



Agenda
Owen Sound City Council

January 12, 2026

5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

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

	Pages
1. CALL TO ORDER	
2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
4. CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES	
4.a Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on November 24, 2025	
4.b Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on December 15, 2025	4
4.c Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on December 15, 2025	10
5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	
<u>COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</u>	
6. PUBLIC MEETINGS	
There are no public meetings.	
7. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	
7.a Deputation from Ron Stagg, Professor Emeritus of History, Toronto Metropolitan University Re: Renaming of Ryerson Park	
8. PUBLIC FORUM	

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF COUNCIL IS REQUIRED

There are no correspondence items being presented for consideration.

10. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

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

11. CONSENT AGENDA

11.a Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force meeting held on December 19, 2025 19

11.b Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board meeting held on November 26, 2025 23

11.c Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound Police Service Board meeting held on November 27, 2025 33

11.d Final approvals issued for the following Business Licences:

- Safe Towing, a towing business located at 2075 16th Avenue East
- Diamond Baseball & Fitness, an indoor batting cage, simulator, and personal training facility has relocated to 625 6th Street East
- Horizon Therapy Centre, a registered massage therapist has relocated to 954 1st Avenue West, Unit 2

11.e Final approvals issued for the following City Hall Illumination Requests: 72

- Blue Sea Foundation in partnership with Safe 'N Sound Grey Bruce for Coldest Night of the Year

11.f Correspondence received which is presented for the information of Council 75

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

12.a Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on December 17, 2025 211

12.b Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on December 18, 2025 218

13. MATTERS POSTPONED

There are no postponed matters.

14. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There are no motions for which notice was previously given.

15. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

16. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

FORMAL SESSION

17. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

18. NOTICES OF MOTION

19. MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

"THAT City Council now move into 'Closed Session' to consider:

1. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on December 15, 2025;
2. One matter regarding litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality respecting a City claim; and
3. One matter regarding personal matters about identifiable individuals respecting an appointment to a City committee."

20. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

21. BY-LAWS

21.a By-law No. 2026-001

"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 12th day of January, 2026"

21.b By-law No. 2026-002

"A By-law to amend Fees and Charges By-law No. 2025-060 to amend fees for short-term rentals in C1 zones"

21.c By-law No. 2026-003

"A By-law to adopt Use of Municipal Resources for Elections Policy GOV002 and repeal Policy CrS-C39"

21.d By-law No. 2026-004

"A By-law to provide for an Interim Levy for the year 2026 for all property classes"

21.e By-law No. 2026-005

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with Circular Materials, operating as Circular Materials Ontario, respecting eligible community recycling calendars"

22. ADJOURNMENT



Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

December 15, 2025

2:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ian Boddy
Deputy Mayor Scott Greig
Councillor Travis Dodd
Councillor Jon Farmer
Councillor Brock Hamley
Councillor Marion Koepke
Councillor Suneet Kukreja
Councillor Carol Merton
Councillor Melanie Middlebro'

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Sabine Robart, Manager of Planning and Heritage
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Boddy called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. All Council members and staff listed above were present except for Councillor Dodd and Councillor Middlebro'.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.a Councillor Hamley - Report CS-25-123 from the Senior Planner Re:
Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

Councillor Hamley declared a conflict of interest with Item 4.a of the agenda due to his personal employment with the Government of Ontario.

3. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

S-251215-001

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

"THAT City Council now move into Committee of the Whole to consider a staff report and undertake a working session."

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Having declared a conflict of interest with Item 4.a, Councillor Hamley left the Council Chambers.

4. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

4.a Report CS-25-123 from the Senior Planner Re: Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

The Manager of Planning and Heritage provided an overview of the report and noted that Tim Lanthier, CAO of the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) is in attendance to answer questions if necessary.

Councillor Dodd joined the meeting.

In response to a question from Council, the Director of Community Services advised that staff are encouraging the province to undertake consultation with the Indigenous community respecting the proposed changes.

Councillor Middlebro' joined the meeting.

Council noted that members of the public may submit comments on the proposed changes through the Environmental Registry of Ontario and encouraged public participation in the process.

In response to questions from Council, Mr. Lanthier advised that, based on his experience and the information currently available, including assurances that no jobs would be lost, local offices would remain open, and a regional office would be established, the proposed model would likely result in increased costs to municipalities, as conservation authorities apportion costs directly to municipal partners. Mr. Lanthier further expressed concern that revenues generated by the GSCA would not be reinvested in local municipalities. He also noted that the potential impacts on drinking water source protection remain unclear. Mr. Lanthier advised that he is meeting with all local municipalities and other organizations associated with the GSCA to ensure they are informed of the proposed changes.

S-251215-002

Moved by Councillor Merton

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-123 respecting Proposed Changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, City Council directs staff to:

- 1. Send this resolution, report and its attachments to the Province of Ontario as the City's response to Bill 68 and the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting 025-1257; and**
- 2. Forward this report to Paul Vickers, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors, all municipalities that are currently served by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Conservation Ontario, and AMO."**

Carried.

Councillor Hamley returned to his chair.

5. COUNCIL WORKING SESSION

5.a Official Plan Amendment (OPA) No. 14 and Zoning By-law Amendment (ZBA) No. 57 - Led by MHBC Planning

The Director of Community Services introduced Dave Aston of MHBC Planning and advised that any requested changes to the Official Plan or Zoning By-law should be brought forward by Council through a formal motion. With respect to next steps, Ms. Coulter noted that a report will be presented to the Community Services Committee at its January meeting, which will consolidate all feedback received to date and address any further information requested by Council.

S-251215-003

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of the Council Working Session on December 15, 2025 respecting Official Plan Amendment No. 14 and Zoning By-law Amendment No. 57, City Council directs staff to report back on options for parking maximums as well as the reduction of minimum parking requirements under prescribed circumstances, including but not limited to, an oversupply of multi-modal parking spaces, and proximity to transit stops."

Carried.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Aston advised that most municipalities require one parking space per Additional Residential Unit (ARU), and that the *Planning Act* legislates a maximum requirement of one parking space per ARU.

S-251215-004

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of the Council Working Session on December 15, 2025 respecting Official Plan Amendment No. 14 and Zoning By-law Amendment No. 57, City Council directs staff to report back on a range of options regarding changes to Additional Residential Unit parking requirements, including:

- 1. The removal in all zones; and**
- 2. The potential for the removal within prescribed walking distances of transit stations, post-secondary institutions, and designated employment lands."**

Carried.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Coulter advised that with respect to minimum side yard setbacks, the *Planning Act* now provides as-of-right exemptions permitting a reduction of up to 10 per cent from the prescribed minimums. Mr. Aston further noted that, generally, the minimum lot setbacks in the City's Zoning By-law are lower than those of other comparable-sized municipalities.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Coulter noted that staff could develop a GIS layer identifying all public and private electric vehicle charging stations within the City.

The City Manager left the Council Chambers.

In response to a question from Council, Mr. Aston advised that the general provisions of the Zoning By-law require a minimum of 10 per cent of required parking spaces for new residential and non-residential developments to be designed to permit the future installation of electric

vehicle supply equipment. Mr. Aston further noted that new non-residential developments are also required to provide a minimum of one electric vehicle parking space.

S-251215-005

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the Council Working Session on December 15, 2025 respecting Official Plan Amendment No. 14 and Zoning By-law Amendment No. 57, City Council directs staff to report back on options for the protection of all employment lands in the updated Official Plan and Zoning By-law."

Carried.

The City Manager returned to his chair.

