4(4): Veto due 10 days after amendment – O. Reg. 530/22, s. 7(6)
February 9, 2026	Council Meeting – Any vetoes presented to Council; Council may vote to override the Mayor's veto with 2/3 majority.	O. Reg. 530/22, s. 7(10): Starts 15-day override period
Planned Action:	Staff recommend that Council shorten the 15-day override period to conclude February 9 which will be a Regular Council meeting (from 15 days to 14 days).	Permitted under O. Reg. 530/22, s. 7(11)
Final Outcomes	If no amendments are proposed, or if all proposed amendments are accepted by the Mayor without veto, the budget will be deemed adopted on January 16 , 2026. If there are amendments to which Mayor issues vetoes and those vetoes are not overridden by Council, the	s. 284.16(4-6)

budget reflecting the Mayor’s original submission with the vetoed amendments removed or modified—will be deemed adopted on January 29, 2026. If Council overrides any of the Mayor’s vetoes by a two-thirds vote, the budget will be deemed adopted on February 9, 2026, incorporating the overridden amendments.

The recommendation in this staff report includes a request for approval of the shortened budget amendment period and the over-ride of the Mayor’s veto period to give effect to the changes noted in the chart above.

In addition to rescheduling the budget meeting, Council asked staff to explore whether the interval between meetings could be shortened during the election period. Staff reviewed the options and determined that the only possible adjustment would be to move the September 28 meeting to October 5; however, this change is not recommended.

Preparing for and following up from a Council meeting requires significant time and resources, and the demands of the October election period do not allow staff to fully support both Council business and the administration of a well-run election. Keeping the final pre-election meeting on September 28 also helps to ensure a level playing field for all candidates leading into the voting period which begins October 16. The September 28 Council meeting will include recognition of members who are not seeking re-election. If an urgent matter arises during the election break, a Special Meeting can be called.

Staff Time and Reports

This section includes statistics for Council’s awareness. In 2020, staff that regularly attend Council, Board and Committee meetings began tracking the number of hours spent at these meetings.

Below is a chart that outlines staff hours at meetings for 6 members of the Strategic Leadership Team (excluding Fire Chief), as well as the City Clerk and the Deputy Clerk. Each person on this list dedicated time equivalent to between one and four weeks of full-time work to attending meetings. This chart does not include the time of other staff that attend meetings on a less frequent basis, or the substantial time spent in meeting preparation or follow-up.

Staff Hours at Meetings*

Year	Monthly Average	Yearly Total
July 2020 – June 2021	62 hours	740 hours
July 2021 – June 2022	59 hours	703 hours
July 2022 – June 2023	62 hours	746 hours
July 2023 – June 2024	59 hours	708 hours
July 2024 – June 2025	62 hours	743 hours

*Staff included = City Manager, Directors (4), Senior Manager of Strategic Initiatives & Operational Effectiveness, City Clerk, and Deputy Clerk.

The number of staff reports written for Council, the River District Board, and City Committees is tracked through eScribe, the City’s agenda management software. The chart below shows the number of reports prepared by staff.

Staff Reports

Year	Monthly Average	Yearly Report Total
July 2020 – June 2021	32	385
July 2021 – June 2022	29	348
July 2022 – June 2023	27	321
July 2023 – June 2024	28	337
July 2024 – June 2025	26	307

The volume of time and effort related to meetings and reports reinforces the value of having a summer meeting hiatus. The summer meeting hiatus will be particularly important in 2026 as the Clerk’s staff prepare for the Municipal Election.

Financial Implications:

None.

Communication Strategy:

The approved calendar will be circulated to Mayor and Council, staff, and the media. Orientation dates will be included in the 2026 municipal election candidate information guide.

The full-year calendar will be accessible to the public on the City's [Council and Committees webpage](#).

Council agendas will be posted on the City's website by 4:30 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to a Regular meeting, and Committee agendas will be posted 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Consultation:

Strategic Leadership Team, Deputy Clerk, Committee and Executive Support Coordinator

Attachments:

Draft 2026 Council and Committee Meeting Calendar

Recommended by:

Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk at bbloomfield@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1247.

DRAFT 2026 Owen Sound City Council and Committee Meeting Calendar

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				ST	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	ST	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	ST	4
5	HX	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	ST	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		ST	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	HX	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	ST	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	HX			

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	ST	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	ED	27	28	29	30	31

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	RDE	10	HX	12	13	14
15	IN	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	ST	26
27	ST	29	30	31		

Regular Council 5:30pm

Special Meeting

Community Services Committee 5:30pm

Corporate Services Committee 5:30pm

Operations Committee 5:30pm

Council Orientation

Service Review Implementation Ad Hoc Committee 9:00am

Meeting with Police Board 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee 2:00pm

River District Board of Management 5:30pm

Committee of Adjustment 3:00pm

Office Holiday Closure

Election Day

River District Election Day

ST - Statutory Holiday; **HX** - Other Holiday

ROMA Jan 18-20 **OGRA** Mar 29-Apr 01 **OSUM** Apr 29-May 01 **FCM** Jun 04-07 **AMCTO** Jun 07-10 **AMO** (Aug tbd)XX-XX

GSCA - 4th Wednesday, monthly - 1:15 p.m.

OSNGUPL - Last Thursday, Jan-Jun and Sept-Nov - 6:00 p.m.

OSMNPHC & OSHC - 3rd Tuesday, monthly - 9:00 a.m.

OSPS - 4th Wednesday, monthly - 10:00 a.m.