

Agenda Community Services Committee

October 15, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

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	Pages
1. CALL TO ORDER	
2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	
4.a Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on September 17, 2025	3
5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	
There are no deputations or presentations.	
6. PUBLIC FORUM	
7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED	
There are no correspondence items being presented for consideration.	
8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF	
8.a Facility Bookings and Community Programs	
8.a.1 Report CS-25-109 from the Facilities Booking Coordinator Re: Summer Recreation Programs 2025 Wrap-Up	8
8.b Community and Business Development	
8.b.1 Report CM-25-026 from the Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction Re: External Relations and Investment Attraction Plan	21
8.c Planning and Heritage	
8.c.1 Report CS-25-111 from the Manager of Planning and Heritage Re: Bill 5 Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act Update	41

- 8.d Arena Operations
 None.
- 8.e Building
 None.
- 8.f Parks and Open Space
 None.
- 8.g Tourism, Culture and Events
 None.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There are no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There are no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

- 11.a City of Owen Sound - Join a Committee 52
- 11.b Memorandum from the Chief Building Official Re: Development Update 53
- 11.c Site Plan DA-25-017 - 1750 16th Ave E - Hotel 55

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

14. ADJOURNMENT



Minutes

Community Services Committee

September 17, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marion Koepke
Member Aly Bousfield-Bastedo
Councillor Jon Farmer
Member Morgan Kemick
Member Lloyd Lewis
Member Lance Thurston
Councillor Suneet Kukreja

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Vice Chair Travis Dodd

STAFF PRESENT: Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Sabine Robart, Manager of Planning and Heritage
Viveca Gravel, River District Coordinator
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support
Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Koepke called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and provided a land acknowledgement.

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 Community Services Committee meeting held on July 16, 2025

The Director of Community Services provided comments respecting the previously requested report addressing a response to provincial Bill 5 and noted that this report will be brought to the October committee meeting.

"THAT the Community Services Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on July 16, 2025"

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.a Presentation from the River District Coordinator Re: Salmon Tour

The River District Coordinator provided a presentation on the upcoming 2025 Salmon Tour, highlighting the new Tourism app and event marketing.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Gravel noted that the influencer selected to highlight the Salmon Tour experience was selected through the team at RT07.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Gravel noted that if people are interested but unavailable on October 4th, the self-guided tour is available for the duration of the salmon run, and added that the maps and content are available online and through the app.

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 Parks and Open Space

8.a.1 Report CS-25-091 from the Manager of Parks and Open Space Re: Harrison Park Marker Tree - Request for Ecological Restoration and Cultural Recognition

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

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that updating the heritage attributes of the Harrison Park Designation By-law can be added to 2026 staff workplans.

CS-250917-002

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-091 respecting the Harrison Park Marker Tree – Request for Ecological Restoration and Cultural Recognition, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Approve the request for Ecological Restoration and Cultural Recognition with the costs associated with the plaque to be taken from the capital reserve for plaques and up to \$10,000 from the Parkland reserve for the associated ecological protection; and**
- 2. Direct staff to update the Heritage attributes of the Harrison Park Cultural heritage designation in 2026 to include the Marker Tree."**

Carried.

8.a.2 Report CS-25-094 from the Director of Community Services Re: Agreement Renewal - Festival of Northern Lights

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

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the previous living tree was removed in the early 2000s as part of the downtown master plan, and that replacing the current tree with a new living tree is not currently being considered.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that financial reporting requirements for an incorporated non-profit will continue to be outlined in the renewed agreement.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter clarified that the proposed funds are to account for the need for storage space for the festival to replace the space traditionally provided at Greenwood Cemetery. It was noted that the festival could be eligible for Municipal Accommodation Tax funding through the Owen Sound Tourism Development Fund.

CS-250917-003

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-094 respecting Agreement Renewal – Festival of Northern Lights, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Direct staff to bring forward a by-law to execute the agreement renewal as outlined in the report; and**
- 2. Allocate up to \$65,000 from the City's Festival reserve for a display to replace the tree with costs and options to come back through the Committee."**

Carried.

- 8.b Planning and Heritage
None.
- 8.c Arena Operations
None.
- 8.d Building
None.
- 8.e Community and Business Development
None.
- 8.f Facility Bookings and Community Programs
None.
- 8.g Tourism, Culture and Events
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

11.a Memorandum from the Chief Building Official Re: Development Update

The Director of Community Services provided an overview of the July and August development update, highlighting the numbers of permits, inspections, and increase in construction value.

11.b Site Plan DA-25-012 - 1800 8th St E - Brightshores Accessory Building

11.c Site Plan DA-25-014 - 1875 16th Ave E - Amazon

11.d Site Plan DA-25-013 - 1900 20th St E - Owen Sound Murray McDonald Building

11.e Site Plan DA-25-015 - 750 9th St W - OSDSS

11.f Site Plan - DA-25-014 - 901 2nd Ave E - TD Bank

11.g Site Plan DA-25-016 - 843 9th Ave E - Murphy

The Manager of Planning and Heritage highlighted the number of planning applications received and provided a brief presentation respecting the various site plan approvals as listed on the agenda.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that once site plan approval is provided, it is then up to the applicant to move forward in getting a building permit. If the construction were delayed or cancelled before a building permit is issued, the City may not be informed at that time.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that renovations and investments to existing infrastructure may be included in the construction value amount through building permit data but are not tracked in the development update as they are not new units.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Robart noted that work is currently ongoing with developers relating to various subdivision plans ahead of final approvals.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that data relating to property standards for rental units could be compiled to provide insight into the state of aging rental stock.

CS-250917-004

Moved by Member Kemick

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the September 22, 2025 Community Services Committee agenda, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive Items 11.a to 11.g for information purposes."

Carried.

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 Koepke adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee
Report From: Andy O’Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator
Meeting Date: October 15, 2025
Report Code: CS-25-109
Subject: Summer Recreation Programs 2025 Wrap-up

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-109 respecting Summer Recreation Programs 2025 Wrap-up, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes.

Highlights:

- The City partners with instructors to offer weekly camps for youth aged 6-13 and provides affordable recreation opportunities.
- Available options for younger age groups continue to be the most popular. Staff continue striving to provide opportunities for the younger demographic, maximize affordability, and encourage children and youth to be active and healthy.
- The City’s website and software are utilized for online registration.
- A survey was offered to all participants. Attendees were complimentary of all programs and instructors.
- Staff continue to work with the instructors to make improvements to the City’s summer program offerings.

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:

[CS-23-008](#) – Summer Recreation Programs 2023 Wrap-up

[CS-24-099](#) – Summer Recreation Programs 2024 Wrap-up

Background:

The City traditionally offered youth specialty programs at its city-owned facilities, providing affordable and inclusive recreation opportunities. The programs focused on skill development that support participation in sports and consist of hockey skills and power skating programs run once per week over an 8-week summertime period, as well as soccer camp. The City also offered public swimming at the Harrison Park outdoor accessible pool (through an arrangement with the Family Y).

In 2023, the City recognized a need for increased camp options for children and youth during the summer months. Following the consideration and approval of Report CS-23-008, staff developed and introduced four additional week-long camps, in addition to the two one-week soccer camps including:

- One week of lacrosse camp at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre (JMRRC);
- One week of hockey camp at the JMRRC; and
- Two separate one-week Sports Camps at Harrison Park.

Through additional feedback, a need for swim lessons at the Harrison Park outdoor pool was also requested in addition to the swimming offered by the Family Y. Public Swims and lessons were offered for a second year in 2025.

These camps were offered to youth ages 6-13 years and were very well received.

At the completion of summer programs each year, Staff conducts a survey with families to obtain feedback for ways to improve the camps and programs. Staff also meet with all instructors at the end of each season to review opportunities for improvement and brainstorm ideas to enhance the summer camp experience for the upcoming year.

The purpose of this report is to provide an outline of the proposed summer camps for 2026.

Analysis:

Hockey Skills and Power Skating

- Ran over an 8-week period (June-August).
- Marketed using email, the City's website and social media.
- Participant cost for the 8-week program was \$185.00.
- Registration was completed online through the City's website (via Xplore Recreation), at City Hall SOS Counter, or via email.
- The City pays the full ice rental fee for the ice time used.
- This is an affordable option to build skills to support participation in sports for children and youth.
- Prior to program start, there was again a significant number of individuals on the waitlist. Staff accommodated as many participants as possible by adjusting the age groups to ensure an even number in each group; however, some participants could not be accommodated.

The following age groupings were offered:

Power Skating:

- U15 to U17 – 4 pm – 5 pm (ages 14-16)
- U8 to U9 – 5 pm – 6 pm (ages 7-8)
- U10 to U12 – 6 pm – 7 pm (ages 9-11)
- U13 to U14 – 7 pm – 8 pm (ages 12-13)

Hockey Skills:

- U10 to U11 – 4 pm – 5 pm (ages 9-10)
- U12 to U13 – 5 pm – 6 pm (ages 11-12)
- U14 to U16 – 6 pm – 7 pm (ages 13-15)

<u>Program</u>	<u>Age Division</u>	<u>Spaces Filled</u>	<u>Spaces Available</u>
Power Skating	U8 to U9	18 (+5 on waitlist)	18
	U10 to U12	18 (+1 on waitlist)	18
	U13 to U14	17	18
	U15 to U17	13	18
Hockey Skills	U10 to U11	20	22
	U12 to U13	18	22
	U14 to U16	18	22

Financials

POWERSKATING

REVENUE

EXPENSES

June 10 – July 29 (Tuesdays)

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Registrations (66)	\$12,210.00	
Ice Rental		\$7,147.20
Instructor Fee (Mitch Wright)		\$3,200.00
Insurance		\$432.00
Total	<u>\$12,210.00</u>	<u>\$10,779.20</u>
CITY NET REVENUE	\$1,430.80	

HOCKEY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

REVENUE

EXPENSES

June 11 – July 30 (Wednesdays)

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Registrations (58)	\$10,360.00	
Ice Rental		\$5,360.40
Instructor Fee (Brad Tiley)		\$2,400.00
Insurance		\$500.00
Total	<u>\$10,360.00</u>	<u>\$8,260.40</u>
CITY NET REVENUE	\$2,099.60	

A total net revenue of \$3,530.40 was achieved by the hockey skills and power skating 8-week programs. There continues to be a high level of interest in these programs. As noted, the City pays the full costs for the ice rental.