S-251215-006

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the Council Working Session on December 15, 2025 respecting Official Plan Amendment No. 14 and Zoning By-law Amendment No. 57, City Council requests that the update to the Zoning By-law examine opportunities to allow minor expansions within the C1 zone without providing additional parking."

Carried.

S-251215-007d

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the Council Working Session on December 15, 2025 respecting Official Plan Amendment No. 14 and Zoning By-law Amendment No. 57, City Council directs staff to include in the Official Plan and Zoning By-law updates that any new future development in Owen Sound not permit drive-thrus."

Defeated.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Coulter noted that the City's practice of land banking does not need to be included in the Official Plan.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Coulter advised that boundary expansion is governed by the *Municipal Act*. She noted that Grey County has recently conducted work on growth management, examining lands for both residential and employment purposes. Ms. Coulter indicated that staff could review this information, along with the City's current supply of industrial land, to confirm that there is sufficient land to meet future needs.

S-251215-008

Moved by Councillor Merton

"THAT in consideration of the Council Working Session on December 15, 2025 respecting Official Plan Amendment No. 14 and Zoning By-law Amendment No. 57, City Council directs staff to report back with information related to growth management within the City and the process for boundary expansions."

Carried.

In response to a question from Council, the Manager of Planning and Heritage advised that, where institutional uses have ceased, staff recommend a zoning by-law amendment application to facilitate an adaptive reuse. This process allows staff to assess compatibility with the

surrounding neighbourhood and consider any other site-specific considerations that may require review.

S-251215-009d

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of the Council Working Session on December 15, 2025 respecting Official Plan Amendment No. 14 and Zoning By-law Amendment No. 57, City Council directs staff to report back on options to further define occupancy within the Zoning By-law to allow for the temporary use of camping on one's own property."

Defeated.

In response to a question from Council, Ms. Coulter advised that the Province has recently amended regulations regarding employment lands, requiring certain employment areas to be protected. To comply with these regulations and recognize existing employment areas, three distinct zones have been established. Mr. Aston added that the Province expects municipalities to protect heavy industrial areas. He noted that these employment lands require protection from encroachment by sensitive uses, as the supply of such lands is limited.

6. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

S-251215-010

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

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

Carried.

FORMAL SESSION

7. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

S-251215-011

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

"THAT the action taken in Committee of the Whole in considering a staff report and undertaking a working session be confirmed by this Council."

Carried.

8. BY-LAWS

8.a By-law No. 2025-130

"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 15th day of December, 2025"

S-251215-012

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

"THAT By-law Number 2025-130 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Mayor Boddy adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

Mayor Ian C. Boddy

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk



Minutes

Owen Sound City Council

December 15, 2025

5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Ian Boddy
Deputy Mayor Scott Greig
Councillor Travis Dodd
Councillor Jon Farmer
Councillor Brock Hamley
Councillor Marion Koepke
Councillor Suneet Kukreja
Councillor Carol Merton
Councillor Melanie Middlebro'

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Mason Bellamy, Manager of Public Works and Engineering
Bradey Carbert, Manager of Corporate Services
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk
Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Boddy called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2.a Councillor Farmer Re: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Community of Practice Meeting

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.a Mayor Boddy - Report CR-25-148 from the Manager of Corporate Services Re: Partial Lease of Former CN Station (1155 1st Avenue West) and By-law No. 2025-138

Mayor Boddy declared a conflict of interest with Items 11.a and 21.h of the agenda as he previously acted for the property owner at his law office.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE COUNCIL MINUTES

4.a Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on November 10, 2025

4.b Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on November 24, 2025

4.c Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on November 24, 2025

R-251215-001

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

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

- 1. Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on November 10, 2025;**
- 2. Special Council meeting held on November 24, 2025; and**
- 3. Regular Council meeting held on November 24, 2025."**

Carried.

5. MOTION TO MOVE COUNCIL INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-251215-002

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

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

Carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

6. PUBLIC MEETINGS

There were no public meetings.

7. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Boddy relinquished the position of Chair to provide a year-end update presentation. Deputy Mayor Greig assumed the position of Chair.

7.a Presentation from Mayor Boddy Re: Mayor's Year-End Update

Mayor Boddy provided a year-end update, highlighting successes within the City over the past year in the strategic priorities of city building, prosperous city, green and resilient city, a city that moves, fostering mutually beneficial and respectful relationships, celebrating and embracing culture, and safe city.

Mayor Boddy thanked Council and staff for their hard work and dedication throughout 2025.

Mayor Boddy resumed the position of Chair.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

8.a Aly Bousfield-Bastedo, Owen Sound resident

Ms. Bousfield-Bastedo provided comments regarding the committee structure report on the agenda, noting that merging or reducing committees could limit the diversity of perspectives in community discussions, require greater time commitment from members, and restrict the ability of public members to contribute input based on their professional expertise.

8.b Bob Hope, Owen Sound resident

Mr. Hope provided comments regarding the committee structure report on the agenda and the three-minute time limit for Public Forum as outlined in the Procedural By-law.

8.c Anne Finlay-Stewart, Owen Sound resident

Ms. Finlay-Stewart provided comments regarding the committee structure report on the agenda and requested that Council postpone its decision until the community has had an opportunity to provide input.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION OF COUNCIL IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

10. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

10.a Report CR-25-146 from the Manager of Corporate Services Re: 2026-2030 Multi-Year Capital Plan Update

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

R-251215-003

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-146 respecting the 2026-2030 Multi-Year Capital Plan, City Council directs staff to move the Centennial Tower refurbishment project to the list of funded projects for 2027."

Carried.

R-251215-004d

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-146 respecting the 2026-2030 Multi-Year Capital Plan, City Council directs staff to:

- 1. Remove Item 26N.13 - Water & Wastewater Capital Needs Assessment from the Multi-Year Capital Plan; and**
- 2. Forward Item 26N.13 to the Operations Committee for review."**

Defeated.

R-251215-005

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-146 respecting the 2026-2030 Multi-Year Capital Plan, City Council directs staff to:

- 1. Remove Item 26O.7 - Infiltration and Inflow Flow Monitoring from the Multi-Year Capital Plan; and**
- 2. Forward Item 26O.7 to the Operations Committee for review."**

Carried.

R-251215-006

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-146 respecting the 2026-2030 Multi-Year Capital Plan Update, City Council approves the projects funded within the 2026-2030 Multi-Year Capital Plan update, as amended by Resolution Nos. R-251215-003 and R-251215-005."

Carried.

10.b Report CR-25-142 from the Deputy Clerk Re: 2026 Council Board and Committee Selections

The Deputy Clerk provided an overview of the report.

Council members made their 2026 seat and committee selections in accordance with Policy No. GOV001.

R-251215-007

Moved by Councillor Koepke

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-142 respecting 2026 Council Board and Committee Selections, City Council directs staff to bring forward the 2026 Board and Committee By-law to appoint Council members to serve on Boards and Committee with terms effective February 1, 2026."

Carried.

10.c Report CM-25-038 from the City Manager and City Clerk Re: Committee Structure Review

The City Manager and City Clerk provided an overview of the report through a PowerPoint presentation.

R-251215-008

Moved by Councillor Dodd

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-25-038 respecting a committee structure review, City Council postpones consideration of the report until consultation is conducted with Standing Committees and the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee."

Carried.

