

Committee of the Whole

Agenda

October 8, 2026

Following Council

Council Chambers - Grey County Administration Building

Pages

1. Call to Order
2. Declaration of Interest
3. Business Arising from Minutes
 - 3.a Notice of Motion provided by Councillor Pringle on September 24, 2026 - Joint Municipal Services Committee

Whereas the Joint Municipal Services Committee was established by this term of Council to look at opportunities for shared services to be pursued amongst two or more municipalities; and

Whereas the Terms of Reference had indicated that the Committee would dissolve on September 25, 2026;

Now therefore be it resolved that staff be directed to bring forward new Terms of Reference for the Joint Municipal Services Committee for Council to consider re-establishing the Committee in the next term of Council.

4. Delegations
5. Determination of Items Requiring Separate Discussion
6. Consent Agenda

That the following Consent Agenda items be received; and

That staff be authorized to take the actions necessary to give effect to the recommendations in the staff reports; and

That the correspondence be supported or received for information as recommended in the consent agenda.

- 6.a United Way Bruce Way - Energy Poverty Brief 4

That the correspondence from the United Way Bruce Way regarding the Energy Poverty Brief be received for information.

- 6.b Letter from the Honourable Robert J. Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Buy Ontario Procurement Policies 16

That the letter from the Letter from the Honourable Robert J. Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding Buy Ontario Procurement Policies be received for information.

6.c Ontario Community Infrastructure Funding Levels

20

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario doubled the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) from \$200 million per year to \$400 million per year for 2021-2026 but has not publicly committed to maintaining this level of funding beyond 2026;

AND WHEREAS the OCIF has become a vital and indispensable resource for municipalities, assisting them with improving their asset management programs and meeting community-preserving infrastructure renewal needs;

AND WHEREAS increased geopolitical uncertainty is threatening the economic prosperity of Canada, Ontario, and every municipality;

AND WHEREAS municipal infrastructure is a key enabler and preserver of economic prosperity;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Grey supports Municipal Finance Officer Association's letter to the Ministry of Infrastructure requesting that the doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund be made permanent in advance of the allocations for the 2027 calendar year, helping municipalities to continue building housing-enabling infrastructure while preserving the economic value provided by existing infrastructure.

6.d Municipality of Chatham-Kent - Resolution Regarding Regulatory Framework for e-Scooters

23

That the correspondence from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent regarding Regulatory Framework for e-Scooters be supported by the County of Grey.

6.e Prince Edward County - Resolution regarding the Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax

27

That the resolution from Prince Edward County regarding the vacant commercial storefront tax, be received for information.

6.f CSR-CW-08-26 Declaration of Surplus Lands and Establishment of Easements

30

- 1. That report CSR-CW-08-26 regarding the declaration of surplus lands be received; and**
- 2. That staff be directed to enter into an agreement, for nominal consideration, with the owner of Lot 27 Plan 444 (the "Easement Agreement") to grant and obtain the necessary easements required to establish the shared driveway between Lot 26 Plan 444 and Lot 27 Plan 444, identified as Parts 1 and 2 on the attached draft reference plan (the "Shared Driveway**

Easement”); and

3. That once the Easement Agreement has been finalized, staff be directed to prepare an approval by-law for Council’s consideration; and
4. That Grey County Council declares Westmount property 1343 8th Avenue West, Owen Sound legally described as Lot 26 Plan 444, Owen Sound (the “Property”); subject to a shared driveway easement over Part 2 on the attached draft reference plan benefitting Lot 27 Plan 444; City of Owen Sound, County of Grey, and subject to a driveway encroachment easement over Part 3 on the attached draft reference plan benefitting Lot 25 Plan 444, City of Owen Sound, County of Grey (the “Driveway Encroachment Easement”) as surplus to the needs of the municipality; and
5. That Lot 26 Plan 444 be valued based on a price achieved by listing the property for sale on the open market through the services of a realtor; and
6. That the Clerk be directed to provide notice of Council’s intent to sell the property in accordance with the Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy 4-52.

7. Items For Direction and Discussion

7.a CCR-CW-16-26 Integrity Commissioner

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That Report CCR-CW-16-26 regarding an Integrity Commissioner appointment for Grey County, be received; and
That a by-law be brought forward for Council’s consideration, appointing Lauren Chee-Hing as the County of Grey’s Integrity Commissioner for a three-year term beginning November 15, 2026; and
That staff provide a notice of early termination to Principles Integrity for existing integrity commissioner and closed meeting investigator services prior to Council approval as per Section 26.6 (b) of the Procedural By-law.

- 8. Closed Meeting Matters**
- 9. Other Business**
- 10. Notice of Motion**
- 11. Adjournment**



United Way
Bruce Grey

Energy Poverty Brief

What provincial, local utility and community data tell us about household energy affordability in Bruce Grey

AUGUST 2026



ONTARIO
Provincial OEB data



WESTARIO
Our local electricity lens



BRUCE GREY
Household-level experience

Connecting regulatory data, utility data and community experience to better understand energy poverty.

ENERGY POVERTY IN BRUCE GREY

Income adequacy is central to household energy insecurity

What provincial, distributor and community data tell us about affordability pressure

Why this brief, and why Westario

Purpose. United Way Bruce Grey works with households, municipalities, community agencies and energy-sector partners to understand where financial pressure is showing up and how existing supports are working. This brief brings together Ontario Energy Board open data, local distributor data and United Way service data to create a shared picture of energy affordability. The goal is not to assess or rank individual utilities. It is to use available data collaboratively to better understand the pressures facing households and to support informed discussion about affordability and income adequacy.

Why Westario. The provincial OEB data provide the high-level Ontario picture. To bring the electricity data home to Bruce Grey, we highlight Westario Power because it is our geographically specific local electricity distributor and a long-standing community partner. Westario gives us a local electricity lens that can be placed beside the provincial trend and our own household-level assistance data. Its inclusion is therefore about geography and partnership, not about suggesting that Westario is uniquely responsible for, or uniquely affected by, energy poverty.

How to read the brief. Ontario data show the broader system trend; Westario data show what that trend looks like in one local electricity service area; and United Way Bruce Grey data show the household incomes and cross-fuel needs behind the numbers. Read together, the datasets help separate a utility-specific issue from a wider household affordability issue.

The central finding: energy poverty is not only an energy-bill problem. Across the provincial OEB data, Westario's local electricity data and United Way Bruce Grey's household service data, the evidence points to growing financial pressure and limited household capacity to absorb essential energy costs.

+119%

Increase in Ontario
residential arrears
dollars, 2019–2023

+60%

Increase in Westario
residential accounts in
arrears, 2019–2023

\$28,368

Average annual income
of local households
helped, 2025–26

70%

Of local grant dollars
purchased wood,
propane & oil

Three datasets, one pattern

Ontario. Residential customer accounts increased only 4.1% from 2019 to 2023, while accounts in arrears increased 29.1% and residential arrears dollars increased 118.7%. Residential write-offs increased 46.4% over the same period.

Westario. Residential accounts increased 3.9% from 2019 to 2023, but accounts in arrears increased 60.2% and arrears dollars increased 73.7%. Reported eligible low-income arrears dollars rose from \$7,866 to \$41,470, an increase of 427%.

Bruce Grey households. In 2025–26, United Way Bruce Grey supported 299 households representing at least 592 people and facilitated \$172,116 in utility grants. Among 292 households with recorded income, average annual household income was approximately \$28,368. Wood, propane and oil accounted for \$119,815, about 70% of all grant dollars facilitated.