The purpose of these programs is to fill a void in affordable options for on-ice programming, build skills, and support participation in sports and activities.

Based on registration this year, Staff believe there is further opportunity to structure the programs to target and include an even younger demographic.

As well, looking ahead to 2026 programs, Staff will continue to review the schedules of other sports (such as soccer and lacrosse) to avoid scheduling conflicts for potential participants.

Soccer Camp

Historically, the City has offered Soccer camp in partnership with Owen Sound Minor Soccer, who work to promote the camp. This is the fifth year Oliver Clark has been contracted by the City to deliver the camp. Mr. Clark has developed an excellent reputation and has continued to grow the camp, inviting local soccer enthusiasts and members of Owen Sound Minor Soccer to assist with the program's delivery.

The agreement between the Owen Sound Minor Soccer Association, Oliver Clark and the City includes the following highlights:

- Partner with the Owen Sound Minor Soccer Association in a revenue-sharing model;
- Have high-quality programs with excellent instruction;
- 2 separate camps – one four-day and one five-day;
- Marketing was completed using posters, signage on the electronic media boards, social media, website, and email;
- Participants could register for the regular program, half-day or advanced in each of the two one-week programs. Fees vary for the various programs;
- Half-day and full-day participation were an option, but half-day was mandatory for participants aged 4; and
- Registration was done at City Hall through the SOS Counter, via email, and on the City's website through Xplore Recreation.

Registration Numbers

Registration numbers for the two one-week sessions were 152 participants, up from 144 participants in 2024, 147 participants in 2023, 125 participants in 2022 and 108 participants in 2021.

Financials

SOCCER CAMPS	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
Week 1 – Jun-30-Jul-4		
Registrations (74)	\$13,675.00	
Facility Rental Fees		\$1,953.14
Swimming Rentals		\$750.00
Week II – Aug 4-8		
Registrations (78)	\$13,820.00	
Facility Rental Fees		\$1,953.14
Swimming Rentals		\$750.00
Owen Sound Minor Soccer Share		\$4,220.09
Instructor Fee (Oliver Clark)		\$14,770.30
Insurance		\$500.00
Total	<u>\$27,495.00</u>	<u>\$24,896.67</u>
CITY NET REVENUE	<u>\$2,598.33</u>	

The revenue sharing with the Owen Sound Minor Soccer Association provides an incentive to promote the camp to their participants and support skill development in their sport. Owen Sound Minor Soccer Association reinvests its share of the revenue (\$4,220.09) into programs and capital work at the Kiwanis Soccer Complex.

Hockey Camp

- One-week camp in August (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.);
- Marketed using posters, signage on the electronic media boards, email, the city's website, and social media;
- Participant cost for the 5-day program was \$330.00;
- Registration was done online through the City's website (via Xplore Recreation), at City Hall SOS Counter or via email;
- The City pays the full rental fees for ice time;
- This is an affordable option to fill a void in youth camps during the summer months;
- Registration was done using two age groups – 6-9 and 10-12 years old. Registration was positive, and Staff are confident this will continue to grow with more families aware of the opportunity.
 - Ages 6-9 – 25/25 spots filled (+5 on a waitlist)
 - Ages 10-12 – 26/25 spots filled (+2 on a waitlist)

Staff have met with the instructor to discuss the results of the feedback survey and explore areas of improvement. Some of these areas include:

- Increasing numbers to allow more youth to participate;
- A more robust check-in and check-out process each day with more detailed tracking;
- Adding swim times; and
- Altering the ice times to allow better flow with daily activities.

Financials

HOCKEY CAMP	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
August 11-15		
Registrations (51)	\$15,840.00	
Swimming Rentals		\$0.00
Instructor Fee (Mitch Wright)		\$7,554.60
Insurance		\$0.00
Facility Rentals		\$5,047.71
	<u>\$15,840.00</u>	<u>\$12,602.31</u>
CITY NET REVENUE	<u>\$3,237.69</u>	

Lacrosse Camp

- One-week camp in July to coincide with lacrosse season (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.);
- Marketed using posters, signage on the electronic media boards, email, the city's website, and social media;
- Participant cost for the 5-day program was \$310.00;
- Registration was done online through the City's website (via Xplore Recreation), at City Hall SOS Counter, or via email;
- The city pays the full rental fees for floor time;
- This is an affordable option to fill a void in youth camps during the summer months; and
- Registration was done using two age groups – 6 to 9 and 10 to 12 years old. Registration was positive for the first year and Staff are confident this will continue to grow with growing awareness of the opportunity.
 - Ages 6-9 – 31/30 spots filled
 - Ages 10-12 – 21/30 sports filled

Staff have met with the instructor to discuss the results of the feedback survey and explore areas of improvement. Some of these areas include:

- A more robust check-in and check-out process each day with more detailed tracking; and
- Altering the swim times to better flow with daily activities.

Financials

LACROSSE CAMP	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
July 7-11		
Registrations (52)	\$15,810.00	
Swimming Rentals		\$750.00
Instructor Fee (Adam Jones)		\$8,572.17
Insurance		\$372.60
Facility Rentals		\$2,441.45
Total	<u>\$15,810.00</u>	<u>\$12,136.22</u>
CITY NET REVENUE	<u>\$3,673.78</u>	

Harrison Park Sports Camp

- Two One-week camps – July 14-18 and August 18-22 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.);
- Marketed using posters, signage on the electronic media boards, email, the city's website and social media;
- Participant cost for each 5-day program was \$235.00;
- Registration was done online through the City's website (via Xplore Recreation), at City Hall SOS Counter or via email;
- The city pays the full rental fees for facility use;
- This is an affordable option to fill a void in youth camps during the summer months; and
- Registration almost doubled from previous year which illustrates the need for summer youth camps in our community.
 - Week 1 – 56 registered
 - Week 2 – 50 registered

Staff have met with the instructor to discuss the results of the feedback survey and explore areas of improvement. Some of these areas include:

- A more robust check-in and check-out process each day with more detailed tracking;
- Exploring methods of communication specific to daily locations changes due to weather;

- Having participants bring sports equipment from home; and
- Exploring locations for indoor activities as a result of inclement weather.

Financials

HARRISON PARK SPORTS CAMP	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
Week 1 – Jul-14-18		
Registrations (56)	\$13,160.00	
Instructor Fee (Oliver Clark)		\$7,696.76
Insurance		\$0.00
Facility Rental Fees		\$1,516.87
Swimming Rentals		\$647.76
Week II – Aug 18-22		
Registrations (50)	\$11,045.00	
Instructor Fee (Oliver Clark)		\$6,213.10
Insurance		\$0.00
Facility Rental Fees		\$1,516.87
Swimming Rentals		\$652.27
Total	<u>\$24,205.00</u>	<u>\$18,243.63</u>
CITY NET REVENUE	<u>\$5,961.37</u>	

Survey Feedback – Summer Camps and Programs

Many families have multiple children attending several camps and programs with the City. Based on feedback from past years, a modification to the survey was completed so that feedback was not requested multiple times from the same family.

A very high percentage of respondents were satisfied with the City's camps, instructors, activities, registration process, and location of programming, with many indicating they plan to register their child again next summer.

Some suggestions included longer hours to allow for later pickup, more swimming options, improved communication, expanding numbers to allow more people to register and a more robust drop-off and pick-up routine.

Staff will work with the instructors and their volunteers to implement these suggestions where possible.

HARRISON PARK SWIMMING

The City continued its partnership with the YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce in 2025 to deliver open public swimming at the outdoor pool through a Memorandum of Understanding.

The City was responsible for pool mechanical, chemical balancing, and facility operations.

Based on an Agreement between the City and Family Y, the Y offers certified swimming instruction year-round at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre. In 2024, based on feedback from families, the Y began scheduling additional swimming lessons at the Harrison Park Outdoor Pool to accommodate a larger number of youths in learning the important life skill of swimming. Outdoor swimming lessons for youth at the Harrison Park Pool continued in 2025.

Programming Offered

Paid Public Swimming

- 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Monday to Friday); 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM Saturday from June 27 to August 31.
- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM (Monday to Friday); 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM Saturday from June 27 to August 31.

Free Sponsored Swimming

- 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Sunday) from June 29 to August 27.
- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM (Wednesdays) from July 2 to August 27.
- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM (Thursday) from July 3 to August 28.

Participation Numbers

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
School Groups	0	114	N/A	0	0	132	267	192
Private Rentals		630	N/A	180	654	455	224	278
Campground Users	1535	3108	N/A	2409	2585	2851	2623	1909
Public Swimming	2852	5157	N/A	4562	2763	1919	2221	3,123
Free Swimming	585	1636	N/A	977	1464	1617	1635	1705

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Total	4,972	10,645	N/A	8,128	7,466	6,974	6,970	7,207

The City received \$3,955 in sponsorship from Miller Waste Systems and E.C. King Contracting for all the free swims on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. Individual sponsors supported the Wednesday evening swims. A total of \$2,169.60 was received from 6 sponsors, including: Walker Family Financial, CUPE 1189, Scenic City Lions Club, Woodley Care Services, M'Wikwedong Indigenous Friendship Centre and Proactive Physio Plus.

\$17,000 is transferred from the Campground operating budget to the pool operating budget to offset the cost of free swimming provided to campers.

Under the Agreement with YMCA of Owen Sound Grey Bruce, the City paid the YMCA \$52,264.00 for the delivery of all swim-related use and programming at the pool. This includes lifeguards, a supervisor, and all required training.

Financials

HARRISON PARK SWIMMING	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
Miller Group Sponsorship	\$3,955.00	
Additional Sponsorship	\$2,169.60	
Campground Contribution	\$17,000.00	
Admission & Passes Revenue	\$12,576.42	
YMCA Partnership Agreement		\$52,264.00
Supplies		\$1,500.00
Total	<u>\$35,701.02</u>	<u>\$53,764.00</u>
CITY COST		<u>-\$18,062.98</u>

There is a net cost of \$18,062.98 to support the delivery of the Harrison Park outdoor swimming program. This is included in the City's annual operating budget.