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

Deputy Mayor Greig reported that County Council:

- Acclaimed Andrea Matrosovs, Mayor of the Town of the Blue Mountains, to a second term as Grey County Warden.
- Endorsed the 2026 budget, with a tax levy of \$83,951,800, representing a 4.78 per cent increase. The 2026 budget:
 - Maintains existing service levels;
 - Increases the annual contribution to the housing reserve;
 - Enhances funding for asset management;
 - Advances urban road and rural road transfer initiatives;
 - Funds a comprehensive waste management study; and
 - Includes \$30,000 to support potential property developments in Markdale and Durham.
- Supported the completion of an update to the growth management strategy in 2026 to inform the housing needs assessment.
- Approved the inclusion of a review of a county-wide library system through the Joint Municipal Services Committee.
- Supported a resolution from the Town of the Blue Mountains and the City of Owen Sound regarding non-eligible sources of recycling.

- Endorsed staff comments to be submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario on proposed changes to the conservation authorities' structure.
- Supported a municipal boundary restructuring between the Town of Hanover and the Municipality of West Grey to accommodate future industrial, commercial, and residential growth in the Town of Hanover.

Deputy Mayor Greig noted that for 2026, he will serve on the Community Services Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, the Rockwood Terrace Redevelopment Committee, and the Urban and Rural Road Exchange Task Force, while Mayor Boddy will serve on the Planning and Economic Development Advisory Committee.

R-251215-009

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the Verbal Report provided December 15, 2025 from Deputy Mayor Greig respecting Grey County Council, City Council receives the Verbal Report for information purposes."

Carried.

Having declared a conflict of interest with Item 11.a, Mayor Boddy left the Council Chambers and Deputy Mayor Greig assumed the position of Chair.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

- 11.a Report CR-25-148 from the Manager of Corporate Services Re: Partial Lease of Former CN Station (1155 1st Avenue West)

R-251215-010

Moved by Councillor Hamley

"THAT in consideration of Item 11.a on the December 15, 2025 Consent Agenda, City Council approves the recommendation contained in Item 11.a."

Carried.

Mayor Boddy resumed the position of Chair.

- 11.b Report CR-25-135 from the Tax Collector Re: 2026 Interim Tax Levy By-law
- 11.c Report CR-25-141 from the City Clerk Re: 2026 Election Report No. 2
- 11.d Report CR-25-144 from the City Clerk Re: Short-Term Rental C1 Licence Fee
- 11.e Report CR-25-143 from the Deputy Clerk Re: 2026 Public Appointments to Boards and Committees
- 11.f Report CR-25-145 from the Purchasing and Claims Coordinator Re: Lease of Rice House (846-848 1st Avenue West)
- 11.g Report CS-25-122 from the Director of Community Services Re: Lease with Transport Canada (TC) for Pedestrian Bridge at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park - TC Lease C9907106
- 11.h Report OP-25-045 from the Engineering Technologist Re: East Ridge Business Park Subdivision - Assumption of Operational Services
- 11.i Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: River District Board of Management meeting held on September 10, 2025
- 11.j Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library Board meetings held on September 25, 2025 and October 30, 2025
- 11.k Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board meeting held on October 22, 2025

- 11.l Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Owen Sound Police Service Board meeting held on October 29, 2025
- 11.m Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Committee meeting held on November 18, 2025
- 11.n Minutes of Boards and Committees for Receipt Re: Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force meeting held on November 21, 2025
- 11.o Mayoral Directions issued:

- MDI-2025-001 Re: 2026 Operating Budget

- 11.p Correspondence received which is presented for the information of Council
R-251215-011
Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT in consideration of the items listed on the December 15, 2025 Consent Agenda, City Council:

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

Carried.

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL

- 12.a Minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on December 3, 2025

R-251215-012
Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

"THAT the minutes of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery Advisory Committee meeting held on December 3, 2025 be received."

Carried.

13. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no postponed matters.

14. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

15. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 15.a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Community of Practice Meeting

Councillor Farmer noted that the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is inviting all municipal partners to participate in a monthly conversation on issues relevant to the scope and goals of the plan. At the November meeting, the topic was youth engagement. Participants discussed the benefits of increased youth involvement in municipal processes and explored a range of case studies, including youth advisory tables and municipalities that reserve a seat on Council for a youth member. Councillor Farmer advised that the next meeting is scheduled for January 2026.

16. MOTION THAT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE RISE AND REPORT

R-251215-013
Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

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

Carried.

FORMAL SESSION

17. MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

R-251215-014

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

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

Carried.

18. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

The Manager of Public Works and Engineering and the Manager of Corporate Services left the meeting.

19. MOTION TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

Prior to moving into Closed Session, Mayor Boddy advised that for those who are watching the meeting live on Rogers Cable TV or the Rogers TV website, the Rogers feed will not reconnect to the meeting upon Council returning to the open session to report out of the Closed Session and review the by-laws. If anyone would like to view the remainder of the open session, they can watch the livestream on the City's Council and Committees webpage at www.owensound.ca/meetings. The video recording of the meeting will also be posted on this webpage following the meeting.

R-251215-015

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

"THAT City Council now move into 'Closed Session' to consider:

- a. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on November 24, 2025; and**
- b. One matter regarding a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to negotiations respecting property on 2nd Avenue East."**

Carried.

Council moved into the Closed Session at 7:22 p.m.

20. REPORTING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Boddy advised that Council returned to the open session at 7:30 p.m.

During the Closed Session, City Council:

- Reviewed minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Council meeting held on November 24, 2025; and
- Discussed one matter regarding a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to negotiations respecting property on 2nd Avenue East and no direction was provided.

21. BY-LAWS

21.a By-law No. 2025-131

"A By-law to confirm the proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Owen Sound held on the 15th day of December, 2025"

21.b By-law No. 2025-132

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Owen Sound Police Service Board respecting access to the River District Video Surveillance System"

21.c By-law No. 2025-133

"A By-law to amend Derby Camping By-law No. 2025-047 to adjust trailer sizes and allow dining tents"

21.d By-law No. 2025-134

"A By-law to amend Policy AF004 Video Surveillance Program to provide Owen Sound Police Service with access rights to the River District Video Surveillance System"

21.e By-law No. 2025-135

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Licence Agreement with His Majesty the King in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Transport, respecting the use and maintenance of a pedestrian bridge at Kelso Beach at Nawash Park (Licence No. C9907106)"

21.f By-law No. 2025-136

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Lease Agreement with Women's House Serving Bruce and Grey, respecting the temporary use of property located at 848 1st Avenue West (Rice House)"

21.g By-law No. 2025-137

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an Assumption of Operational Services Agreement with Andpet Realty Limited, respecting property located at the northwest corner of Highway 26 and 28th Avenue East (East Ridge Business Park)"

R-251215-016

Moved by Deputy Mayor Greig

Seconded by Councillor Hamley

"THAT By-law Numbers 2025-131, 2025-132, 2025-133, 2025-134, 2025-135, 2025-136, and 2025-137 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

Having declared a conflict of interest with Item 21.h, Mayor Boddy left the meeting and Deputy Mayor Greig assumed the position of Chair.

21.h By-law No. 2025-138

"A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute a Lease Agreement with Kingsley Management Inc., respecting partial use of the former CN Rail Station located at 1155 1st Avenue West"

R-251215-017

Moved by Councillor Hamley

Seconded by Councillor Koepke

"THAT By-law Number 2025-138 be passed and enacted."

Carried.

22. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Deputy Mayor Greig adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Mayor Ian C. Boddy

Briana M. Bloomfield, City Clerk

10am-11:00 am via Zoom

- **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement** – Jill Umbach

We are Treaty People under Treaty now and not in the past under Treaty 45 ½ and Treaty 72. We must recognize treaty agreements and negotiations as we continue to benefit from living on the territorial lands of Saugeen First Nation and the Chippewas of Neyaashinigmiing Unceded First Nation, collectively known as Saugeen Ojibway Nation.