Interpretation

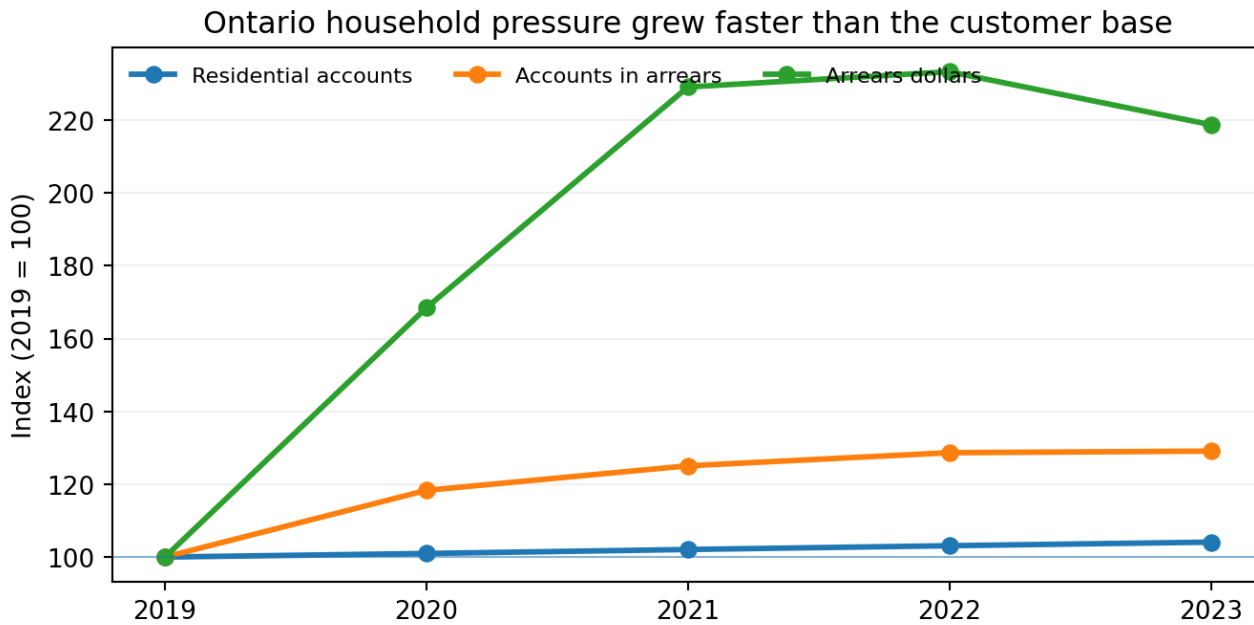
The evidence does not prove that income alone causes energy poverty. Energy prices, housing condition, heating source, weather and household circumstances all matter. The convergence across three independent data sources supports a more careful conclusion: income adequacy is a central factor in whether households can absorb essential energy costs without arrears, disconnection risk or emergency assistance.

1. Ontario: financial pressure is growing faster than the customer base

Using 2019 as the pre-pandemic comparison point avoids treating the extraordinary 2020–21 disconnection period as a normal affordability baseline.

Indicator	2019	2023	Change
Residential accounts	4,750,619	4,945,409	+4.1%
Accounts in arrears	275,910	356,185	+29.1%
Residential arrears	\$70.6M	\$154.4M	+118.7%
Residential write-offs	\$30.0M	\$44.0M	+46.4%
Disconnections for non-payment	28,664	29,789	+3.9%

Figure 1. Ontario residential accounts, arrears accounts and arrears dollars indexed to 2019 = 100. Source: OEB RRR 2.1.8, latest 2023 release.



Disconnections require context. Ontario reported 28,664 residential disconnections for non-payment in 2019 and 29,789 in 2023. In March 2020, the OEB extended the disconnection ban through July 31, 2020; the sharp 2020–21 decline therefore should not be read as a sudden improvement in household affordability.

LEAP participation increased, but 2024 changed the lens

Ontario electricity-distributor LEAP applications increased from 11,368 in 2019 to 18,806 in 2024. That is a 65.4% increase in reported applications, but it should not be read as a clean 65.4% increase in underlying energy poverty.

The OEB clarified that 2024 expanded income eligibility and changed the funding model so distributors must provide sufficient LEAP funding to assist all eligible applicants. Earlier LEAP participation and assistance levels could therefore be constrained by narrower eligibility and available funding. Pandemic-era disruption further complicates direct year-to-year comparison.

Those changes do not make the 2024 increase meaningless. LEAP is emergency assistance for electricity or natural gas arrears, not a general bill rebate. A household newly captured by the higher income threshold must still be experiencing qualifying arrears.

Expanded eligibility therefore makes visible financial hardship among a broader range of household incomes, while the funding change allows eligible need to be met rather than capped by a local allocation.

OESP and LEAP should also be read differently.

The OESP rebate provides an ongoing electricity-bill credit; expanded OESP eligibility acknowledges incomes were not keeping pace with financial pressures.

LEAP responds to an arrears crisis. For LEAP, broader eligibility means more households already in financial difficulty can qualify for emergency help.

2. Westario: a local electricity lens on the provincial pattern

Westario Power is highlighted here because its service territory provides the most geographically specific electricity lens for our local community. The analysis is descriptive, not evaluative: it uses Westario's publicly reported data to place the Ontario-wide affordability indicators in a Bruce Grey context and to complement the household-level experience reported by United Way Bruce Grey.

Partnership lens: The intent is to learn from the data with Westario and other partners, not to attribute household income pressures to the distributor.

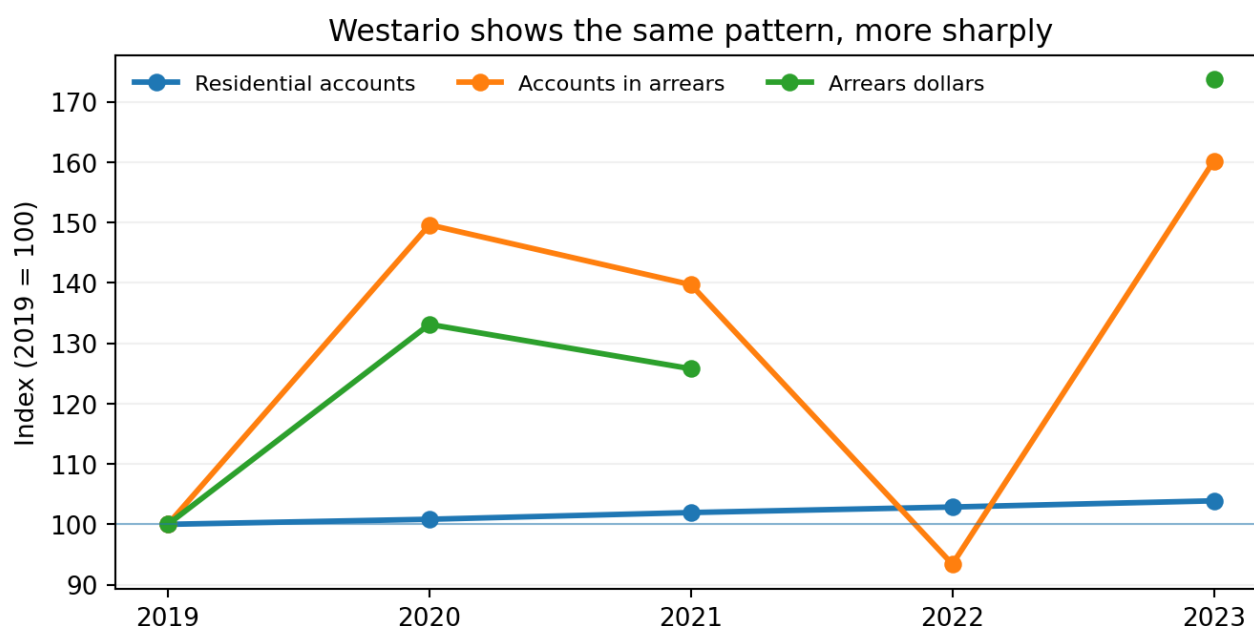


Figure 2. Westario residential accounts, arrears accounts and arrears dollars indexed to 2019 = 100. Source: OEB RRR 2.1.8, latest 2023 release.