Four swim passes were provided at no cost to the North Grey Union Public Library for loan to the public. Library staff provided the following information:

- The four pool passes were checked out thirty-eight times.
- This is a significant increase from 2024.
- Twenty-six individuals borrowed a pool pass; twenty-three different households borrowed a pool pass.
- During the hottest days, all passes were in use.
- The library has requested to receive four (4) passes again next summer.

Two swim passes were also provided to Keystone and Bruce Grey Child and Family Services; however, no information has been received to date on the use by these participants.

Program Comments

The Harrison Park Pool consistently receives positive feedback from members of the public who visit the pool each summer. Several positive comments were received regarding pool upgrades again this year. Community support and sponsorship assistance for free programs will continue to be leveraged to offset operating expenses.

Financial Implications:

The summer camp programs offered by the City are intended in part to assist in providing affordable recreation opportunities for children utilizing City facilities and are operating very close to expected budgets for 2025.

The six (6) summer camps offered by the City generated \$14,429.18 in facility rental revenue and an additional \$15,471.17 in program revenue for the City in 2025.

The fees for next years camps and programs have been approved through annual updates to the Fees and Charges By-law with moderate increases.

Communication Strategy:

As noted in the report – various marketing strategies were used to encourage participation.

Consultation:

Pamela Coulter, Director of Community Services
Nicole Olmsted, Community Services Administrative Assistant
Eckhard Pastrik, Manager of Parks and Open Space
Mitch Wright, Power Skating & Hockey Camp Instructor
Brad Tiley, Hockey Skills Instructor
Oliver Clark, Soccer & Harrison Park Sports Camp Instructor
Adam Jones, Lacrosse Camp Instructor
Brandon Downing, Manager of Health, Fitness and Aquatics – YMCA

Attachments:

None

Recommended by:

Andy O'Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator

Eckhard Pastrik, Manager of Parks & Open Space

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Andy O'Leary, Facilities Booking Coordinator, at aoleary@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 Ext. 1255.

Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee

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

Meeting Date: October 15, 2025

Report Code: CM-25-026

Subject: External Relations and Investment Attraction Plan

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-25-026 respecting External Relations and Investment Attraction Plan, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council approve the External Relations and Investment Attraction Action Plan 2025-2027 as presented.

Highlights:

- The External Relations and Investment Attraction (ERIA) Action Plan 2025-2027 will advance the City's strategic priorities and foster economic growth by investing in key relationships, capacity-building, and opportunity generating initiatives.
- Four sectors will be prioritized for investment readiness and attraction initiatives: Clean Energy, Health Care and Life Sciences (including medical isotopes), Advanced Manufacturing, and Marine Innovation.
- Initial action items have been grouped into three phases of strategic focus to establish a strong foundation for growth.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Prosperous City & Fostering Mutually Beneficial and Respectful Relationships.

The action plan will foster economic growth, attract new talent, promote regional collaboration, and strengthen the City's relationship with key stakeholders.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

This supports the objectives of the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan by considering climate adaptation in the development of the City's strategies, plans and policies.

Previous Report/Authority:

[Report CM-25-029 Re: Review of Final Draft - Future Owen Sound - Vision 2050 Long-Term Strategic Plan September 24, 2025](#)

[Report CM-25-015 Re: Community and Business Development Mid-Year Update June 25, 2025](#)

Background:

The new staff position of Senior Advisor, External Relations and Investment Attraction will advance the City's economic and corporate objectives through proactive engagement with government, Indigenous, and community partners.

The core responsibilities of this position are to identify and pursue opportunities that enhance the City's investment readiness and competitiveness that attract new investment, particularly in innovation industries focusing on life sciences, technology, clean energy and the green economy.

In addition to investment readiness and attraction, the role provides high-level policy analysis, monitors legislative developments, and also leads municipal advocacy efforts (Government Relations) while cultivating external relationships that foster collaboration and alignment between the city and community organizations through information sharing, and participating in community-based initiatives (Community and Indigenous Relations).

Staff have initiated work on these objectives while drafting the ERIA Action Plan 2025-2027 to provide strategic direction and track progress over time. The initial implementation of these actions will be targeted within the scope of an 18-month period.

The City of Owen Sound already collaborates with a wide range of external stakeholders, inclusive of the following categories:

- **Community Partners**
social services, community groups, volunteer organizations
- **Government Partners**
federal, provincial, municipal, and intergovernmental organizations
- **Indigenous Partners**
Saugeen Ojibway Nation, band leadership, community members
- **Institutional Partners**
Brightshores Health System, Georgian College, local school boards
- **Commercial Partners**
Local business owners, investors, developers

To achieve the City's goals, it is critical to invest in establishing, building, and maintaining stakeholder relationships. This includes establishing procedures to facilitate the transition of core relationships as part of the City's succession management procedures and incorporating relationship management as a defined task within departmental work plans.

Building on the extensive community engagement undertaken in support of the recently adopted [Future Owen Sound: Vision 2050 Long-Term Strategic Plan](#), staff have proactively engaged stakeholders in the development of the ERIA Action Plan.

This advance work included:

- More than two dozen one-on-one meetings with external stakeholders, including leadership of Georgian College, the Canadian Nuclear Isotope Council, Saugeen Ojibway Nation Environment Office staff, Invest Ontario, business leaders, grant officers, and other community, Indigenous, not-for-profit, small business, industrial, and institutional partners;
- Monthly meetings with Grey County municipal economic development officers to share data tools and resources for investment readiness in alignment with Grey County's [Economic Development, Tourism, and Culture Master Plan](#);
- Working collaboratively with Grey County Economic Development and Invest Ontario to package available industrial land for future development opportunities;
- Participation in multi-stakeholder meetings to establish alignment on shared goals (annual general meeting of the Southwestern

- Ontario Isotope Coalition, stakeholder discussion to foster a vibrant River District, and collaborative solutions to improve primary care);
- Site visits to solidify relationships and identify new opportunities, including Georgian College's Centre for Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Barrie with Grey County Economic Development, and a tour of Hydrogen Optimized's facility with Public Energy Inc. which resulted in a proposal for an Owen Sound Hydrogen Peaker Plant; and
- An extensive literature review to explore holistic approaches to economic development and foster future growth.



Owen Sound Hydrogen Peaker Plant

Project Information Brief



Staff incorporated community feedback to develop a set of ambitious but achievable actions which could be implemented within the scope of an 18-month action plan.

However, this preparatory work also revealed ongoing challenges which will require specific and strategic consideration. These barriers include ongoing volatility in international trade; chronic underfunding within the health, child care, and education sectors; dysfunctional or under-resourced organizations with poor succession management; fierce competition to establish and retain primary care teams; and other factors impacting institutional trust.

Within this context, staff have chosen to prepare this action plan as a responsive, living document with intentional flexibility to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances while continuing to make measurable progress towards the City's goals.

Analysis:

The ERIA Action Plan 2025-2027 will foster economic growth and prosperity by investing in key relationships, capacity-building, and opportunity generating initiatives with special emphasis on four priority sectors:

- **Clean Energy**
Advancing regional sector cluster development as members of the Clean Energy Frontier and Southwestern Ontario Isotope Coalition.
- **Health Care and Life Sciences**
Supporting the expansion of rural access to nuclear medicine by fostering strategic partnerships that build local capacity in research, education, training and treatment capacities.
- **Advanced Manufacturing**
Promoting labour market readiness and leveraging skilled trades training and apprenticeship to support current and future industrial development.
- **Marine Innovation**
Supporting Georgian College's delivery of industry-driven training and certification as Central Canada's marine centre of excellence, and promoting sustainable economic development through the Great Lakes and St Lawrence Cities Initiative.

These future-focused sectors share intersecting priorities: the production of lifesaving medical isotopes requires skilled workers at every stage of the supply chain, and investing in clean hydrogen technologies will further the decarbonization of marine transportation.

Initial actions are grouped into three areas of strategic focus identified by staff to provide structure and align with big picture goal setting as initiatives move naturally through interconnected phases:

Strategic Focus #1: Build Relationships

Actions to establish and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders through networking opportunities, proactive outreach, and ongoing engagement initiatives:

- **Develop coordinated plan to attract and retain residents**
 - Host a series of 3-5 employer engagement sessions.
 - Provide direct support to community-building initiatives to welcome new residents and enhance youth retention.

- **Identify key partners to foster growth and prosperity**
 - Prioritise opportunities to deepen the City's relationship with critical partners through stakeholder engagement initiatives.
 - Promote the City's interests through collective advocacy and membership in regional, national, and international initiatives.
- **Strengthen relationship with Indigenous communities**
 - Establish staff-to-staff working relationships and promote collaboration on shared goals through proactive outreach, communication, and resource-sharing.
 - Explore methods to formalize consideration and feedback on matters of mutual interest in the spirit of reconciliation.

Strategic Focus #2: Build Capacity

Actions to foster growth and unlock resources with strategic investments in capacity-building initiatives, research, and skills development, with a specific interest in facilitating innovation:

- **Develop data-informed practices to support growth**
 - Create an Economic Health report card to measure 10-12 trackable indicators of individual and collective prosperity over time (i.e., demographics, housing affordability, commercial-residential ratio, property tax rate, vacancy rate), supported by investments in data visualization and analysis tools (such as [Spotlight by Environics Analytics](#), and [Mass Culture's Data Narratives for the Arts Initiative](#)).
 - Promote the City to 3-5 priority [PRIZM](#)® demographic profiles and initiate a scalable, localized marketing campaign with trackable metrics to inform future promotion.
- **Initiate strategy to attract employers and skilled workers**
 - Conduct a gap analysis and develop a targeted outreach plan to foster population growth, prioritizing young people, family-forming households, and skilled workers.
 - Work with Grey County Economic Development and other stakeholders to identify, prepare, and package 'investment ready' industrial land for future development.
- **Invest in community development initiatives**
 - Establish a local [Community Impact Lab](#), integrated with Georgian College's Community Innovation Network and the

Future of Belonging project, to facilitate collaboration and stakeholder engagement on initiatives that will improve quality of life and advance the City's strategic priorities.