Ten years ago, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its Final Report and 94 Calls to Action. It asked everyone in Canada to face the truth about residential schools, honour Survivors, and work toward a fairer future.

Today, reconciliation is reshaping Canada. We see it in new laws designed to address historical injustices, enhance legal protections, and expand opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in education, health, and community development. We see it in the revival of Indigenous languages and cultures, and community efforts that honour missing children.

This anniversary is a time to reflect on the progress in fulfilling the Calls to Action, and to look ahead at what's next. Reconciliation is a shared journey, and every one of us has a role to play in carrying it forward.

- **Mapping Discharge Pathways from Correctional Institutions in Bruce Grey** – Francesca Dobbyn

The report highlights the systemic barriers individuals face when re-entering our community after incarceration.

“Only 10% of Canadians live under the poverty line. However, almost 100% of prison inmates are part of that 10%.” 77% of people in jail, are waiting for a court date. [Mapping-Discharge-Pathways-from-Correctional-Institutions-to-Bruce-Grey.pdf](#)

- [Exploring the Relationship between Poverty and Crime in Canada - Toronto Security Company](#)
- [The Poverty-Crime Connection case in Canada](#)

Critical Gaps in Services

- A critical gap in services is that no John Howard Society or Elisabeth Fry agencies have programs in Grey Bruce. Programs offered such as the **Breaking the Cycle of Post-Incarceration Homelessness** <https://jhs london.com/breaking-the-cycle-of-post-incarceration-homelessness/> provides intensive case management, reintegration support, mental health and addiction counselling, assistance with accessing basic needs and system navigation for people aged 18+ upon discharge. Their employment services do not extend to Grey Bruce. There remains a lot of stigma and discrimination in obtaining employment. The nearest service is in London. <https://jhs london.com/>
- Health inequities with medical prescriptions - people who are insulin dependent receive a 3-day supply and people with substance use disorder receive a 1-day dose. There are no referrals to local services. The SOS Outreach Team have encountered people 3 days without methadone. Staying sober is very difficult
- Friday afternoon “release to the sidewalks” by the courts in Owen Sound with no referrals to social services leaves people homeless. People from outside of the region are not eligible for emergency shelter.
- Regional transportation is missing: If people have homes to go to in Grey Bruce, they often have no means of transportation to get there. If released with a bus ticket in Simcoe County (Penetang being the location of the prison) to Barrie bus station, there are multiple rides to other cities. Barrie to Owen Sound exists, but the Flex Bus leaves at 8:15am to Owen Sound, once/day.
- People are picked up by the OPP in Penetang and brought to courts in Owen Sound. However, they don’t bring their ID, health cards, phones, etc. If they are released in Owen Sound, there is no return drive to Penetang to pick up their belongings. The courts will provide a Court ID, but many banks don’t accept this for banking purposes despite it being a legally acceptable document.
- The province cut the funding to the clothing program. There used to be a contract with The Salvation Army Simcoe to provide appropriate clothing to people upon discharge.
- People are not eligible for Ontario Works while in prison, however, Simcoe Courts will assist with the application process while in jail in preparation for discharge. However, intake must be done through the central intake. Challenges exist with people who don’t own a phone to communicate about the application and a general lack of knowledge around how to apply.
- Some people are released to Form 1 hospitals. The OPP will be assigned by the Courts to drive them to a Form 1 scheduled hospital anywhere in Ontario searching for the first available bed. Then people are released into a community where there are no supports for them and where people have no social capital.
- More challenges may come from the province’s new justice bill. [Ontario plans to require bail cash up front as part of new justice bill | CBC Accessibility](#)

Key recommendations include:

The report emphasizes the need for coordinated action to improve the reintegration system and reduce recidivism rates.

- Standardized discharge planning to ensure individuals have ID, clothing, and essential belongings upon release.
- Personal property retrieval protocols to facilitate access to belongings. If they are released for timed served, then a “less 1 day” would allow them to go back to Penetang to retrieve their belongings.
- Connect the Grey Bruce By-Names List Coordinator with the CNMC to provide housing supports upon release.
- Extended or after-hours services to provide support when needed most. Potential partnership with 211 and access to services.
- Investments in diverse housing options to meet real-world needs.

- More education to our community services i.e. banks, on legal ID – Letter of Incarceration.
- Rural transportation funding to reduce isolation and service inaccessibility.
- People should be connected to ongoing primary care services to treat substance use disorder.
- Standards of Ontario jails should be improved.

Additional Discussion

- People need more than 3 weeks or longer in shelter system to begin to get re-established.
- Remember – not everyone who has been arrested and charged is guilty.
- The prison system is another form of punishment. You really have to work in the system to understand it.
- Many people choose to go back in, because they can't find services or structure outside. Sometimes prison is used as rehab.
- **Ontario Works** can “reinstate” people within 3 months period without a new application to central intake.
 - After 3 months, new applications to central intake need to be made. OW can also request items from the CNCC or Owen Sound jail for people. They can call Central Intake in advance or once released.
 - CNCC can support the referral to County-based Ontario Works. Challenges exist with central intake tracking and keeping on top of the request to receive it in a timely manner.
 - A health card is critical to keep drug coverage with OW.
- **Income Supports:** while in prison, it is challenging to get taxes done or keep existing benefits for a household/family.
 - Depending on how long they are in they may not be eligible for benefits. More than 6 months in prison they will not get GST, Trillium, etc. If taxes are filed, you must identify that you are in prison. This has a significant impact on family if the main income earner is in prison. You are not eligible for EI while in jail.
 - If your name is on the hydro bill or lease and you are in jail, you are not eligible for LEAP support with utility bills.
- **Poverty Task Force Advocacy Updates – Jill Umbach**
 - **Health Equity Action Group (HEAG):** the core group of the HEAG have met to compile the outcome of the Health Equity workshop held with the Poverty Task Force on September 2025. The compilation is being converted into a logical framework approach (LFA). Fifteen people have indicated an interest to join the group. A January 2026 meeting is planned to review the LFA and prioritize collective action.
 - **Food Security Action Group (FSAG):** a strategic planning workshop was held on November 3rd hosted by South East Grey Community Health Centre. There were ideas generated on collective action and will resume in 2026.
 - **Income & Employment Security Action Group (IESAG):** held our Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Network gathering.
- **Partner Updates**
 - **Regional Transportation Study:** Grey County, Bruce County, County of Dufferin and County of Wellington, in partnership with Saugeen Mobility And Regional Transit (SMART) have launched a public survey on transportation needs and priorities for a regional

transport system across the 4 counties. The study will design and assess the feasibility of a unified regional transit network that creates a seamless passenger experience, identifies efficiencies through collaboration, and provides service to areas of each county that currently have limited transportation options. Learn more and take the survey: <https://www.grey.ca/resident-services/regional-transit> Open until Jan 25th, 2026.

- The Municipality of Kincardine is hosting a facilitated **Equity & Inclusion Community Roundtable**. This session is an opportunity for equity-seeking groups, community organizations, advocates, and individuals with lived experience of inequity or marginalization to come together and share perspectives, challenges, and priorities directly with municipal staff. Feb. 7th, 2026, 11am – 2pm, Miller Insurance Room, Davidson Centre.
- **Next Meeting Date:** It will be determined if we have a meeting on Friday, Jan16th, 2025, 10am, online.

The 2026 schedule will come out soon. We meet monthly on the 3rd Friday of the month from 10-11am.

GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY MINUTES

Full Authority Board of Directors
Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at 1:45 p.m.

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) Board of Directors' meeting was held in a hybrid format of in-person at the Grey County Council Chambers and virtually via the meeting application, WebEx.