1,151 → 1,844

Westario residential accounts in arrears, 2019 to 2023

\$250K → \$434K

Westario residential arrears, 2019 to 2023

70 → 148

Eligible low-income accounts in arrears, 2019 to 2023

The low-income indicator is especially important. Westario's OEB-reported eligible low-income customer accounts decreased from 1,332 in 2019 to 1,066 in 2023, while eligible low-income accounts in arrears more than doubled from 70 to 148. Their reported arrears balance increased from \$7,865.88 to \$41,469.59.

LEAP use accelerated after 2023

Westario LEAP applications rose from 44 in 2023 to 134 in 2024.

The 2024 increase coincides with expanded income eligibility and the requirement that distributors provide enough funding to assist all eligible LEAP applicants, so it should not be interpreted as a 205% increase in underlying need.

It does show that substantially more households with actual electricity arrears met the broader program criteria and reached the assistance process.

Westario's supplemental reporting shows 124 funding recipients in 2025 and 93 recipients already recorded by June 16, 2026; the 2026 figure is year-to-date and should not be compared as a completed year.

3. Bruce Grey: what the pressure looks like at the household level

United Way Bruce Grey's Utility Assistance Program adds something the regulatory datasets cannot capture: the household income people are living on and the full mix of fuels they are trying to afford.

Provincial assistance programs provide support for regulated electricity and natural gas costs, while United Way Bruce Grey also fills a critical local gap for rural households relying on wood, propane and furnace oil for heat.

This distinction matters in rural Bruce Grey. Energy poverty cannot be understood through electricity data alone. For many households, keeping warm means purchasing delivered fuels that fall outside LEAP.

In 2025–26, approximately 70% of United Way Bruce Grey's utility grant dollars purchased wood, propane and furnace oil.

299

Households assisted

592+

People assisted

\$172,116In direct utility
grants paid**\$28,368**Average annual income
of local households
helped, 2025–26

Of the \$172,116 in direct utility grants facilitated in 2025–26, \$119,815 went to wood, propane and oil. These delivered fuels accounted for about 70% of grant dollars. Electricity accounted for \$44,308, natural gas for \$6,294 and water/sewer for \$1,700.

This cross-fuel pattern matters: the affordability problem persists regardless of whether a household heats with electricity, natural gas, propane, oil or wood. The common denominator visible in the local service data is limited household income.

Energy affordability cannot be considered separately from housing affordability. As Appendix A illustrates, current asking rents in Bruce Grey can consume most, or in some cases more than all, of the monthly income available to low-income households before utilities, food, transportation and other basic needs are considered.

What the evidence supports — and what it does not

- Supports: household financial pressure has intensified since 2019, both provincially and in Westario's service area.
- Supports: local households seeking energy assistance have very limited annual household income, and need spans multiple fuel types.
- Supports: income adequacy is a central factor in energy insecurity and should be part of the policy lens.
- Does not establish: that income is the only cause, or that any single energy policy, price change or household characteristic explains the observed trends.

Implications for municipal and provincial leadership

The combined evidence suggests that energy affordability should be understood within the broader household budget. Emergency energy assistance remains essential, but the data point upstream to income adequacy and the ability to absorb unavoidable basic costs.

1 Treat energy insecurity as an income-and-essentials issue

Energy arrears and emergency grants are downstream indicators. Municipal poverty reduction, housing, social assistance and energy-affordability work are more useful when viewed together rather than as separate silos.

2 Preserve flexible, cross-fuel assistance in rural communities

Bruce Grey households rely heavily on delivered fuels. Programs limited to regulated electricity and natural gas cannot capture the full local energy-poverty picture.

3 Pair regulatory data with community-level evidence

OEB data show system pressure; distributor data show local intensity; community data show household income, heating source and lived budget constraints. Together they provide a stronger early-warning system.

4 Evaluate the new LEAP rules with the next full data cycle

The 2025 OEB data will provide the first full-year view after expanded income eligibility and the requirement that distributors fund all eligible LEAP applicants. LEAP participation should be read alongside arrears, disconnections and community-level data rather than used alone as a measure of total energy poverty.

Data notes

Eligible low-income accounts. This is an OEB-reported category and should not be interpreted as the total number of low-income households in a utility service area.

LEAP applications measure households that reached and completed the application process, not all unmet need. In 2024, LEAP income eligibility expanded, and the OEB clarified that distributors must provide sufficient funding to assist all eligible applicants; earlier years may therefore reflect narrower eligibility and funding constraints.

Because LEAP assists households with qualifying arrears, increased participation after the eligibility expansion remains a meaningful signal of financial distress, but it is not a like-for-like measure of growth in total energy poverty.

Disconnections. 2020–21 figures are affected by pandemic-era disconnection restrictions. Westario 2026. The 93-recipient figure is year-to-date through June 16, 2026.

Sources

Ontario Energy Board, RRR 2.1.8 Residential and Low-Income Customer Billing and Payment / Disconnections, Arrears, Write-offs, Equal Billing, Security Deposits and Load Control Devices datasets (2015–2023). <https://www.oeb.ca/documents/opendata/rrr/2023/2.1.8>

Ontario Energy Board, LEAP RRR open data (2015–2024). <https://www.oeb.ca/open-data/electricity-reporting-record-keeping-requirements-rrr-section-2116-low-income-energy>

Ontario Energy Board, "OEB's extended disconnection ban will end July 31, 2020." <https://www.oeb.ca/newsroom/2020/oeps-extended-disconnection-ban-will-end-july-31-2020>

United Way Bruce Grey, 2025–2026 Utility Assistance Impact Report, July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

Westario Power, LEAP Metrics supplemental report provided to United Way Bruce Grey; 2026 figure based on report to June 16, 2026.

Ontario Energy Board staff clarification to United Way Bruce Grey, 2026: 2024 changes expanded income eligibility and require sufficient LEAP funding to assist all eligible applicants. See also OESP & LEAP program materials and OEB open-data reporting.

Use of Generative AI

This report was developed with the assistance of generative artificial intelligence (AI) for data analysis, synthesis, drafting and document design. Source data were provided by the Ontario Energy Board, utility partners and United Way Bruce Grey.

Generative AI was used to assist with calculations and interpretation of these data. United Way Bruce Grey reviewed the final report for context, clarity and alignment with its experience and purpose. Readers are encouraged to refer to the cited source datasets for the underlying regulatory and program data.



Appendix A: Housing Affordability in Bruce Grey, 2025

Living in Bruce Grey Costs: Housing in 2025



**How much money is left each month
after paying typical rent?**
(Based on **35** hours of work per week)



Housing is considered
affordable when it costs
no more than **30%** of
gross income.



THESE EXAMPLES SHOW A SINGLE PERSON LIVING ON ONE INCOME.

TYPICAL ASKING RENTS IN BRUCE GREY (2025)

ROOM / SHARED	BACHELOR	1 BEDROOM	2 BEDROOM	3 BEDROOM
				
\$1,100 per month	\$1,600 per month	\$1,500 per month	\$1,800 per month	\$2,200 per month

WHAT'S LEFT FOR OTHER COSTS EACH MONTH?