- Coordinate a cross-sector skills development and stakeholder engagement series on grant writing, entrepreneurship, and social innovation in collaboration with local partners.

Strategic Focus #3: Build Opportunity

Actions that will leverage partnerships to amplify regional strengths and attract new investment in future-focused sectors.

- **Leverage regional, national, and international partnerships**
 - Promote the City's intergovernmental priorities through active membership in multi-sector coalitions, initiatives, and organizations to amplify collective action and advocacy.
 - Establish a track record of strong delegations and advocacy for local interests by modelling collaborative leadership and information sharing between partners.
- **Advance cluster development of priority sectors**
 - Coordinate with partners to promote regional cluster development in clean energy, health care and life sciences, advanced manufacturing, and marine innovation.
- **Become a champion for innovation and stewardship**
 - Initiate stakeholder engagement initiatives to celebrate and promote local innovation in priority sectors, including speaking opportunities and incorporating local innovators into City events and promotions.
 - Invest in tools to enhance marketing and promotion efforts with digital-forward approaches and [technology stewardship](#) best practices.

Conclusion and Next Steps

The City of Owen Sound is well-positioned to significantly advance its economic interests by embracing its role as a regional hub and championing innovation through collaborative partnerships.

Once finalized and approved by council, the ERIA Action Plan 2025-2027 will be incorporated into the City's 2026 budget and the Senior Advisor's work plan. Staff will report back on individual action items as required, with a review of activities and recommendations for future actions in Q4 of 2026.

Financial Implications:

The work associated with the External Relations and Investment Attraction Action Plan will be carried out within the department's annual budget and incorporated into the City's 2026 budget. Certain initiatives may be eligible for support from the Vision 2050 implementation reserve, and staff will leverage existing resources to pursue additional funding and grant opportunities where applicable.

Communication Strategy:

Once approved, this action plan will be posted to the 'Reports, Studies and Plans' section of the City's website. The Senior Advisor will work with the Communications Team to develop communication plans for individual initiatives and action items, and to engage in ongoing transparent communication with stakeholders.

Consultation:

Grey County Economic Development
External Stakeholders

Attachments:

External Relations and Investment Attraction Action Plan 2025-2027

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 <mailto:rellerdiem@owensound.ca> or 519-376-4440 x1254.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS & INVESTMENT ATTRACTION ACTION PLAN 2025–2027





INTRODUCTION

Objective

To foster economic growth and prosperity by investing in key relationships, capacity-building, and opportunity generating initiatives with emphasis on future-focused priority sectors

Scope

- 18-month timeframe to initiate action items

Strategic Importance

- Prosperous City
- Fostering Mutually Beneficial and Respectful Relationships

Approach

Proactive, collaborative, innovative

- Build Relationships
- Build Capacity
- Build Opportunity

STRATEGIC FOCUS



BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Establish and strengthen relationships with key stakeholders through networking opportunities, proactive outreach, and engagement initiatives



BUILD CAPACITY

Foster growth and unlock resources with strategic investments in capacity-building initiatives, research, and skills development to facilitate innovation



BUILD OPPORTUNITY

Leverage partnerships to amplify regional strengths and attract new investment in future-focused sectors in alignment with the City's Vision 2050 strategic plan

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Vision 2050 Priority: Fostering Mutually
Beneficial and Respectful Relationships

*Establishing, reconciling and continually
nurturing relationships that result in **mutual
benefit, trust and shared understanding.***

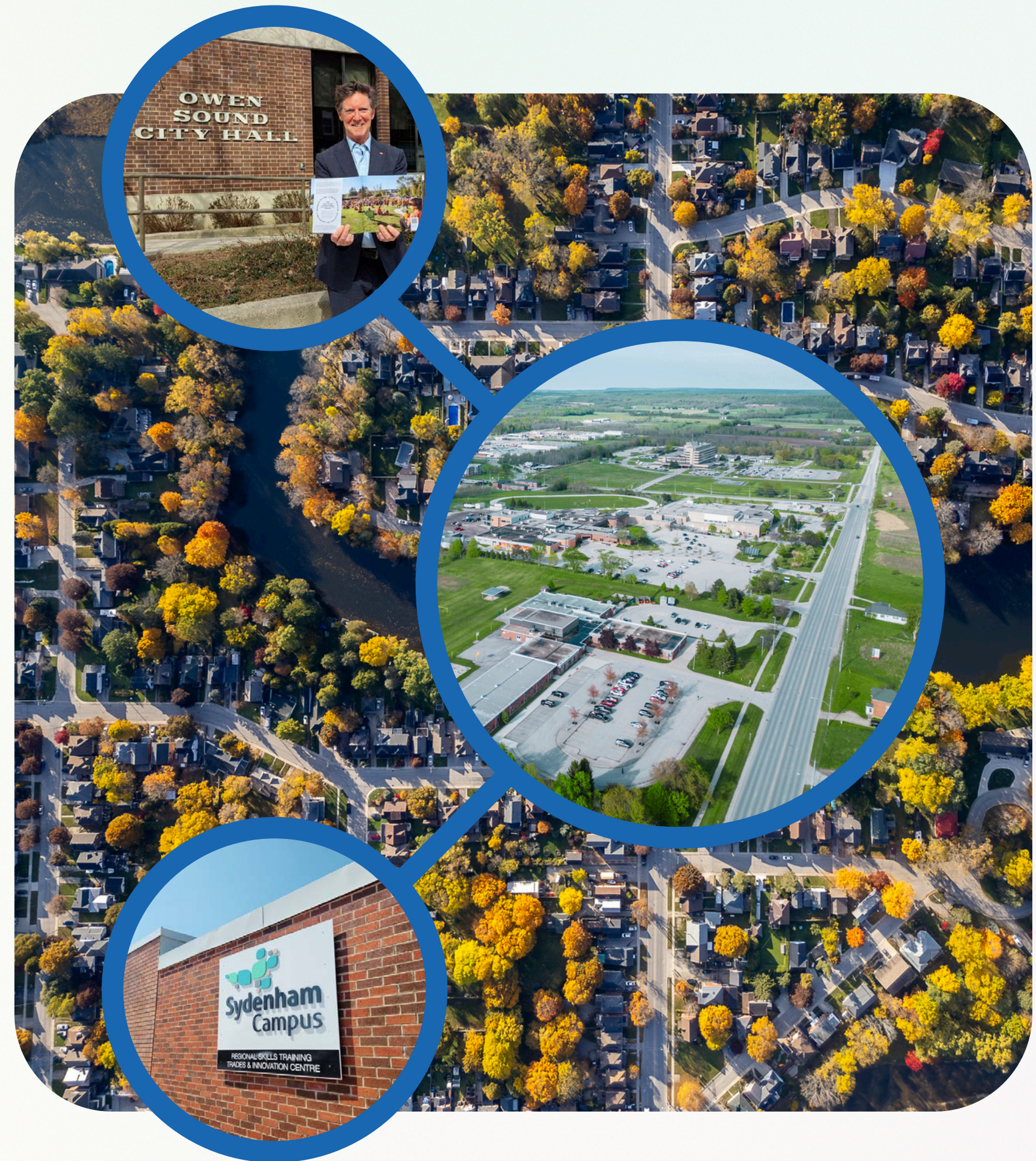


INVESTMENT ATTRACTION

Vision 2050 Priority: **Prosperous City**

Supporting initiatives that increase competitive economic advantages for current and new businesses and their employees.

*Also, addressing other aspects of prosperity such as contributing to a **good quality of life for all** and recognizing the **experience of elders**, the **potential of youth** and **collective community knowledge** and **precious local resources**.*



PRIORITY SECTORS

The City is taking action to champion local innovators and become a regional hub for skilled trades training, applied research, and industry collaboration.

These future-focused sectors share intersecting priorities: the production of lifesaving medical isotopes requires skilled workers at every stage of the supply chain, and investing in clean hydrogen technologies will further the decarbonization of marine transportation.

Clean Energy

Advancing regional sector cluster development as members of the Clean Energy Frontier and Southwestern Ontario Isotope Coalition.

Health Care & Life Sciences

Supporting the expansion of rural access to nuclear medicine by fostering strategic partnerships that build local capacity in research, education, training and treatment capacities.

Advanced Manufacturing

Promoting labour market readiness and leveraging skilled trades training and apprenticeship to support current and future industrial development.

Marine Innovation

Supporting Georgian College's delivery of industry-driven training and certification as Central Canada's marine centre of excellence, and promoting sustainable development through the Great Lakes and St Lawrence Cities Initiative.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Develop coordinated plan to attract and retain residents

- Host 3-5 employer engagement sessions.
- Provide direct support to community-building initiatives to welcome new residents and enhance youth retention.

Identify key partners to foster growth and prosperity

- Prioritise critical partners through stakeholder engagement.
- Engage in collective advocacy through membership in regional, national, and international initiatives.

Strengthen relationship with Indigenous communities

- Establish collaborative staff-to-staff working relationships.
- Formalize process for consideration of matters of mutual interest in the spirit of reconciliation.