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Robert Uhrig called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m., welcomed all those present in person and virtually, and asked Member Tobin Day to make a land acknowledgement declaration.

Directors Present In-Person: Chair Robert Uhrig, Jennifer Shaw, Tobin Day, Alex Maxwell, Rick Winters

Directors Present Virtually: Kathy Durst, Jon Farmer, Vice Chair Nadia Dubyk

Regrets: Scott Greig, Scott Mackey, Tony Bell

Staff Present: CAO, Tim Lanthier; Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman; Manager of Information Services, Gloria Dangerfield, Manager of Conservation Lands, Rebecca Anthony, Senior Forestry Technician, Cam Bennett; Manager of Engineering Services, Ian Eriksen

2. **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

The Directors were reminded to disclose any pecuniary interest that may arise during the course of the meeting.

Member Alex Maxwell declared a conflict with item 8.

3. **Call for Additional Agenda Items**

4. **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion No.: FA-25-081	Moved By: Seconded By:	Jannifer Shaw Jon Farmer
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THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the agenda of November 26, 2025.

Carried

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion No.:
FA-25-082

Moved By: Rick Winters
Seconded By: Jennifer Shaw

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the Full Authority minutes of October 22, 2025.

Carried

6. Business Out of Minutes

Nothing at this time.

7. Consent Agenda

Motion No.:
FA-25-083

Moved By: Jennifer Shaw
Seconded By: Tobin Day

THAT in consideration of the Consent Agenda Items listed on the November 26, 2025, agenda, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receives the following items: (i) Environmental Planning – Section 28 Permits – October 2025; (ii) Administration – Receipts & Expenses – October 2025; (iii) Minutes – BRWI July 31, 2025 & October 14, 2025; (iv) Correspondence – a. United Countries of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry – Resolution NO 2025-159; b. Essex Region Conservation – Resolution 90/25; (v) Recent Media Articles.

Carried

Member Alex Maxwell left the meeting at 1:49 pm due to a conflict of interest.

8. Delegation – Peasemarsch Easement Proposal

Representatives from Tatham and Associates made a delegation to the Board on behalf of Homefield Communities to present their request for an easement through the Peasemarsch Nature Preserve.

Delegates gave an overview and scope of the project. It was explained that the easement would facilitate the installation of connecting water and sewer lines to the existing Highway 26 mains. The proposed work would be conducted using directional drilling. It was noted that The Town of the Blue Mountains would also require the ability to utilize a temporary surface line in the event that emergency by-pass pumping would be required.

Delegates noted that the alternative would require running lines further and the addition of pumping station infrastructure.

Delegates added that, while compensation has not been discussed directly, this would be something that the owner is open to and could be negotiated.

Chair Uhrig thanked the delegates and opened the floor to questions. There were no questions at the time.

9. Business Items

i. **Lands**

a. **Peasemarth Easement Proposal**

Manager of Conservation Lands, Rebecca Anthony, spoke with regards to the request made by Homefield Communities for an easement through the Peasemarth Nature Preserve.

Ms. Anthony gave a brief history of the Peasemarth property, its environmental significance, and its intended use in being donated by the Marsh family. In particular, it was noted that the Deed specifies that, “AND THE GRANTEE COVENANTS and agrees to hold and use the lands hereby conveyed as a sanctuary for the conservation and protection of desirable wildlife, flowers and trees in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation Authorities Act.”

Ms. Anthony noted that in accordance with GSCA’s Land Disposition Policy (2006), lands are classed into one of three classifications. Peasemarth falls into the Nature Preserve classification, which are “properties that have been left unmanaged to protect them in a natural state. These properties were acquired to protect them against further development or to preserve sensitive feature, flora or fauna.”

In addition, the Conservation Areas Strategy (2024) and the Conservation Authorities Act Section 21(2) further restrict how GSCA makes decisions around the disposition of CA lands. Public consultation would be required for a minimum of 45 days as the property includes at minimum areas of natural and scientific interest, lands within the Niagara Escarpment Planning Area, and/or wetlands as defined in Section 1 of the Conservation Land Act.

Staff advised the Board to decline the request for easement through the Peasemarth Nature Preserve.

A Member asked to clarify if an easement is considered a disposition and would then require public consultation. Ms. Anthony responded that it does and is specifically defined as “selling, exchanging, granting of easement or otherwise disposing of the property.”

A Member asked how this request compares to other requires that GSCA has had. Ms. Anthony replied that there have been easements for hydro one and agreements with neighbouring properties for drainage.

Mr. Lanthier added that some GSCA properties do have easements. However, those conditions were integrated into the land transfer.

Motion No.:
FA-25-084

Moved By: Jon Farmer
Seconded By: Tobin Day

WHEREAS, the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) under Section 21(c) has the power to acquire by purchase, lease or otherwise any land that it may require, and, subject to subsection (2), to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of land so acquired;

WHEREAS, GSCA acquired the Peasemarth Nature Preserve over the years 1959-1973;

WHEREAS GSCA defines Nature Preserves as properties that have been left unmanaged to protect them in a natural state. These properties were acquired to protect them against further development or to preserve sensitive features, flora or fauna;

AND FURTHER WHEREAS the original Peasemarth property acquisition Deed states: THE

GRANTEE COVENANTS and agrees to hold and use the lands hereby conveyed as a sanctuary for the conservation and protection of desirable wildlife, flowers and trees in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation Authorities Act;

THAT the GSCA Board of Directors decline Homefield Communities proposed servicing easement request through Peasemarsch Nature Preserve.

Carried

Member Alex Maxwell returned to the meeting at 2:13 pm.

ii. Administration

a. Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

CAO, Tim Lanthier spoke to the recently proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act (CAA), the ERO posting, and gave an overview of the particulars of the specific changes.

It was noted that there are two separate items of consideration, Bill 68 and the ERO posting 025-1257. Members were provided a copy of the CAA with the proposed changes indicated in red.

Mr. Lanthier explained the purpose of the proposed Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA) and how it is suggested that it will fit into the system. It was noted that under this agency, the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP) will have the power and prevue to give direction to the OPCA directly without changes to provincial regulations. In turn, the OPCA may issue directions to conservation authorities. Among these directions are key performance indicators, service standards, information technology, procurement, training, strategic and asset management planning and budgeting. The OPCA will have the power to apportion its costs to the CAs, which could then be passed along to member municipalities. It was noted that directives do not require changes to regulations.

Mr. Lanthier explained that the ERO posting is only requesting comment on the proposed amalgamation of 36 CAs into 7 Regional Conservation Authorities (RCAs). It was noted that this consultation period is open until December 22, 2025, and is focused on how the amalgamation should be completed. Members were encouraged to provide feedback through their individual municipalities. Mr. Lanthier has booked time to speak with member municipal councils.

Mr. Lanthier displayed the maps of current 36 CAs and the proposed 7 RCAs. It was noted that GSCA would be merged with Lake Simcoe Region CA, Nottawasaga Valley CA, Saugeen Valley CA, Maitland Valley CA, Ausable Bayfield CA and Lakehead Region CA to create the Huron-Superior RCA (HSRCA). The new HSRCA would have 80 member municipalities, compared to the current eight. The HSRCA would have jurisdiction of approximately 23,400 square kilometres compared to the current 3,200 square kilometres. Mr. Lanthier asked Members to consider the scale of the proposed changes and to ask themselves several questions with regard to how staff will provide services locally and how their municipalities will continue to have a voice.

Mr. Lanthier expressed concern around costs to municipalities, the levels of service being provided locally, and the future of category 3 programs and services that GSCA has worked to align with all eight member municipalities.