Income left over (or short) after paying typical rent.

	BRUCE GREY LIVING WAGE* \$24.60/hr \$4,301/month	\$3,201 74% of income left	\$2,701 63% of income left	\$2,801 65% of income left	\$2,501 58% of income left	\$2,101 49% of income left
	ONTARIO MINIMUM WAGE \$17.20/hr \$3,010/month (before tax)	\$1,910 63% of income left	\$1,410 47% of income left	\$1,510 50% of income left	\$1,210 40% of income left	\$810 27% of income left
	ODSP (max single) \$1,408/month	\$308 22% of income left	-\$192 -14% of income (short)	-\$92 -7% of income (short)	-\$392 -28% of income (short)	-\$792 -56% of income (short)
	ONTARIO WORKS (max single)** \$733/month	-\$367 -50% of income (short)	-\$867 -118% of income (short)	-\$767 -105% of income (short)	-\$1,067 -146% of income (short)	-\$1,467 -200% of income (short)



Healthy (50% or more
left over)



Getting by (30–49%
left over)



Struggling (0–29%
left over)



In the red
(rent costs more than income)



**ONTARIO WORKS SHELTER
ALLOWANCE FOR A SINGLE
ADULT: \$390/MONTH.**
It has not increased since 2018.
*Shelter allowances increase
with household size.*



Today's shelter
allowances do not
reflect the real cost
of housing.



**Everyone deserves a home
that fits their life and budget.**

Together, we can build a community
where everyone can thrive.

unitedwayofbrucegrey.com

NOTES:

- Rents are asking rents for typical units or rooms advertised in 2025 across Bruce Grey communities. Actual rents paid may vary.
- Housing availability is extremely limited in many communities.
- Contractor demand in our region can drive up rents locally.

DATA SOURCES (2025):

- Public listings on Kijiji.ca, Facebook Marketplace, OhMy.ca, Property.ca, BruceHousing.com (June–December 2025)
- Zumper.com – Hanover rent history (March–July 2025)
- Zillow.com – Market trends for Grey Highlands, Meaford, South Bruce Peninsula (Jan–June 2025)

- * Living Wage calculated for Bruce Grey (2025).
- ** Ontario Works maximum for a single adult:
\$343 basic needs + \$390 shelter = \$733/month.
(Source: Ontario Works Rates – Jan 1, 2025)

Dec 2025



United Way
Bruce Grey

September 14, 2026

Andrea Matrosovs, Warden
Tara Warder, Clerk
Corporation of the County of Grey
595 9th Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3E3

Dear Warden Matrosovs and Ms. Warder,

I am sending you United Way Bruce Grey's new **Energy Poverty Brief**, which brings together Ontario Energy Board data, Westario Power data and our own Utility Assistance Program data to look at what energy affordability means for households in Bruce Grey.

The provincial numbers show growing pressure. Between 2019 and 2023, Ontario residential electricity accounts increased by only 4.1%, while residential arrears dollars increased by 118.7%. Westario provides the local electricity lens, and our own program data show the household behind the account.

In 2025-26, United Way Bruce Grey supported 299 households representing at least 592 people and facilitated \$172,116 in direct utility grants. Among households with recorded income, average annual household income was approximately **\$28,368**. About 70% of our local utility grant dollars purchased wood, propane and furnace oil.

For Grey County, this matters beyond the energy file. Through our ongoing work with County Social Services and Housing, we see how utility arrears, housing costs, income security and homelessness prevention overlap in the same household budget. Energy poverty is rarely a problem that sits neatly in one program or one system.

The report does not suggest that income is the only cause of energy poverty. Energy prices, housing condition, heating source, weather and household circumstances all matter. But when the provincial, local utility and household data are read together, **income adequacy emerges as a central part of the picture.**

I am sharing the brief with both Grey and Bruce Counties, as well as our provincial and federal representatives. I would appreciate it if the report could be circulated to members of County Council and relevant staff. We would also welcome an opportunity to continue the conversation about what these findings mean for rural households and how they can support County planning, advocacy and coordinated community responses.

Thank you for Grey County's continued partnership with United Way Bruce Grey and for the many ways County staff work with us when households are navigating housing, income and utility pressures at the same time.

Sincerely,

Francesca Dobbyn

Executive Director | United Way Bruce Grey

Enclosure: Energy Poverty Brief, August 2026

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel. 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. 416 585-7000



234-2026-3477

September 15, 2026

Dear Head of Council,

As we continue working together to protect Ontario workers and communities from President Trump's tariffs, I am writing to make clear our government's expectation that municipalities fully comply with Ontario's Buy Ontario policies and maximize the use of Ontario and Canadian goods and services in municipal procurement. In addition, we will be seeking to extend the Building Ontario Business Initiative (BOBI) to municipalities for good and services procurement.

American tariffs and anti-trade actions against Canadian imports are causing uncertainty for thousands of Ontario businesses and millions of Ontario workers. In response, Ontario has implemented strong procurement requirements that prioritize Ontario and Canadian goods and services in provincial and municipal procurement. These requirements ensure that every possible dollar of Ontario's more than \$30 billion in annual procurement, as well as our \$236 billion, 10-year infrastructure plan, supports Ontario and Canadian workers.

Ontario taxpayers expect municipalities to do the same. Ontario municipalities spend more than \$22 billion each year procuring goods and services. The Municipal Buy Ontario Procurement Directive requires municipalities, local boards and municipal services corporations to prioritize Ontario and Canadian products. In light of this latest round of tariffs and anti-trade actions against Canada, adherence to these requirements is not optional. It is an absolute must. Municipalities must use every available opportunity to prioritize Ontario and Canadian goods and services.

I appreciate that many municipalities are already taking steps to maximize their use of Ontario and Canadian content. Today, I am making clear your obligation, and that of your municipal leadership team, to closely review your supply chains, procurement practices and upcoming purchases to identify every opportunity to increase domestic procurement. This should include determining whether goods and services currently sourced from outside Canada can be replaced with Ontario or Canadian alternatives, including through the expanded application of BOBI.

Failure to comply with Buy Ontario requirements will force us to reconsider provincial funding made available to municipalities, in addition to other consequences under the Buy Ontario Act (Public Sector Procurement), 2025.

In the face of these unprecedented economic attacks against our province and country, we all have a responsibility to do everything within our control to protect our workers and communities. Following Buy Ontario procurement policies can make the difference for an Ontario company that might otherwise be forced to close its doors or lay off workers because of U.S. tariffs.

I welcome your continued partnership as we work together as a united Team Canada to stand up for our province and country and protect Ontario workers and families.

Your Chief Administrative Officer will also receive correspondence outlining our government's expectations that municipal administrations identify further opportunities to increase domestic procurement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Flack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and the last name "Flack" clearly legible.

Hon. Robert J. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: The Hon. Stephen Crawford, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement

September 17, 2026

**SUBJECT: Supporting Ontario and Canadian Suppliers Through Municipal
Procurement**

Dear Chief Administrative Officer,

I am writing to share information on Ontario's ongoing efforts to strengthen domestic supply chains and to ensure our expectations are aligned regarding municipal public sector procurement.

Ontario has introduced several procurement measures, including the Buy Ontario Act (Public Sector Procurement), 2025, and the Municipal Buy Ontario Procurement Directive, to increase participation by Ontario and Canadian suppliers in public sector purchasing. Looking ahead, the government is also considering additional actions that would strengthen these policies to expand domestic procurement, protect jobs, and maximize the economic benefits of public sector spending, such as extending the Building Ontario Business Initiative (BOBI) to municipalities for the procurement of goods and services.