BUILD CAPACITY

Develop data-informed practices to support growth

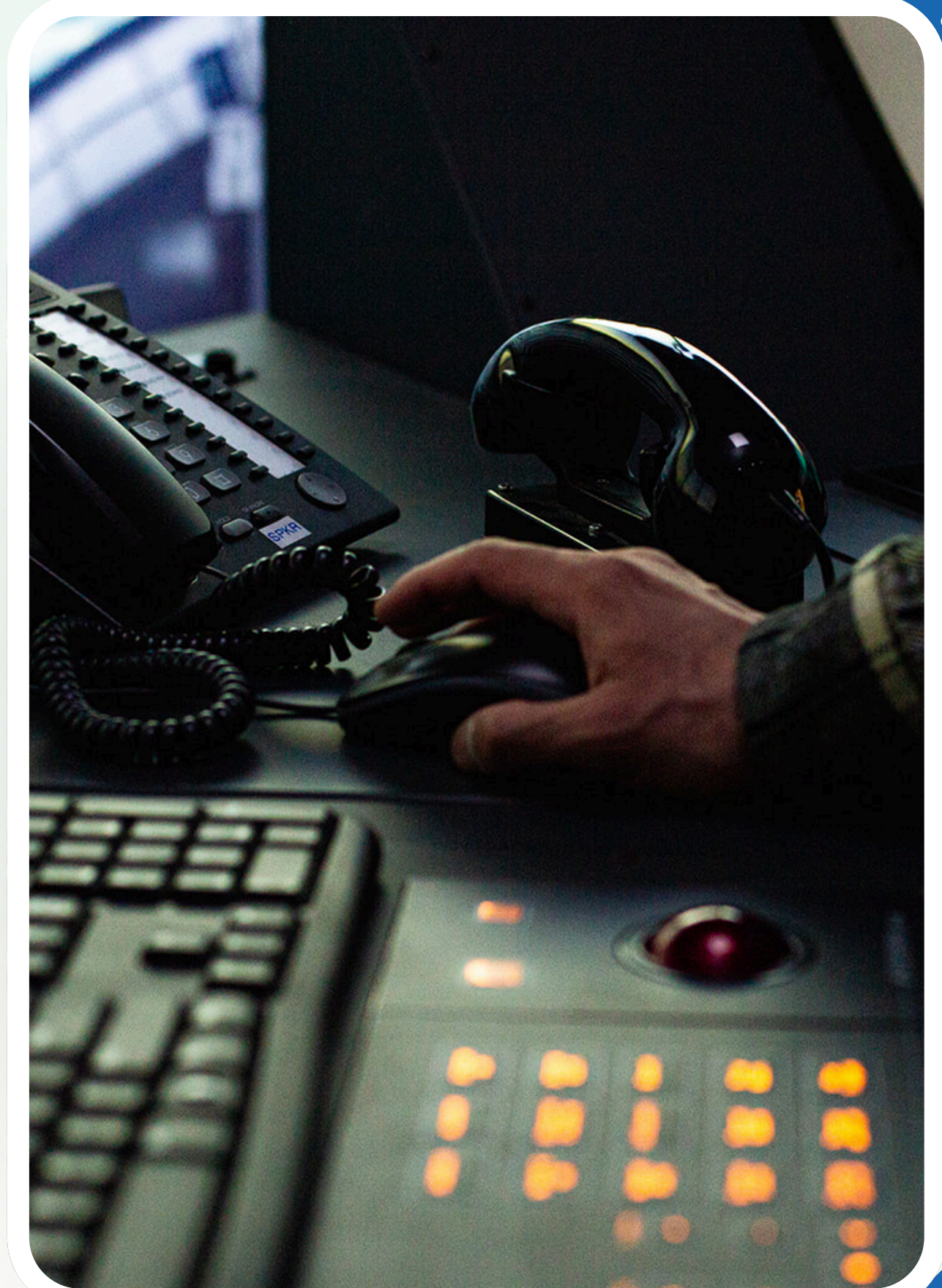
- Create an Economic Health report card to measure indicators of individual and collective prosperity over time.
- Initiate a marketing campaign targeting 3–5 PRIZM® profiles.

Initiate strategy to attract employers & skilled workers

- Conduct a gap analysis and develop a targeted outreach plan to foster population growth and job creation.
- Identify and prepare investment ready sites for development.

Invest in community development initiatives

- Establish a local Community Impact Lab.
- Coordinate a cross-sector skills development series on grant writing, entrepreneurship, and social innovation.



BUILD OPPORTUNITY

Leverage regional, national & international partnerships

- Promote the City's intergovernmental priorities as an active member of multi-sector coalitions, initiatives & organizations.
- Establish a track record of strong delegations and advocacy.

Advance cluster development of priority sectors

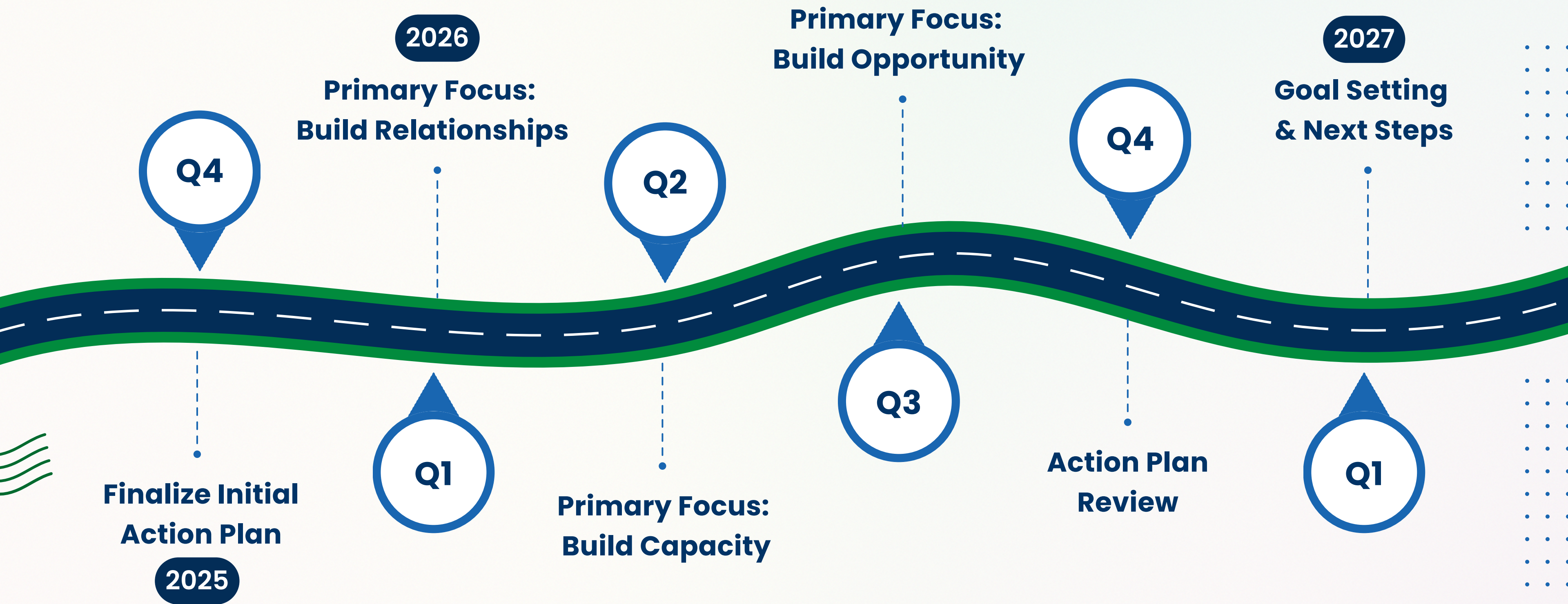
- Coordinate with partners to promote regional cluster development in nuclear medicine, clean energy, health care, advanced manufacturing, and marine transportation.

Become a champion for innovation and stewardship

- Coordinate stakeholder engagement initiatives to celebrate and promote local innovation in priority sectors.
- Invest in tools to enhance marketing and tech stewardship.



IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



CONCLUSION

> Summary

The City of Owen Sound is well-positioned to significantly advance its economic interests by embracing its role as a regional hub and championing innovation through collaborative partnerships.

> Next Steps

- Finalize & approve 'ERIA' action plan
- Incorporate action items into work plan and budget
- Report back in Q4 2026 with activity review and recommendations for subsequent action plan





Prepared by
Rebecca Ellerdien
Senior Advisor, External Relations & Investment Attraction
City Manager's Office
owensound.ca



Staff Report

Report To: Community Services Committee
Report From: Sabine Robart, Manager of Planning & Heritage
Meeting Date: October 15, 2025
Report Code: CS-25-111
Subject: Bill 5 Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act,
2025 Update

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-111 respecting Bill 5 Protect Ontario, 2025 by Unleashing our Economic, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information.

Highlights:

- On June 5, 2025, Bill 5, titled [*Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*](#) ("Bill 5") received Royal Assent and became law.
- The province's stated objective with Bill 5 is to protect Ontario's economy from the impact of existing and threatened tariffs on Canadian goods by accelerating the delivery of critical mineral and energy projects across Ontario.
- Bill 5 enacts, amends, and repeals several statutes that govern the planning, approval, and delivery of infrastructure projects in Ontario through 10 separate schedules. Bill 5 modifies the Endangered Species Act and the Ontario Heritage Act, among others, and creates the *Species Conservation Act* (to be enacted at a future date) and enacts the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025*.
- Bill 5 has been subject to significant scrutiny and criticism, including that the legislation will weaken environmental protections, reduce oversight of mining and development projects, and limit opportunities for First Nations consultation and consent.

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:

N/A

Background:

On June 5, 2025, Bill 5, titled [*Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*](#) ("Bill 5") received Royal Assent and became law.

The province's stated objective with Bill 5 is to protect Ontario's economy from the impact of existing and threatened tariffs on Canadian goods by accelerating the delivery of critical mineral and energy projects across Ontario, together with the supporting infrastructure for such projects through streamlining and accelerating the permitting and approvals processes for mining and critical infrastructure projects.

Bill 5 enacts, amends, and repeals several statutes that govern the planning, approval, and delivery of infrastructure projects in Ontario through 10 separate schedules. Bill 5 modifies the following:

- The Electricity Act,
- the Endangered Species Act,
- the Environmental Assessment Act,
- the Environmental Protection Act,
- the Mining Act,
- the Ontario Energy Board Act,
- the Ontario Heritage Act; and
- the Rebuilding Ontario Place Act,

Bill 5 creates the *Species Conservation Act* (to be enacted at a future date) and enacts the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025*.

Key changes in the legislation include:

Endangered Species Act, 2007 and Species Conservation Act, 2025

Bill 5, through Schedule 2, made immediate amendments to the *Endangered Species Act* ("ESA") and will eventually repeal the Act altogether to enact the new *Species Conservation Act, 2025* ("SCA"). A summary of the amendments to the ESA and the proposed SCA is available through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) posting [025-380](#).

The amendments to the ESA include:

- Amending the purpose of the ESA - the ESA's new stated purpose is to provide for the protection and conservation of species at risk while taking into account social and economic considerations, including the need for sustainable economic growth in Ontario.
- Narrowing the definition of "habitat" for animals and removing "harass" from the prohibitions regard harm to species.
- Altering how the Species at Risk in Ontario List is updated -rather than automatically listing all species classified by the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) as extirpated, endangered, threatened or of special concern, the Lieutenant Governor has the authority to make the listing, taking into consideration COSSARO's classification.
- Winding down the Species Conservation Action Agency and the Species at Risk Conservation Fund that is administered by CASSARO.