Mr. Lanthier will be presenting to seven out of eight member municipalities and offered to be on hand if any municipal staff are presenting to their councils on the proposed changes. In addition, Mr.

Lanthier has a meeting with Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP Paul Vickers and with CAOs from Grey County scheduled.

A Member asked when the deadline to make comments was and when the changes may come into effect. Mr. Lanthier responded that the ERO posting closes December 22nd. Adding that Bill 68 may receive its third reading and royal assent at any time. Formal consultation will be wrapped up by December 22nd, with further consultation with CAs and Indigenous communities and group happening in the spring. The governance changes will happen in conjunction with the fall 2026 municipal election.

A Member asked if there was any support that could be offered to Mr. Lanthier's meeting with MPP Paul Vickers. Mr. Lanthier noted that Chair Uhrig would also be joining the meeting as the representative of the Board.

Mr. Lanthier recommended that Members raise their concerns within their individual municipalities.

A member echoed the sentiment that these changes are not good for rural municipalities and that the concerns of small municipalities will lose significance in the larger RCA. It was asked if Member's could use the talking points in the presentation when speaking with their municipalities. Mr. Lanthier responded that they were fully available to all members.

It was noted that there may be significant financial and governance issues for municipalities.

A Member asked how they as Member's can continue to push messages to the various municipal partners and stakeholders and ensure that those groups have the information and facts to allow them to as well.

A Member noted that the geographic size of the RCAs are the same size or greater than some European countries. This was followed by discussions regarding local representation and access to staff locally. Members generally commented that the smaller rural communities will not benefit from the proposed changes.

A Member noted that, similar to the changes made to the police services board, local municipalities will likely get very little say and report backs.

It was noted that timing is a significant factor in challenging the province on these changes. Many other CAs and municipalities are circulating resolutions and letters in support of the CA's current structure and condemning the proposed changes. A Member asked if staff could draft a common resolution for member municipalities to use. Mr. Lanthier responded that they could. However, it would likely have greater impact coming from the municipalities. Mr. Lanthier added that staff could make available all new and updated information. Members collectively expressed trust in the staff to put out messaging and respond to the ERO on behalf of the Board to respect the tight time restrictions.

Motion No.:
FA-25-085

Moved By: Rick Winters
Seconded By: Jennifer Shaw

WHEREAS the Government of the Province of Ontario (the Province) has released Bill 68 which changes the Conservation Authorities Act to create a new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and alludes to regional conservation authorities,

AND WHEREAS the Province has issued ERO Posting 025-1257 to gather feedback on the structure of such regional conservation authorities,

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive this report as information and direct staff to prepare a comment submission for ERO Posting 025-1257.

Carried

The Board recessed for a 5-minute break at 3:11 pm.

The Board resumed session at 3:16 pm.

b. Q3 Budget Report Back

Manager of Finance and Human Resources Services, Alison Armstrong presented the 3rd quarter budget report.

Ms. Armstrong provided some highlights of the 3rd quarter update and noted that there is currently a small surplus and that a surplus is forecasted for the 2025-year end budget. Some of the drivers of this projected surplus are in wage savings, increased parking revenue, non-budgeted grants, and forestry revenue.

On the capital side, Ms. Armstrong noted that some work will be completed in the 4th quarter or deferred to 2026. Additionally, the Inglis Falls washroom project came in under budget. It was noted that there was an increase in successful grants.

**Motion No.:
FA-25-086**

**Moved By: Jennifer Shaw
Seconded By: Rick Winters**

WHEREAS the Board of Directors approved the GSCA 2025 Operating and Capital Budget on February 27, 2025, by motion FA-25-015,

THAT, the Board of Directors receive staff report 034-2025 – 2025 Q3 Budget Report Back as information.

Carried

c. GSCA Asset Status Report

CAO, Tim Lanthier gave a report on the status of GSCA assets, reserves, and 10-year asset forecast.

It was noted that GSCA maintains an asset database that tracks acquisition date and cost, useful life, expected replacement date and cost, and maintenance dates and costs. Mr. Lanthier reviewed the asset classifications and provided some examples within those classes.

Mr. Lanthier gave a brief summary of asset replacement and maintenance values. It was noted that the total replacement costs of all replaceable assets is roughly \$28 million. However, it was noted that this includes large items such as the GSCA Administrative Centre and Dams.

GSCA's current assets generally fall into a good to excellent condition classification based on total volume, or a fair to good condition classification based on costs.

Mr. Lanthier reviewed GSCA's reserves and 3- and 10-year replacement costs.

Mr. Lanthier reviewed staff's next steps, including reassessing asset replacement needs and dates, reassessing distribution of assets by reserves, identifying opportunities for cost sharing and grants/donation funding, and the preparation of a full Asset Management Plan.

Motion No.:
FA-25-087

Moved By: **Nadia Dubyk**
Seconded By: **Tobin Day**

WHEREAS Grey Sauble Conservation Authority has a strategic priority of achieving organizational excellence,

AND WHEREAS asset management planning is a vital component successful and sustainable corporate operations,

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive this report as information and direct Staff to prepare a full Asset Management Plan.

Carried

d. 2026-2028 GSCA Budget – Draft for Circulation

CAO, Tim Lanthier spoke to the draft 2026-2028 GSCA budget. As follow up from the draft presented at the GSCA Board meeting on October 22, 2025, the capital costs have been included. It was noted that due to uncertainty regarding amalgamation, it was decided to only consider the one-year budget, with 2027 and 2028 included but not being passed.

It was noted that the main cost increase can be attributed to standard salary and wage increases.

Motion No.:
FA-25-088

Moved By: **Jennifer Shaw**
Seconded By: **Rick Winters**

WHEREAS GSCA Staff have prepared the 2026 Draft Budget for the Board of Directors' consideration,

AND WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act requires that this Draft Budget be circulated to participating municipalities for a minimum 30-day commenting period,

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors receive the 2026 Draft Budget,

AND THAT Staff be directed to distribute the 2026 Draft Budget and Budget Companion to participating municipalities for the minimum 30-day review period.

AND THAT Staff bring a report before the Board of Directors at the January 2026 meeting of the Board for final review and approval of the 2026 Budget.

Carried

e. GSCA Board Committee Review

CAO, Tim Lanthier spoke with respect to the Board committee review survey recently conducted. Due to current circumstances with the province, it was recommended to put a hold on any further action on Board committee's until more is known. This includes pausing the revamping of existing terms of reference and ceasing any Board committee meetings for the 2026 year.

A Member asked with regard to the GSC Foundation and their expressed desire to disband, and if there may be a benefit to pausing the disbanding process until more is known. Mr. Lanthier and a Member that sits on the Foundation Board confirmed that the Foundation had decided to suspend functions until next year.

Motion No.:
FA-25-089

Moved By: Jennifer Shaw
Seconded By: Tobin Day

WHEREAS GSCA Staff committed to undertake a review of existing GSCA Committees,
AND WHEREAS Staff conducted a survey of Board Members on both existing and potential committees,
AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed substantial sweeping changes to the Conservation Authorities Act that would cause GSCA to cease to exist in its current form,
THAT the Board of Directors directs Staff to terminate this project and cancel any sub-committees for the 2026 year.

Carried

iii. Forestry **a. Forestry Fees Update**

CAO, Tim Lanthier spoke on behalf of the Forestry Coordinator, Mike Fry, with regard to the proposed forestry fee schedule updates.

Mr. Lanthier explained that the Forestry fees are evaluated annually. However, it was noted that there are more significant changes for 2026 to ensure cost recovery in providing forestry services.