Municipal Heads of Council have also received letters outlining these measures and the government's expectations regarding compliance with Buy Ontario procurement policies.

Municipalities play an important role in supporting Ontario's economy, strengthening supply chain resilience and ensuring that public spending delivers maximum economic benefit for Ontario businesses and workers. While municipal procurement decisions are made independently and within local governance frameworks, municipalities are expected to ensure that applicable Ontario legislation, directives and policies are understood and appropriately reflected in procurement practices.

Given the current economic environment and ongoing trade uncertainties, municipalities should review upcoming procurement activities, sourcing practices and supply chains to identify every opportunity to increase consideration of Ontario and Canadian goods, services and suppliers.

.../2

To align with the Directive, please remind all those involved at the municipal level about their responsibilities and obligations under Ontario's domestic procurement framework and ensure that these requirements are incorporated into procurement planning and decision-making

Thank you for your continued collaboration and leadership. By ensuring that procurement obligations are understood and consistently applied, municipalities and the province can work together to support Ontario businesses and build a more resilient and competitive Ontario economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'm/ Martha G' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Martha Greenberg
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Samantha Poisson, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public and Business Service
Delivery and Procurement

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Acting Minister of Infrastructure
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

June 25, 2026

Dear Minister McCarthy,

RE: Making permanent the doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) that is scheduled to end after the 2026 allocation

I am writing on behalf of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario, and the municipalities it serves, to request that the Government of Ontario make permanent the five-year doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) from \$200 million/year to \$400 million/year in advance of the 2027 OCIF allocation calculations.

The Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) is the professional association of municipal finance officers with more than 2,300 individual members. We represent individuals who are responsible for handling the financial affairs of municipalities and who are key advisors to councils. MFOA is a strong advocate for best practices that encourage long-term fiscal sustainability, including long-term financial planning and asset management planning.

In recent years, governments at all levels have reoriented their priorities to address the ongoing housing crisis, with heightened attention on growth-related infrastructure and increasing housing production. Application-based or incentive-based funding programs for municipalities have placed greater emphasis on growth-related or housing-enabling capital projects (e.g., Development Charge Reduction Program, Building Communities Strong Fund – Community Stream, Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program, Building Faster Fund). OCIF remains one of the few federal or provincial funding programs where the focus remains primarily on the preservation and renewal of existing infrastructure to maintain or improve municipal service levels.

With support from the Government of Ontario and MFOA, municipalities have made significant improvements to their municipal asset management plans and programs. The Government of Ontario introduced O. Reg 588/17 (Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure) in late 2017, which provided a standard framework for infrastructure planning. To support the transition to O. Reg. 588/17, MFOA has partnered with the Government of Ontario on many asset management initiatives, including guides, workshops, direct consulting support and other resources. As a result of these and significant municipal efforts, most municipalities in Ontario have an asset management inventory that identifies their infrastructure assets, including conditions, replacement costs and renewal schedules of those assets.

By leveraging municipal asset management plans in 2020, the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario estimated the state-of-good-repair backlog to be \$52.1 billion for core municipal infrastructure. That is an estimated cost of restoring such infrastructure to a 'good' condition. The report notably focused primarily on core assets and thus likely understated the full extent of the backlog. Addressing this should not be a priority that falls by the wayside due to an increased focus on growth-related capital projects by other funding programs. OCIF's flexible design provides municipalities with the opportunity to fund asset management staff, which can improve data and analysis quality, and it provides a critical means by which municipalities address the infrastructure funding challenges identified in their asset management plans.

In 2021, the Government of Ontario doubled OCIF for a five-year period. Minister Surma, in announcing that initiative, commented that the Government of Ontario was "providing stability and predictability to small, rural and northern communities as they repair, upgrade and modernize their critical infrastructure so that they are safer, healthier and more reliable for all." And Minister Bethlenfalvy said that "by nearly doubling our investment in the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, our government is supporting public safety, job creation and economic growth." In the current climate of geopolitical uncertainty, tariffs and the resulting economic shocks and instability, the need to provide municipalities predictability and to preserve and enhance the economic activity and benefits provided by well-supported and well-maintained municipal infrastructure is as imperative as it was in 2021.

We have also heard from our members on this matter. Municipalities outside of high-growth regions have expressed concern about the diminishing level of grant funding opportunities for municipalities trying to preserve the economic value of their existing infrastructure. Additionally, while growing municipalities have made significant efforts to emplace new, housing-enabling infrastructure, which has been rewarded through the Building Faster Fund, many of their state-of-good-repair capital plans remain underfunded. To maximize the economic potential of federal and provincial investment in infrastructure, all orders of government must work together to preserve service levels and the public value of existing infrastructure, and permanently doubling OCIF to \$400 million/year will especially help small and rural municipalities preserve that economic foundation throughout Ontario.

By adopting a Team Ontario approach during recent and ongoing economic challenges, we have seen how significant progress can be made when municipalities and the provincial government work together to achieve a common goal. Should you wish to follow up on this letter, please contact MFOA Executive Director, Donna Herridge (donna@mfoa.on.ca).

Sincerely,



Dr. Adam Found, Ph.D., PLE
President and Chair

cc. Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
cc. Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance

**MFOA Request for the Permanent Doubling of the Ontario Community
Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Beyond 2026**

WHEREAS recent municipal infrastructure funding programs by the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario have tended to prioritize growth-related or housing-enabling infrastructure projects over infrastructure renewal needs;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has regulated municipal infrastructure asset management through O. Reg 588/17 (Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure) under the *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2015*;

AND WHEREAS municipal asset management plans and the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario have identified that municipalities have significant state-of-good-repair backlogs and renewal needs for infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario doubled the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) from \$200M/year to \$400M/year for 2021-2026 but has not publicly committed to maintaining this level of funding beyond 2026;

AND WHEREAS the OCIF has become a vital and indispensable resource for municipalities, assisting them with improving their asset management programs and meeting community-preserving infrastructure renewal needs;

AND WHEREAS increased geopolitical uncertainty is threatening the economic prosperity of Canada, Ontario, and every municipality;

AND WHEREAS municipal infrastructure is a key enabler and preserver of economic prosperity;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) has heard from its members and their municipalities concerns regarding the potential erosion of existing municipal infrastructure and thus service levels in light of the ongoing focus on housing-enabling infrastructure by grant funding programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that **THE MUNICIPALITY OF _____** supports MFOA's letter to the Ministry of Infrastructure requesting that the doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund be made permanent in advance of the allocations for the 2027 calendar year, helping municipalities to continue building housing-enabling infrastructure while preserving the economic value provided by existing infrastructure.

September 15, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria,
Minister of Transportation
minister.mto@ontario.ca

Re: Establish Regulatory Framework for e-Scooters

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, at its regular meeting held on September 14, 2026 supported the following resolution from the Town of Parry Sound regarding the above noted matter;

WHEREAS electric kick-style scooters (e-scooters) have become an increasingly popular and affordable form of transportation in Chatham-Kent and across Ontario; and

WHEREAS e-scooters can provide an accessible, low-emission transportation option and help address transportation needs in communities such as Chatham-Kent that do not have conventional public transit; and

WHEREAS Ontario's current e-scooter pilot program places responsibility on individual municipalities to determine how e-scooters may operate locally, creating administrative and enforcement challenges, particularly for smaller municipalities with limited resources; and

WHEREAS the continued use of a pilot framework has resulted in uncertainty and inconsistent approaches to e-scooter regulation across the Province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent requests that the Province of Ontario establish a province-wide regulatory framework for e-scooters that recognizes their unique operating characteristics, maintains appropriate safety standards, and provides municipalities with authority to address local needs; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of Chatham-Kent requests the support of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) in advocating for a framework that reduces unnecessary administrative and enforcement burdens on local municipalities; and

FI NALLY BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, the Minister of Transportation, Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Local MPPs, and all municipalities across Ontario.