Schedule 10 of Bill 5 introduced a new legislation called the Species Conservation Act, 2025 (SCA). The SCA will come into effect when a commencement order is made and will repeal the ESA. The new SCA is intended to accelerate projects by streamlining the registration process, setting up-front requirements, clarifying and narrowing developer obligations, and reducing duplication with federal approvals.

The province is currently consulting on the five new regulations required to implement the new SCA through the ERO posting [025-0909](#) Proposed legislative and regulatory amendments to enable the Species Conservation Act, 2025.

The new SCA will:

- Shift species-related authorizations to a registration-first approach.
- Under the SCA, any activity that may adversely impact a protected species must be registered unless the activity is already exempted from the SCA or prescribed as an activity that requires a permit.

- Most project proponents will be able to begin an activity immediately after registering. Registered activities will be required to meet habitat and species protection requirements set out in the new regulations.
- More harmful activities are designated as “permit activities”.
- Remove duplication of species protections by providing that SCA protections do not apply to species already federally protected under the [*Species At Risk Act*](#) (“SARA”). Permits (or soon-to-be registrations) will not be required for impacts to migratory birds and aquatic species protected under SARA.
- Create new compliance and enforcement powers, including the ability to use mitigation and compliance orders.
- Establish a new Species Conservation Program to promote habitat restoration and species protection initiatives.

Special Economic Zones Act, 2025

Schedule 9 of Bill 5 creates the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* (SEZA). The SEZA grants the Lieutenant Governor the power to make regulations designating areas of the province as special economic zones, and grants the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade the power to designate trusted proponents or designated projects to which the SEZA would apply.

Once designated, the Lieutenant Governor may, by regulation, exempt trusted proponents or designated projects from requirements under any act within a designated special economic zone. The intention of the SEZA is to streamline regulatory requirements, thereby accelerating the construction and delivery of certain projects.

The SEZA provides that the criteria and considerations to be used to determine what or who should be designated as a “special economic zone,” “trusted proponent,” or “designated project” may be established by regulation.

- A SEZ will be a single, geographically defined, area within Ontario that, in the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor, has significant economic activities taking place (or planned to take place) that are of strategic benefit to Ontario.
- Trusted Proponents may be the Crown or a Crown agency, a municipality, or a for-profit or non-profit entity. The proponent must meet the regulatory criteria to advance the project and demonstrate a

strong compliance record across health and safety, environmental protection, labour standards and financial matters (including for contractors).

- A Designated Project must be located within a SEZ and satisfy the following criteria:
 - **Economic Benefits:** The Minister must be of the opinion that the project will have significant long-term economic benefits such as sustained job creation, strengthened supply chains, increased innovation, contributions to GDP growth, higher wages, and enhanced tax revenues.
 - **Community Benefits:** The Minister must also be of the opinion that the project will have a clear benefit to communities both in and outside of the SEZ, including Indigenous communities, and that it will increase revenues or otherwise strengthen businesses in those communities.
 - **Chance of Success:** The Minister must be of the opinion that the project will likely succeed after considering factors like the project's financing support, plans for engaging with Indigenous and other communities, and the risk-mitigation measures to address potential health, environmental, and other impacts of the project.
 - **Increased Speed and Likelihood of Success due to Designation:** Finally, the Minister will consider whether designation will make it possible to complete the project more quickly and increase its likelihood of success.

Under the SEZA, provincial or municipal laws or rules can only be changed if they are specifically named in a regulation made under sections 5 or 6. If they are not named, they stay the same. Also, any regulation made pursuant to these sections must be tied to a specific zone, project and/or proponent.

ERO Consultation [025-0391](#) in Spring 2025 requested comment regarding the Act.

ERO Consultation ([025-1077](#)) on the Proposed Special Economic Zones Criteria is currently underway and requests comments on the regulatory framework under the Act for the criteria to designate zones, projects, and proponents. It is available for comment from October 2, 2025, to November 16, 2025.

Ontario Heritage Act

Schedule 7 of Bill 5 provided legislative amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA) that focused on Part VI of the OHA, which pertains to the conservation of archaeological resources. Amendments to the OHA include:

- New exemption authority - If, in the opinion of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the exemption could advance the following provincial priorities: transit, housing, health and long-term care, other infrastructure or such other priorities as may be prescribed, the Lieutenant Governor in Council has the authority to exempt property from:
 - any requirements in Part VI of the OHA or in regulation related to Part VI of the OHA; or
 - a requirement to conduct an archaeological assessment set out in any other Act or regulation, or instrument under any other Act, other than a provision of the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002* or a regulation or instrument made under that Act.
 - This new exemption authority will come into force on a future date to be named in a commencement order, following which the ministry may by regulation set out criteria that must be met for a property to be eligible for an exemption.
- Authorize the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism to direct that seized artifacts be deposited in an archaeological collection, and be deposited with an Indigenous community in addition to a public institution; and
- Appoint investigators and authorize investigators to enter premises (but not dwellings) during business hours, and to seize artifacts or other archaeological material during an inspection or investigation.

Consultation 025-1081 Proposed Regulation under the Ontario Heritage Act – Archaeology Exemption Criteria is ongoing from October 2 to November 16, 2025. The Ministry is seeking to obtain feedback on the regulatory framework under the OHA for the Archaeology Exemption Criteria.

The proposed draft regulation sets out:

- The criteria which must be met for a property to be eligible for an exemption from archaeological assessment.

- Requirements that must be fulfilled by the sponsoring minister and that minister's ministry when seeking an exemption order, including notification.
- Requirements pertaining to the necessity of the request for exemption, including the identification of the economic significance or strategic importance to the Ontario economy of the proposed activity on the property.
- Measures to ensure the ongoing protection of significant known archaeological sites, burial sites, cemeteries, sites of former Indian residential schools and properties protected by designation or easement under the OHA that contain known archaeological sites.

To guide effective implementation of the proposed draft regulation, the Ministry is also considering the development of an operational policy to provide further detail and guidance on exemption requirements and process.

Analysis:

Bill 5 has been subject to significant scrutiny and criticism, including that the legislation will weaken environmental protections, reduce oversight of mining and development projects, and limit opportunities for First Nations consultation and consent.

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) provided the following comments to the province on May 16, 2025. City staff support these comments. At this time, Planning staff do not anticipate that Owen Sound will be designated as a Special Economic Zone.

[Special Economic Zones](#)

Public consultation, the constitutional duty to consult with Indigenous Nations, archeological assessments and environmental assessments are important aspects of the planning process that help to understand the public and ecological impact, while ensuring the successful completion of development projects. Such steps allow planners to understand the local context for planned developments and ensure that developments are compatible with their surroundings. The OPPI is concerned that this Act creates the risk that such broad powers could be used to circumvent necessary assessment activities and is counter to principles outlined in the Planning Act and the Provincial Planning Statement. If this were to happen, it

could create a two-tiered planning system, which can lead to issues with public buy-in, consensus, and inequities.

Upfront assessments and consultations are not red tape, but a crucial step in ensuring business and community confidence. They help to ensure there are no unintended consequences that cause costly challenges or delays. These processes also work to ensure that Indigenous rights and perspectives are understood and respected, and that projects do not unintentionally impact important ecological zones, such as prime agricultural farmlands.

Stalled resource projects across Canada demonstrate that when the public and Indigenous Nations do not support development projects, they are less likely to advance in a timely manner and can be subject to further delays such as court challenges. This risk is well known to developers and investors alike, and a lack of public and Indigenous consultation decreases business confidence in important projects. If investors do not have certainty that local communities will support their development, this will decrease investment appetite.

We are also concerned that there is a lack of clarity and certainty with multiple terms outlined in the Act, which creates the risk that the Act will be misinterpreted once it is passed.

OPPI supports the Act's focus on faster permitting and creating a one-window access to government services. To help the government with improving the Act to achieve its economic goals, OPPI respectfully recommends the following amendments:

- Special Economic Zones should only be established and used for urgent economic development projects.
- Special Economic Zones should not allow any decision-maker to bypass the province's constitutional duty to consult with Indigenous Nations.
- Rather than allowing Special Economic Zones to bypass important requirements or regulations, the province should focus its efforts on expediting the planning process in a manner that safeguards the integrity of the environmental assessment process.
- Clearer definitions and a comprehensive set of criteria for designating Special Economic Zones should be included in the Act to increase clarity and certainty, as opposed to outlining those details in regulation. This criterion should include the requirement for proponents to develop a justification report that addresses the potential

environmental losses with an explanation as to why normal requirements and timelines cannot be met, alongside which mitigation activities will be executed in the process.

The Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) provided the following comments to the province on May 16, 2025. City staff support these comments.

Endangered Species Act

The current Endangered Species Act, 2007 contains a fulsome process that protects species at risk while supporting development. Protecting endangered species creates benefits beyond conservation itself. Most endangered species are integral members of delicate ecosystems that protect Ontario communities from severe weather events and support crop production.

Disrupting such ecosystems will weaken Ontario's resilience in the long term and may also damage the province's relationship with First Nations communities who have deep ties to the land and a unique and important perspective on conservation.

The proposed changes to the existing Act will weaken the province's ability to protect endangered species. Elements of the proposed changes that raise concerns include:

- Redefining habitat to only include an animal's "dwelling place" or "area immediately around the dwelling place," whereas the current Act expands the definition to also include the "area on which the species depends, directly or indirectly, to carry on its life processes." This revised definition significantly reduces the amount of habitat that must be protected, which is not enough area to allow the species to roam, hunt, live and recover.
- Giving the government the discretion to remove species from the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) list. Currently, every species classified by the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO)—an independent scientific advisory body—is automatically added to the SARO list. This change will significantly politicize and impede the scientific classification process, which helps the Ministry to track the growing number of endangered species in the province.
- Changing the species-at-risk permitting process to create a "registration-first approach" that allows proponents to begin a

development project before a permit has been provided. This change will allow proponents to bypass the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks' assessment of sites. This assessment is integral to the species protection process, as it enables the Ministry to guide developers on how best they can minimize or prevent harm to local species. Allowing developments to begin before a permit and prevention plan can be produced will seriously threaten the Ministry's ability to protect endangered species.