Additionally, the fee schedule includes deposit and cancellation fees to ensure that GSCA's time is properly accounted for.

Motion No.:
FA-25-090

Moved By: Tobin Day
Seconded By: Jennifer Shaw

WHEREAS, the GSCA Forestry department provides forest management services to private landowners throughout GSCA's jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS, the fee schedule is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure fees are consistent and appropriate;

THAT, the GSCA Board of Directors approve the 2026 Forestry Fee Schedule as presented.

Carried

b. Forestry Tender

Forestry Technician, Cam Bennett presented the results of the Kolapore Uplands forestry tender. Staff recommended awarding the tender to Bester Forest Products for the amount of \$35,000.

Motion No.:
FA-25-091

Moved By: Alex Maxwell
Seconded By: Jon Farmer

WHEREAS Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) owns and manages over 11,300 hectares (28,000 acres) of land comprised of 207 individual properties organized into 79 groupings;

AND WHEREAS, GSCA manages nearly 5,260 hectares (13,000 acres) of forested area to offset the operating expenses of the Forestry department;

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors award the following forestry tender:

Sawlog and Fuelwood tender (GSC-25-01) for Kolapore Uplands Management Area – Compartment 94 – to Bester Forest Products for their total bid of \$35,000, subject to signing the agreement.

Carried

10. New Business

Nothing at this time.

11. CAO's Report

CAO Tim Lanthier had nothing additional to report.

12. Chair's Report

Chair Robert Uhrig had nothing to report.

13. Resolution to Move into Closed Session

Motion No.:
FA-25-092

Moved By: Rick Winters
Seconded By: Tobin Day

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors proceed into closed session at 4:14 pm to discuss matters related to the following:

- i. Minutes of the Closed Session of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting held on September 24, 2025; and,**
 - ii. An item related to a property in the City of Owen Sound - closed as it relates to items of commercial significance, such as but not limited to a proposed or pending acquisition**
-

of real property for Authority purposes, internal reserve bid amounts, leases and property sales and a position, plan procedure, criteria, or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the Authority. (GSCA Administrative By-Law, Section 4 (xvi)(g)(h)).

AND FURTHER THAT CAO, Tim Lanthier, Manager of Conservation Lands, Rebecca Anthony and Administrative Assistant, Valerie Coleman, will be present.

Carried

14. Resolution Approving the Closed Session Minutes

Motion No.:
FA-25-093

Moved By: Tobin Day
Seconded By: Jennifer Shaw

THAT the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors approve the September 24, 2025, Closed Session minutes as presented in the closed session agenda.

Carried

15. Reporting out of Closed Session

Chair Uhrig reported that the Members approved the closed session minutes of September 24, 2025, and discussed and gave direction to staff on items that were identified and nothing else.

16. Other Business

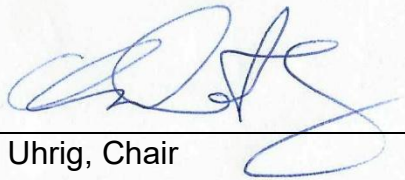
Nothing at this time.

17. Next Full Authority Meeting

Wednesday December 17, 2025

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.



Robert Uhrig, Chair



Valerie Coleman
Administrative Assistant



Owen Sound Police Service Board

2nd Floor Board Room

Thursday November 27, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

Members Present:	J. Thomson (Chair), B. O’Leary (Vice-Chair), C. Merton, M. Koepke, M. Dickson
Absent with Regrets:	Deputy Chief D. Bishop
Management Present:	Chief C. Ambrose, Inspector C. Matheson, and Inspector T. Doherty
Guests Present:	H. Zehr Police Service Advisor - Inspectorate of Policing
Minutes:	K. Wardell

Sgt. Josh Gurney was formally recognized by the Board for receiving the Ontario Medal for Police Bravery, awarded in acknowledgement of his exceptional courage and professionalism during a 2023 incident in which he safeguarded civilians and arrested two armed suspects.

1. Call to Order

Chair Thomson called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

2. Land Acknowledgment

Chair Thomson read the land acknowledgment.

Chair Thomson reported that prior to today’s meeting, the Board met in closed session to review and discuss matters that in their opinion fell under Section 44 Item (6) and Item (2) (b) of the Community Safety and Police Act and Section 25 item b) of the OSPSB General Policy- 003 - Board Governance to discuss items related to:

- a. Matters regarding staffing

- b. Board Training
- c. Labour relations

3. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Thomson moved item 17 (a) Fee Schedule By-Law to the December agenda, and added under new business item 17 (h) OSPSB Minutes to Council.

Moved by B. O’Leary, seconded by C. Merton,

*“That the agenda with the removal of 17(a): The Fee Schedule By-Law, and the addition of item 17(h) OSPSB Minutes to Council Committee dated November 27 2025, be approved.” **CARRIED.***

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest arising out of the Minutes and Matters Listed on the Agenda. HEARING NONE

5. Presentations, Deputations, and Public question period.

- a) Promotion

6. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Public Session held October 29, 2025.

Moved by M. Koepke, seconded by B. O’Leary.

*“That the minutes dated October 29, 2025 be approved.” **CARRIED***

7. Business arising out of the Public Session Minutes of October 29, 2025. HEARING NONE

8. Correspondence received

- a) Letter from Georgian College

Chair Thomson reported the receipt of a letter from Catherine Wareham, Faculty, Police Foundation Program from Georgian College thanking the service for a tour they received on October 15, 2025.

9. Chairman’s Report

Chair Thomson reported that he attended the OAPSB board of directors meeting on November 24, 2025 and that B O' Leary and he attended the OAPSB Labour Conference the following days on November 25th and 26th.

Topics presented included;

- OAPSB Updates: Plans for 2026
- How the Inspectorate of Policing Supports Police Boards as Employers
- Policing for the Future: Why Innovation Isn't Optional by Axon Canada
- Measuring the Impact of Policing

10. Governance

No new governance for the open session.

11. October Monthly Reports

- a) Criminal Investigations Branch and Drug Enforcement/Criminal Intelligence Unit
- b) Auxiliary Unit Report
- c) Community Oriented Response & Enforcement Unit
- d) Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension Unit
- e) Front Line Patrol and Collision Statistics
- f) Community Services Office
- g) Lost Hours and Training

12. Reports from Director of Civilian Services K. Fluney

13. Report from Director of Corporate Services S. Bell-Matheson and Director of Information Technology Services C. Hill

14. Report from Manager of Human Resources W. Pratt

As there were no requests for action in the above report, they will be placed on file with these minutes for information purposes.

15. Financial Update from the Chief of Police

Chief Ambrose reported that the 2025 budget is projected to be \$50,000 over budget by year-end, representing approximately 0.005% over the total approved 2025 budget of \$9,158,123.

Chief Ambrose reported that the draft 2026 budget has been revised and will be submitted to City Council for approval at a 7.49% increase. He noted that, following further review, several implementations have been deferred to better align projections with actuals, resulting in some salary gapping. He also advised that the Service will not have the anticipated recruits ready for the January OPC intake; however, the required number of candidates will be available for the March intake.

Member Merton asked whether any additional budget reductions could be made while still maintaining adequate, and effective policing in Owen Sound. Chief Ambrose clarified that given the current estimated expenses and the information available at that time, the proposed 7.49% increase was possibly the lowest possible amount in order to maintain an appropriate staff complement and to provide a more visible police presence in the downtown River District which has been voiced by citizens and business owners.

Moved by M. Koepke, and seconded by M. Dickson.