Sincerely,

Judy Shantz

Digitally signed by Judy
Shantz
Date: 2026.09.16
10:46:38 -04'00'

Judy Shantz, CMO
Director Municipal Governance/Clerk

C
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Local MPPs
Ontario Municipalities

**Township of Southgate
Administration Office**

185667 Grey County Road 9, RR 1
Dundalk, ON N0C 1B0



Phone: 519-923-2110
Toll Free: 1-888-560-6607
Fax: 519-923-9262
Web: www.southgate.ca

September 17, 2026

**Re: Support - Town of Parry Sound – Request for Province to Establish
Regulatory Framework for E-Scooters**

Please be advised that at its regular meeting held on September 16, 2026, Council of the Corporation of the Township of Southgate approved the following:

No. 2026-346

Moved By Deputy Mayor Dobreen

Seconded By Councillor Shipston

Be it resolved that Southgate Council receive for information the correspondence from the Town of Parry Sound regarding the establishment of a regularly framework to govern e-scooters; and

That a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, the Minister of Transportation, Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Bruce-Grey Owen Sound MPP Paul Vickers, and Ontario municipalities.

Carried

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (519) 923-2110, ext 233.

Sincerely,

Holly Malynyk, Deputy Clerk
Township of Southgate

Encl: Town of Parry Sound – Request Province Establish Regulatory Framework for E-scooters

CC:

AMO

ROMA

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Hon. Steven MacKinnon, The Minister of Transportation

Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, MPP, Parry Sound-Muskoka

Paul Vickers, MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

All 444 Municipalities in Ontario



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND
RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL

NO. 2026 –

DIVISION LIST

YES NO

DATE: September 1, 2026

Councillor **G. ASHFORD**
Councillor **J. BELESKEY**
Councillor **P. BORNEMAN**
Councillor **B. KEITH**
Councillor **D. McCANN**
Councillor **C. McDONALD**
Mayor **J. McGARVEY**

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED: ☒ DEFEATED: ☐ Postponed to: _____

WHEREAS electric kick-style scooters (e-scooters) have become an increasingly popular and affordable form of transportation in Parry Sound and across Ontario; and

WHEREAS e-scooters can provide an accessible, low-emission transportation option and help address transportation needs in communities such as Parry Sound that do not have conventional public transit; and

WHEREAS Ontario's current e-scooter pilot program places responsibility on individual municipalities to determine how e-scooters may operate locally, creating administrative and enforcement challenges, particularly for smaller municipalities with limited resources; and

WHEREAS the continued use of a pilot framework has resulted in uncertainty and inconsistent approaches to e-scooter regulation across the Province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Parry Sound requests that the Province of Ontario establish a province-wide regulatory framework for e-scooters that recognizes their unique operating characteristics, maintains appropriate safety standards, and provides municipalities with authority to address local needs; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Parry Sound requests the support of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) in advocating for a framework that reduces unnecessary administrative and enforcement burdens on local municipalities; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, the Minister of Transportation, Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Parry Sound–Muskoka MPP, Graydon Smith, and all municipalities across Ontario.

September 22, 2026

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Delivered via email: premier@ontario.ca

Re: Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax

Dear Premier Ford,

Please be advised that at their Regular Meeting on September 16, 2026, Council of the Town of Aylmer adopted the following resolution:

Resolution No. 200-26

Moved by Councillor Desrosiers and seconded by Councillor Rauhe:

That the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Aylmer receive the correspondence from the Town of Ingersoll, Town of Plympton-Wyoming, and Prince Edward County regarding Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax; and,

That Council support the resolution regarding Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax; and,

That the resolution be forwarded to other municipalities in Ontario, Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Rob Flack, all relevant ministries and the provincial government.

CARRIED

Regards,

Owen Jaggard
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Cc: Hon. Rob Flack, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Andrew Lawton, Member of Parliament for Elgin-St. Thomas-London South
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All municipalities in Ontario

May 18, 2026

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of May 12, 2026 the following resolution regarding exploring the feasibility of a Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-207

DATE: May 12, 2026

MOVED BY: Councillor Braney

SECONDED BY: Councillor Engelsdorfer

WHEREAS the vitality of Prince Edward County's main streets is essential to the economic, social, and cultural health of our community;

WHEREAS there are numerous long-term vacant commercial storefronts, which detracts from the character of the community, reduces pedestrian traffic, discourages business investment, and negatively impacts the viability of surrounding small businesses;

WHEREAS the current Municipal Act, 2001 does not provide municipalities with the explicit legal authority to implement a "Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax," although other jurisdictions are actively advocating for such tools to address similar challenges;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward:

1. **THAT** staff be directed to report back to Council on the feasibility of implementing a Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax, including an analysis of the necessary provincial legislative changes required, recommendations for stakeholder consultation, and to concurrently explore potential enforceable mechanisms available under current legislation;
2. **THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward hereby requests that the Government of Ontario amend the Municipal Act, 2001 to grant Ontario municipalities the permissive authority to implement a "Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax" or similar levy to encourage the productive use of long-term vacant retail properties;
3. **THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Premier of Ontario, and the Member of Provincial Parliament representing the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward for their immediate consideration; and

4. **THAT** this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Braney, Councillor Engelsdorfer

Committee Report

To:	Warden Matrosovs and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	October 8, 2026
Subject / Report No:	CSR-CW-08-26
Title:	Declaration of Surplus Lands and Establishment of Easements
Prepared by:	Sharon Irwin, Manager of Community Housing
Reviewed by:	Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Community Housing
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	Owen Sound

Recommendation

1. That report CSR-CW-08-26 regarding the declaration of surplus lands be received; and
2. That staff be directed to enter into an agreement, for nominal consideration, with the owner of Lot 27 Plan 444 (the “Easement Agreement”) to grant and obtain the necessary easements required to establish the shared driveway between Lot 26 Plan 444 and Lot 27 Plan 444, identified as Parts 1 and 2 on the attached draft reference plan (the “Shared Driveway Easement”); and
3. That once the Easement Agreement has been finalized, staff be directed to prepare an approval by-law for Council’s consideration; and
4. That Grey County Council declares Westmount property 1343 8th Avenue West, Owen Sound legally described as Lot 26 Plan 444, Owen Sound (the “Property”); subject to a shared driveway easement over Part 2 on the attached draft reference plan benefitting Lot 27 Plan 444; City of Owen Sound, County of Grey, and subject to a driveway encroachment easement over Part 3 on the attached draft reference plan benefitting Lot 25 Plan 444, City of Owen Sound, County of Grey (the “Driveway Encroachment Easement”) as surplus to the needs of the municipality; and
5. That Lot 26 Plan 444 be valued based on a price achieved by listing the property for sale on the open market through the services of a realtor; and
6. That the Clerk be directed to provide notice of Council’s intent to sell the property in accordance with the Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy 4-52.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council approval to:

1. declare the property municipally known as 1348 8th Avenue West, Owen Sound as surplus;

2. negotiate the acquisition of an easement from the owner of Lot 27 Plan 444 for the purpose of establishing a Shared Driveway Easement between Lot's 26 and 27 Plan 444, Owen Sound; and
3. establish a Driveway Encroachment Easement, in favour of Lot 25 Plan 444, Owen Sound, prior to the sale of Lot 26 Plan 444; Owen Sound.