- Removing current requirements for development projects to create recovery strategies, management plans, progress reviews and other key documents that hold developers accountable for minimizing the harm caused to endangered species. This change, in combination with the others highlighted above, will significantly increase the likelihood that new developments will harm endangered species and Ontario ecosystems.

The proposed changes to the existing Act will not only negatively impact endangered species, but they will also have knock-on effects that will harm Ontario's environmental resilience, crop production, and Indigenous relations. Rather than change the Act, we propose that the province instead increases the efficiency of its permitting and review process for endangered species.

Conclusion:

Bill 5 and its associated changes to various Acts will have a significant impact in the long term, including ecological and environmental impacts as well as the potential erosion of the public trust in government. The scale and extent of the impacts may not be fully realized and understood for many years.

City staff will continue to monitor the various regulations as they are posted on the ERO and provide updates to the Committee and Council, including when the regulations come into force and effect.

Financial Implications:

None at this time.

Communication Strategy:

N/A

Consultation:

Staff regularly consult a range of professional sources to inform their analysis and recommendations, including publications from associations such as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI), and other legal, financial, and business consultancies.

The comments provided in this report were shaped by insights from several expert papers and commentaries on the proposed legislative changes, including those prepared by McCarthy Tetrault, McMillan, Norton Rose Fulbright LLP, among others. This approach ensures that the City's responses are grounded in current best practices and sector-wide perspective.

Attachments:

N/A

Recommended by:

Sabine Robart, M.SC. (PL), MCIP, RPP, Manager of Planning & Heritage

Pamela Coulter, BA, RPP, Director of Community Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Sabine Robart, Manager of Planning & Heritage at srobart@owensound.ca or 519 376 4440 x. 1236.

CARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY



We're looking for volunteers to help us make a difference! Community is not built in the comment section, Owen Sound needs your voice and ideas to serve our incredible City!

**owen
sound**
where you *want* to live

Here are just a few reasons to volunteer for a City Committee:

- Meet new people and make new friends
- Learn new skills and gain valuable experience
- Make a positive impact in your community

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"Building a vibrant Owen Sound is a shared responsibility. Serving on a City Council committee is a powerful way for residents to help shape our community's future."

– Mayor Ian Boddy

September 2025

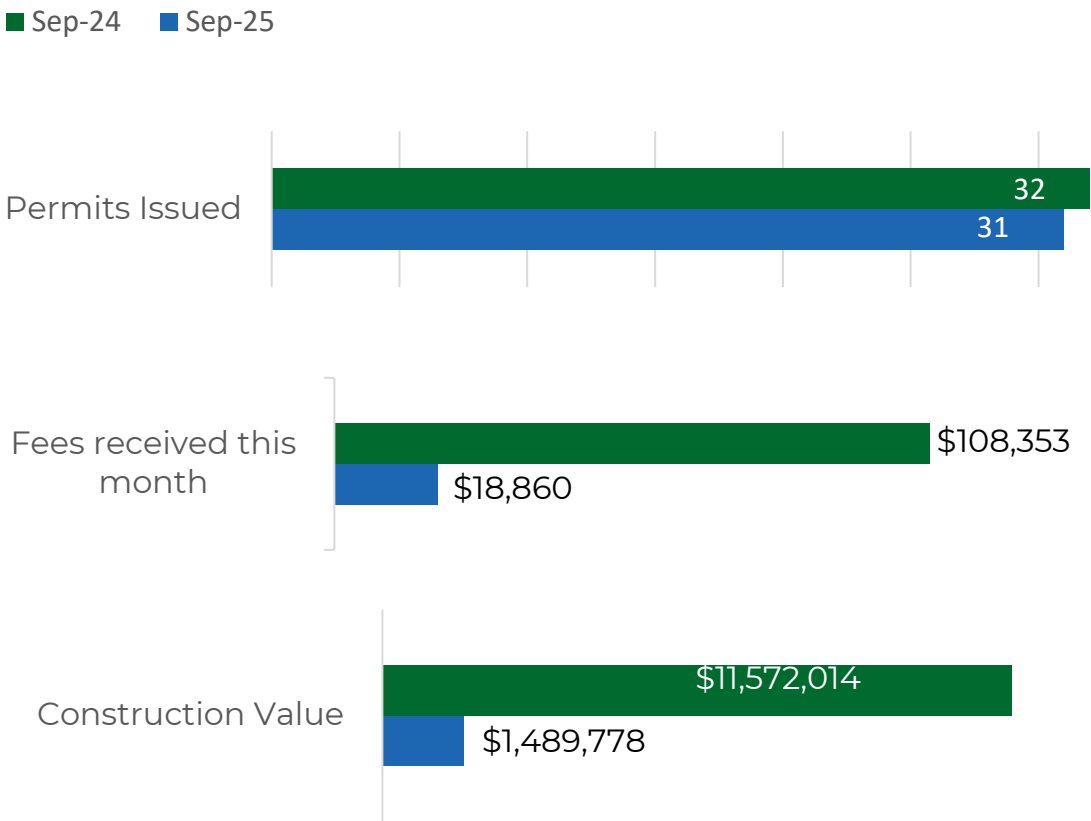
Development Update



Major Permits and Projects in September:

- A permit for a new Amazon distribution centre was issued this month. A modular building is soon to be under construction and will provide enhanced distribution services to the Grey Bruce area.
- Tent permits were issued for Ribfest, the Owen Fall Fair and two private events.
- Pet Valu on the City’s west side will soon be growing. A permit was issued to expand and renovate the existing space.
- Planning staff are working closely with our IT team and Cloudpermit to go live with the Planning application module. Cloudpermit will enable owners and developers to submit Planning Act applications online 24/7.

Comparison with September 2024:



September Highlights

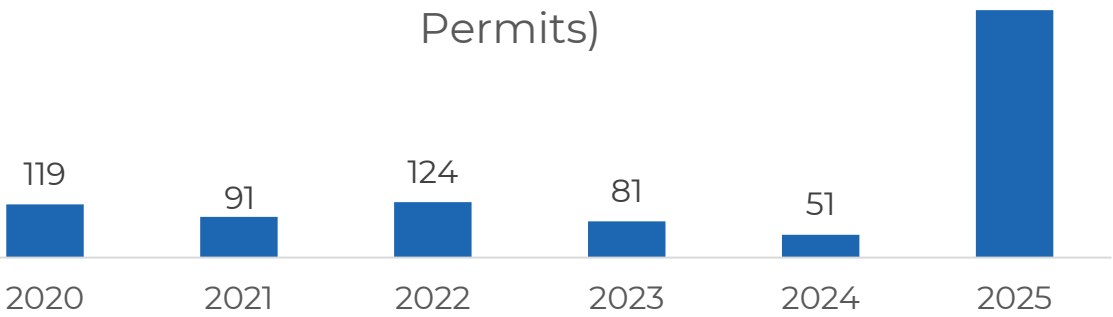
Construction value of: **\$1,489,778**
Compared to \$11,572,014 during the same months in 2024.

31 Building Permits Issued
Including all building, plumbing, demolition, heritage, and tents.

\$ 18,860
In building permit fees collected, compared to **\$108,353** during the same period in 2024
Year-to-date, **\$924,436** in permit fees have been collected.

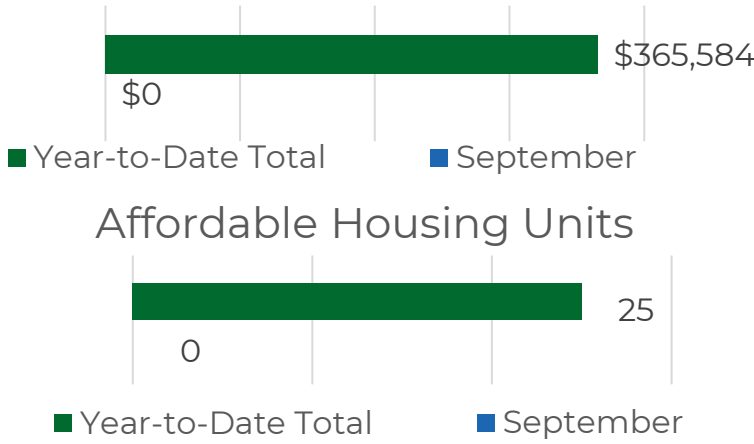
89 Building Inspections were conducted during the month of September

of New Residential Units(Based on Issued Permits)