Report HDR-CW-09-21 approved proceeding with the divestment of certain properties with the proceeds of the property sales to be directed to the Affordable Housing Fund for the development of various types of housing. Before proceeding with selling the property, the land needs to be declared surplus in accordance with the Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy 4-52.

Background and Discussion

Council approved Resolution HDR-CW-09-21 in May of 2021 to move forward with the divestment of identified Grey County Westmount properties with the proceeds being directed toward the Affordable Housing Fund for development of affordable housing.

According to the process outlined in report HDR-CW-09-21, all tenants in Grey County Housing were made aware of the intent to move forward with the sale of Westmount properties upon vacancy. Tenants were asked to submit their interest in purchasing a property upon qualifying for a mortgage. Tenants are required to purchase the property through the Grey County Homeownership Program. This program provides a 5% forgivable down payment loan contingent upon the tenant qualifying for a mortgage, meeting eligibility requirements for the program and entering into a 20-year forgivable loan with the County that is registered on title.

A property municipally known as 1343 8th Avenue West, Owen Sound, legally described as Lot 26 Plan 444, Owen Sound; County of Grey has been identified for sale in the upcoming months.

This property will be sold on the open market.

The property shares a driveway with a neighbouring privately owned property, being Lot 27 Plan 444. Easements on these lots will be established to formalize the shared use of the driveway for both the owner of Lot 27 Plan 444 and the future owner of Lot 26 Plan 444.

The driveway for the neighbouring County owned property, being Lot 25 Plan 444, was also found to be encroaching onto Lot 26 Plan 444. An Easement will be established prior to closing the sale of Lot 26 Plan 444 to reflect this encroachment.

The land and easements need to be declared surplus before the property can be sold. This report is administrative in nature in order to declare the land surplus as per the County's Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy 4-52.

Notice of the proposed Sale of Land will be provided in accordance with the County's Land Acquisition and Disposition Policy 4-52. It is anticipated that this notice will happen in the Winter of 2026.

To allow the land surveyor to finalize the survey prior to winter, it is anticipated that an approval By-law for the Easement Agreement will be brought back for Council Consideration in late October or early November.

An approval by-law for sale of Lot 26 will be brought back for Council's consideration in early 2027.

Financial and Resource Implications

Realtor & legal costs will come out of the sale price.

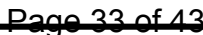
Relevant Consultation

- ☒ Internal (list)
 - ☒ Legal Services
 - ☐ Clerks
- ☒ External (list)

Appendices and Attachments

HDR-CW-09-21 Sale of Grey County Housing Scattered Units

Draft Reference Plan Lot's 25-27 Plan 444



To:	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	May 27, 2021
Subject / Report No:	HDR-CW-09-21
Title:	Sale of Grey County Housing Scattered Units
Prepared by:	Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Housing
Reviewed by:	Kim Wingrove, CAO
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All
Status:	Adopted as presented by Committee of the Whole through Resolution CW90-21; Endorsed by County Council CC49-21

Recommendation

That Report HDR-CW-09-21 regarding the divestment of identified Grey County Westmount housing properties be received; and

That staff be authorized to proceed with issuing a tender for real estate services and bring back a recommendation for Council approval; and

That staff be authorized to negotiate the sale of the identified, surplus properties in accordance with a standard real estate agreement, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services and subject to meeting all other requirements as outlined in the Sale of Land Procedure; and

That a by-law be brought back for Council's consideration in accordance with the Sale of Land Procedure to finalize each sale; and

That proceeds for the sale of property be directed to the Affordable Housing Fund for the development of affordable housing.

Executive Summary

In 2017, Council approved the sale of family units at Westmount as they became vacant with the funds being used to create more affordable and energy efficient housing. There are currently two units available to be sold. This report outlines the priority for sales of

the scattered units and the process to be used in the sale of these and subsequent units.

Background

In December 2017, Council received report HDR-CW-12-17 approving the sale of family units at Westmount (40 detached homes known as Westmount units on 7th and 8th Avenue in Owen Sound) as they became vacant with the funds being used to create more affordable and energy efficient housing. The sale of the scattered units was to be done gradually during the natural turnover of the units.

With a low vacancy rate in Grey County and increasing private rents, the units have been slow to turn over. Currently there is one vacant unit available to sell. Also, a family is interested in purchasing the house they currently live in. This scenario was not part of the report brought in December of 2017.

Sale of Unit to a Current Tenant

Staff are proposing the following process to guide the sale of a housing unit to a tenant for council approval:

- Existing tenants will have the opportunity to purchase a family unit property at fair market price as determined by an evaluation from a real estate service provider.
- With Council's approval of the recommendations in this report, Grey County Housing will communicate with all current tenants about the County's intent to sell the Westmount properties, what they would need to do qualify for a purchase, and how to communicate their interest in purchasing a property when one becomes available in the future. Going forward, this information would be provided to incoming tenants when they are housed.
- Once the two available properties have been sold, notification of any future opportunities to purchase would be sent out to the list of interested tenants (if any).
- The Grey County Housing tenant interested in purchasing the available unit must apply and be eligible for the Grey County Homeownership Program.
 - The program provides a 5% forgivable down payment loan, contingent upon the tenant qualifying for a mortgage, meeting eligibility requirements for the program and entering into a 20-year forgivable loan with the County that is registered on title.
- If the tenant sells the house within the 20 years, the loan is paid back along with 5% of capital gains as per the Homeownership Program guidelines.
- If a unit is sold to an existing Grey County tenant, the unit will be sold as is.

Sale of Unit on the Open Market

- If no tenant wishes to purchase the housing unit, the unit will be put on the open market for sale at market price using the County's real estate service provider. Staff has prepared a tender to solicit real estate services to process the sale of these and upcoming houses.
- Staff is proposing when a unit becomes vacant the normal turn over process of cleaning, painting and repairs occurs to ready the unit for sale.

Process

Proposed process for executing a council approved sale of property is:

- Once a property is identified for sale there will be a brief report to Committee of the Whole identifying the lands and requesting that the lands be declared surplus.
- If there is an existing, qualified tenant for the property that will be noted in the report.
- Following declaration of surplus lands, a notice will be placed on the County website and newspaper to notify the public of the County's intention to sell the lands.
- Staff are authorized to negotiate the sale of identified property(ies), subject to final approval by County Council, in accordance with standard real estate agreements as approved by the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services without the need for a report to be brought back for each approved sale;
- Minor revisions to the standard agreements would be permitted provided they maintain the intent of the proposed process and are satisfactory to both the Director of Housing and the Director of Legal Services
- A by law will go directly to Council to approve the sale unless staff determine there are substantive changes from the approved template agreement. In that case a report will be brought forward to Committee of the Whole.

The County is the sole shareholder of the Grey County and Owen Sound Housing Corporation, which was established in 2000 as a corporate mechanism to transfer ownership of social housing assets from the Province to the County. Those housing assets were effectively absorbed into the County's housing program at that time but remain owned by the Corporation.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

The Westmount properties are owned by the Grey County and Owen Sound Housing Corporation. Compliance with its corporate formalities will be necessary. As in report HDR-CW-12-17 only 20 properties will be sold at this point.