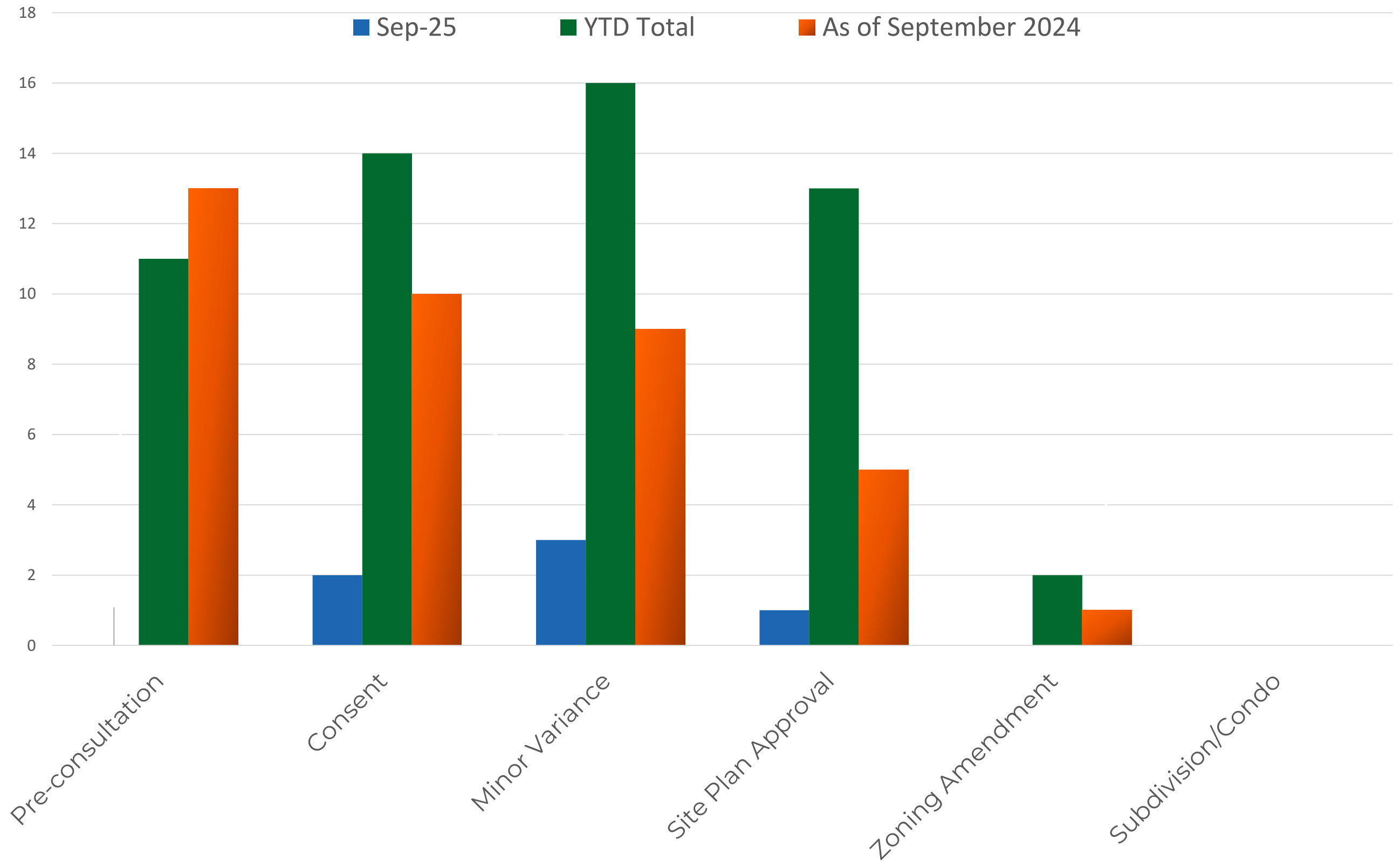
Types Year-to-Date:
Single Residential: 1
Semi/Duplex: 4
Row/Townhouse:12
ARUs: 6
Apartments/Condos: 530

Development Charges Collected



*Note – data based on best information available to city at this time.

Planning Applications Received



DECISION

Authority & Background:

The following is a decision respecting **Site Plan Approval** made by the delegate or authorized approval authority having jurisdiction under the City's Powers of Delegation By-law 2014-019 and the Site Plan Control By-law 2019-185 and Sec. 41(4.0.1) of the Planning Act. The decision is considered on the basis of the information summarized below, including agency and Development Team comments.

File No.	ST2025-011
Staff Report No.	DA-25-017
Property Address	1750 6 th Avenue East
Proposal Description	The application proposes a six-storey, 120 room hotel and exterior surface parking stalls, one vehicular entrance, site landscaping and full municipal servicing. Related Application B13-2025.

Decision Declaration:

I, Pamela Coulter, being the Director of Community Services of the City of Owen Sound render the following decision based on the facts of the application and the recommendation made in the abovementioned Staff Recommendation Report:

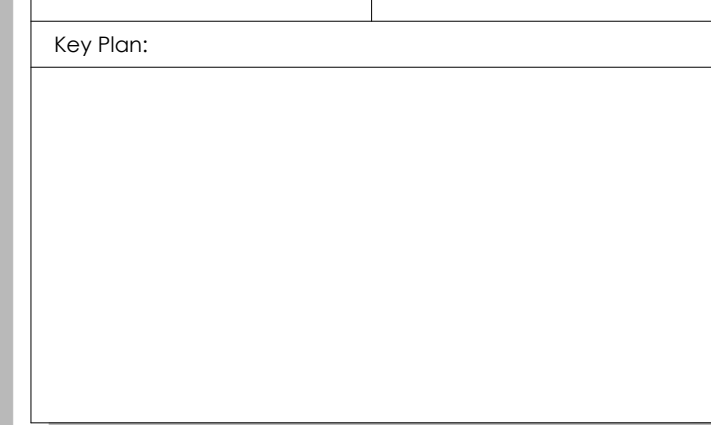
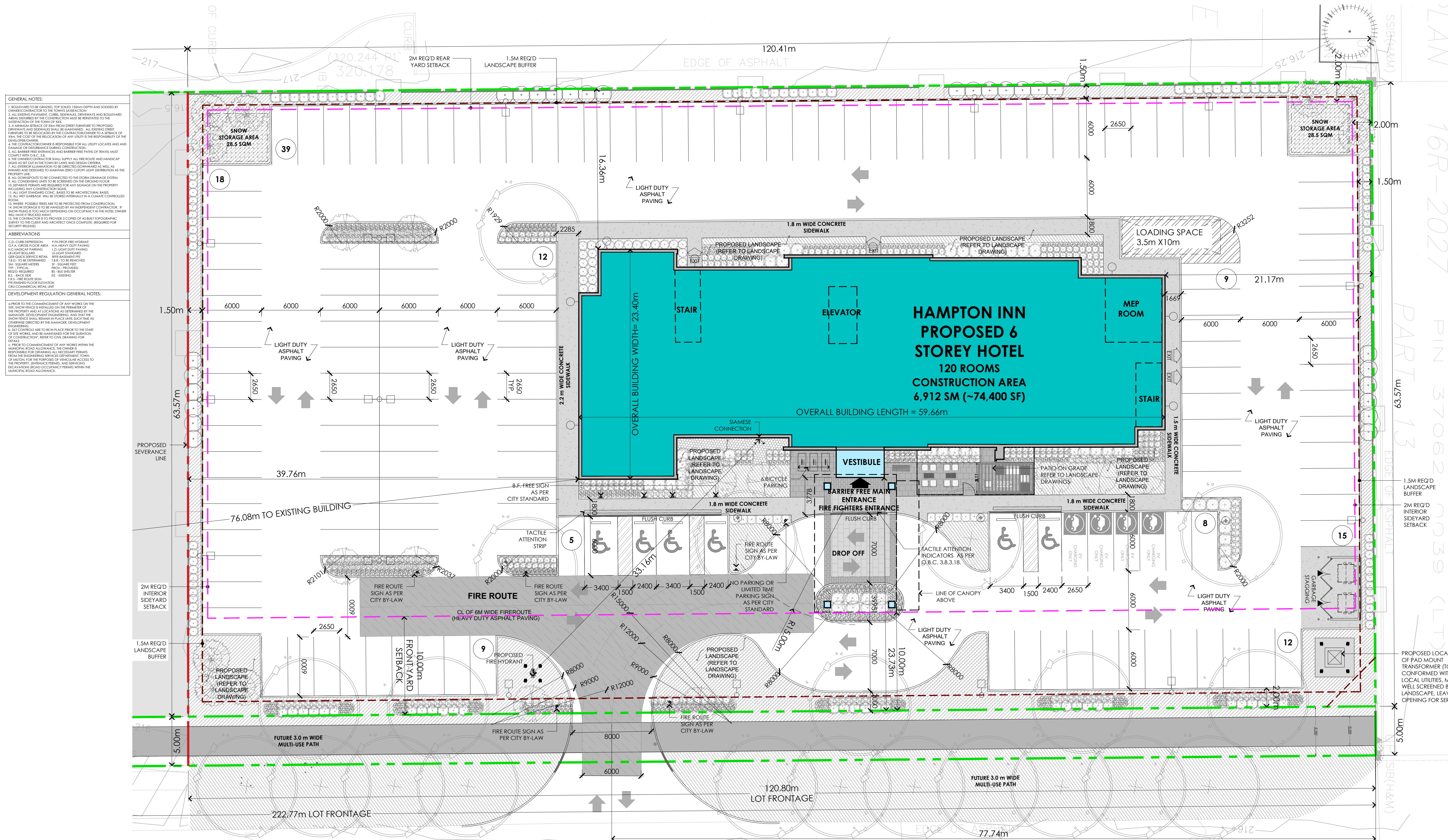
- ☐ Refused on the basis that a subsequent submission is required in accordance with the direction provided in Schedule 'D' of the attached staff report.
- ☐ Approved
- ☒ Approved, subject to the conditions in Schedule 'F' of the attached staff report.

Decision Date: October 9, 2025

Signature: _____



I affirm that I am authorized to render this decision by the City of Owen Sound and applicable legislation.



- **ALL DIMENSIONS AND INFORMATION SHOWN ON THESE DRAWINGS MUST BE CHECKED AND VERIFIED ON SITE AND ANY DISCREPANCIES REPORTED TO THE ARCHITECT PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.**
- **THESE DRAWINGS ARE NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSES OR COMPONENTS. SHOULD DISTINGTIONS OR SERVICES BE FOUND TO VARY FROM THAT INDICATED ON THE DRAWINGS, THE ARCHITECT MUST BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY.**
- **FEATURES OF CONSTRUCTION NOT FULLY SHOWN ARE ASSUMED TO BE THE SAME CHARACTER AS THOSE NOTED FOR SIMILAR CONDITIONS.**
- **IF ANY DISCREPANCIES ARE NOTICED OTHERWISE ON THE DRAWINGS, NO PROVISION HAS BEEN MADE IN THE DESIGN FOR CONDITIONS OCCURRING DURING CONSTRUCTION. IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ARCHITECT TO PROVIDE FOR ANY CHANGES TO THE DRAWINGS, SUCH AS SHEET PILING OR OTHER TEMPORARY SUPPORTS, TO SAFEGUARD ALL EXISTING OR ADJACENT STRUCTURES AND RELATED ELEMENTS SHALL REMAIN THE PROPERTY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF MATAL ARCHITECTS INC.**
- **USE LATEST REVISED DRAWINGS. DO NOT SCALE DRAWINGS.**



Design By: MA/AB	Drawn By: AB	Approved By: AM
Scale: 1:200	Date: 24/09/26	Project No.:

Drawing No:

ASP-02

Drawing Series:

REZONING APPLICATION

Page 56 of 56