List of Westmount Properties

Parcel #	Property Location	PIN	Legal Description
1	1330 7 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0081 (LT)	LT 60 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
2	1336 7 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0080 (LT)	LT 59 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
3	1342 7 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0079 (LT)	LT 58 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
4	1348 7 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0078 (LT)	LT 57 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
5	1359 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0077 (LT)	LT 56 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
6	1327 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0076 (LT)	LT 55 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
7	1333 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0075 (LT)	LT 54 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
8	1339 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0074 (LT)	LT 53 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
9	1351 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0073 (LT)	LT 52A PL 444; OWEN SOUND
10	1345 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0072 (LT)	LT 52 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
11	1308 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0071 (LT)	LT 50 PL 444; OWEN SOUND

Parcel #	Property Location	PIN	Legal Description
12	1314 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0070 (LT)	LT 49 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
13	1320 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0069 (LT)	LT 48 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
14	1326 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0068 (LT)	LT 47 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
15	1332 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0067 (LT)	LT 46 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
16	1338 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0066 (LT)	LT 45 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
17	1344 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0065 (LT)	LT 44 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
18	1350 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0064 (LT)	LT 43 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
19	1356 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0063 (LT)	LT 42 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
20	1368 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0061 (LT)	LT 40 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
21	1374 7 th Avenue A West, Owen Sound	37049-0060 (LT)	LT 39 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
22	1370 7 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0059 (LT)	LT 38 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
23	1378 7 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0058 (LT)	LT 37 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
24	1386 7 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0057 (LT)	LT 36 PL 444; OWEN SOUND

Parcel #	Property Location	PIN	Legal Description
25	1397 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0056 (LT)	LT 35 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
26	1391 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0055 (LT)	LT 34 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
27	1385 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0054 (LT)	LT 33 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
28	1379 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0053 (LT)	LT 32 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
29	1373 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0052 (LT)	LT 31 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
30	1367 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0051 (LT)	LT 30 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
31	1361 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0050 (LT)	LT 29 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
32	1355 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0049 (LT)	LT 28 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
33	1349 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0048 (LT)	LT 27 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
34	1343 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0047 (LT)	LT 26 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
35	1337 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0046 (LT)	LT 25 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
36	1331 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0045 (LT)	LT 24 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
37	1325 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0044 (LT)	LT 23 PL 444; OWEN SOUND

Parcel #	Property Location	PIN	Legal Description
38	1319 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0043 (LT)	LT 22 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
39	1313 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0042 (LT)	LT 21 PL 444; OWEN SOUND
40	1307 8 th Avenue West, Owen Sound	37049-0041 (LT)	LT 20 PL 444; OWEN SOUND

Financial and Resource Implications

The proceeds from the sale will be put in the Affordable Housing Fund and used to fund new affordable and energy efficient affordable housing units.

Relevant Consultation

☒ Internal: Legal Department, Clerks Department

☐ External:

Appendices and Attachments

[HDR-CW-12-17](#)

[Process for Sale of Grey County Housing Units](#)

Committee Report

To:	Warden Matrosovs and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	October 8, 2026
Subject / Report No:	CCR-CW-16-26
Title:	Integrity Commissioner Appointment
Prepared by:	Tara Warder, Clerk and Rayburn Murray, Deputy Clerk
Reviewed by:	Randy Scherzer, CAO
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	

Recommendation

1. That Report CCR-CW-16-26 regarding an Integrity Commissioner appointment for Grey County, be received; and
2. That a by-law be brought forward for Council's consideration, appointing Lauren Chee-Hing as the County of Grey's Integrity Commissioner for a three-year term beginning November 15, 2026; and
3. That staff provide a notice of early termination to Principles Integrity for existing integrity commissioner and closed meeting investigator services prior to Council approval as per Section 26.6 (b) of the Procedural By-law.

Executive Summary

This report recommends the appointment of Lauren Chee-Hing as Grey County's Integrity Commissioner for a three-year term following the successful coordinated recruitment process.

Background and Discussion

This report serves as a follow-up to report CCR-CW-10-26, considered by Committee of the Whole on June 25, 2026 which informed Grey County Council/Committee of the Whole of an upcoming change to its Integrity Commissioner (IC).

Principles Integrity, Grey County's current Integrity Commissioner, plans to cease operations as IC in January of 2027. After receiving notice from the firm in April of 2026, Grey County and member municipal staff met to discuss merits of continuing with the same Integrity Commissioner as one another in order to standardize codes of conduct across the various organizations and having the same IC who handles complaints and training in a consistent manner.

The Clerks across Grey County agreed to pursue a coordinated recruitment effort rather than the more standard RFP approach to help secure an IC who would be the right fit for all municipalities and to recruit as soon as practical. This is the same approach that was undertaken in 2017 following the passing of Bill 68, *Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017* which required municipalities to have an integrity commissioner in place by March 1, 2019.

Select firms were invited to submit an expression of interest to serve as an IC for all Grey County municipalities for a three-year term. Four expressions were received by the deadline, and each municipality was asked to rank the firms in order of preference to determine the top two firms to be interviewed by a panel in August. There was a representative from each municipality on the interview panel, including the Deputy Clerk from Grey County. The recommendation from the interview panel was that Lauren Chee-Hing be appointed as IC.

Lauren is experienced in municipal law, serving as a lawyer in her current position with Gridin Advocates, her past experience includes acting in the capacity of legal counsel with the Ontario Ombudsman. Lauren's extensive municipal experience in the areas of accountability, governance, administrative law and procedural fairness will be a valuable resource for Grey County and its member municipalities.

Staff's recommendation is to proceed with the appointment ahead of the new Council term to have an IC in place for upcoming joint orientation with member municipalities and for the incoming Council, so a resource is available immediately if needed, rather than transitioning and changing IC's early in the term.

Each member municipality is also anticipated to bring forward reports and / or by-laws with the same recommendation on their own timelines and in accordance with internal practices and structure.

It is worth noting that the process has been a collaborative and beneficial effort across all ten municipalities.

The new IC will be tasked with training on the code of conduct, providing advice to members on the code of conduct and the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, 1990* and other governance matters. County staff will also work closely with the IC to implement the new standardized code of conduct from the Province when it is brought into effect.

Legislated Requirements

The duties of the Integrity Commissioner are provided for in the *Municipal Act, 2001* in Part V.1. Municipalities must either appoint an IC, or make arrangements for all the responsibilities set out in the Act to be provided by a Commissioner of another municipality.

Changes are afoot with additional legislation passed by the Province surrounding standardized codes of conduct and involvement of a provincial IC. Specifically, Section 223.2 of the Act, outlining that a municipality shall establish codes of conduct for members of the council, will be repealed and replaced with verbiage that the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations prescribing a code of conduct, requiring a Commissioner to provide education or

training on the code, among other items. It will also note that a code of conduct established by a municipality will be of no force and effect once the new section (and standardized code) is brought into effect by the Province.

Legal Considerations

There are none in this report.

Financial and Resource Implications

At the time of the prior report in June 2026, the budgetary impacts of switching to a new IC were unknown for 2027. Having since received details from the proposed IC on future fee structures, staff are anticipating Integrity Commissioner costs to be within budget in 2027 and similar to actual costs in prior years. Costs for Integrity Commissioner services have been reasonable and stable in the past and staff anticipate this to continue, barring any large inquiry or investigation that may arise.

Grey County budgets funds each year to allocate towards advice on Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, 1990 and Code of Conduct matters.

Seeking advice early and proactively is encouraged and is a contributing factor in lower complaint and investigation costs.

Relevant Consultation

- ☐ Internal
 - ☐ AODA Compliance (describe)
 - ☐ Contribution to Climate Change Action Plan Targets (describe)
- ☐ External

Appendices and Attachments

None.