*“That the OSPSB approve the revised 2026 budget of 7.49% increase.” **CARRIED***

16. Operating Reports from the Chief of Police

a) Chief’s Activity Reports

As there were no requests for action in the above report, they will be placed on file with these minutes for information purposes.

17. Other Items and New Business

a) Fee Schedule By-Law

Moved to December agenda.

b) Follow up from Facilities Review with City

Chief Ambrose reported that following the facilities review with the City, the identified mold issue was promptly repaired, contained, and fully remediated. He confirmed that there was no health risk to employees at any time.

c) New Police Facility

Discussion ensued regarding the creation of this new board committee. It was suggested a committee composed of board members and non-board members be appointed to a Facilities Review Committee. It was expected this review and resulting direction from the review would survive the term of our current board members and appointing members from outside of the board would assure some continuity of knowledge.

Hank Zehr, the representative from the SOL GEN's Office reported that under;

- Section 42. (3) of the CSPA the composition of a committee shall be composed of any number of non-board members, as long as the majority of the committee is composed of members of the police service board.
- Section 35 (2) requires that committee members must complete the required training as prescribed under the Act.

Moved by C. Merton, seconded by B. O'Leary.

"That a Facilities Review Committee be established, and that board members submit the names of proposed committee representatives to the Chair by December 16, 2025 be approved." **CARRIED**

d) CSPA Aggregate Disciplinary Report

Chief Ambrose presented the CSPA Aggregate Disciplinary Report and noted that it will be published on the OSPSB website by December 1st to ensure compliance with CSPA regulations.

e) COPS Retirement of Unit

Chief Ambrose reported that the Service reviewed the Citizens on Patrol (COP) Unit in light of new legislative requirements under the Community Safety and Policing Act, increased training needs, and potential liability concerns. Following discussions with the Unit organizer and consideration of alternative governance options, the COP membership voted on November 17, 2025, to retire the Unit. As a result, the COP Unit was formally retired effective November 18, 2025, and is no longer affiliated with the Owen Sound Police Service. The volunteers will be formally recognized at a final meeting on December 8, 2025.

f) 2026 OSPSB Meeting Dates

Chair Thomson presented the proposed 2026 meeting dates. One scheduling conflict was identified, and the February meeting will be rescheduled to February 18, 2026. The dates will be added the OSPSB website.

g) December Meeting Date

OSPSB December meeting date to remain on December 16th but to have a start time of 8:00 a.m.

h) OSPSB Minutes to Council

Member Merton inquired whether full open board packages were still required when submitting minutes to Council, noting that other boards typically provide only summarized minutes. Chair Thomson advised that the volume of statistical information presented each month could not be effectively condensed into a brief summary without losing essential context. It was agreed that the full open board package will continue to be provided to Council members and will remain available on the Board's website

18. Termination of the Public Meeting

Having completed all of the business items listed on the agenda Chair Thomson terminated the closed meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Next Meeting: December 16th, 2025

Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Chief Craig Ambrose
Owen Sound Police Services
922 2nd Ave W
Owen Sound, ON N4K 4M7

Dear Chief Ambrose and the OSPS Team

Re: Thank you – Owen Sound Police Service Tour

On behalf of the Georgian College Police Foundations Program and its students, I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation for the team effort that made our tour of your police service on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, such a success.

We especially appreciate the work that went into completing the first-year students' criminal record checks, at no cost to students or faculty, which enable us to experience the Corrections branch of the Canadian Criminal Justice System—a tour of Central North Correctional Facility—next week. This is a true example of Community Partnership in action. A special **Thank you to Jocelyn and Kim** for their work and flexibility with scheduling.

The warm welcome your team extended to our students and the clear, informative presentations made a lasting impression. I personally felt it was the best tour (of many) I've experienced in my years of visiting your facility.

Cst. Giles was welcoming and approachable, bringing many opportunities for learning during the tour. One student, Trinity, commented that: *"James...[was] teaching us from the perspective of an officer who works with the public...[his] main goal to keep us engaged and make us consider each are and job carefully and thoroughly."* It is no wonder they were so focussed for the duration of the tour.

The coordination among officers and staff was seamless, and students consistently commented on how well they connected with the speakers in each section. Here are just a few of their reflections

Adian: "...vast amount of resources...interesting they're converting to 100% paperless...really enjoyed what everyone had to say...officers showed me [there's] more to policing than just patrol...day to day working of the officers"

Felicity: "Didn't realize detectives write search warrants."

Ryan: "[The] Dispatch room very interesting and very loud...[interesting] how warrants can take 3-5 days to write."

Trinity: "Constable Gloade—his focus was on use of force and training. He spoke to us about the Barclay Room's use and also showed us how his fake/training taser operated."

Cassie: *"Dispatch area [was the] most interesting... (dispatching) for multiple places [was] really cool too."* Tyler added: *"amazing [how] they can manage 8 screens."*

Savannah: *"[they emphasized to] be respectful and [found it interesting] that it takes 2-3 months to become a dispatcher."*

Sara: *"Forensics really interesting and to see fingerprinting done by Jason. [The team] showed us how they work together, opportunities, and different sectors"*

Kohan: *"Coms room [was] just like in the movies... [and I liked forensics] because of all the stories she [Cory Fernando] told."*

Trinity: *"so interesting that we got to see what crystal meth and fentanyl look like in an evidence bag...many cool machines [in Forensics] ...cells particularly intriguing. Really cool...hygiene of the space...vibe shift as group instinctively grew quiet entering [cells]."*

Brayden: *"smaller police service=more personability"*

Venus: *"they were telling us to pursue our dreams...inspire our future."*

Abd: *"smaller service, many different opportunities within service"*

Carter: *"coordination with other services for efficiency."*

Please extend our sincere thanks to everyone involved in making this tour such a meaningful and inspiring experience for our first-year students of the Police Foundations Diploma Program. Your team's professionalism and generosity left a lasting impression - clearly, students were inspired!

Sincerely,



Catherine Wareham

Faculty, Police Foundations Program

Georgian College | 1450 8th Street East | Owen Sound ON | N4K 5R4

catherine.wareham@georgiancollege.ca

cc: Wendy Pratt, Human Resources

- Jocelyn Kazarian
- Cst. Giles
- Cst. Gloade
- Forensics Officer Fernando
- Jason Helm
- Kim Schwarting
- Dispatch Team
- Detective Curry
- Detective Martin
- Detective Bridgeman



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD

SUBJECT: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BRANCH AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT / CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT – OCTOBER 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: November 26th, 2025

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

INVESTIGATIONS

Homicides (July & August 2023) – Two of the three homicides from the summer of 2023 continue to require resources, although they are getting closer to completion. The court process for these cases, when scheduled, may create additional demands on staffing and resources.

UPDATES

HOMICIDE 3 – On October 20th, 2025 the three accused consented to their extradition. Logistical arrangements have begun for the offenders return to Canada to appear in court and face the charges.

Sexual Assault - (August 8th, 2025) – Members of CIB conducted a joint investigation with Bruce Grey Child & Family Services regarding two incidents of sexual assault by a 13-year-old young person on his 8-year-old half sister that occurred during the summer of 2025. The youth who was charged in the original case, was also determined to be a victim of previous sexual assault

UPDATE - A photo- lineup procedure was completed with a witness who positively identified the accused. An arrest warrant has been obtained and investigators are making attempts to locate and arrest the 43-year-old male offender. The man will be charged with sexual assault and sexual interference against the 13-year-old male victim.

Fire Investigation – On October 27, 2025, Emergency Services responded to a fire at Kelsey's Restaurant. A fire was extinguished by OSFD that caused a moderate amount of damage to the kitchen area. The Office of the Fire Marshal was contacted by OSFD for further investigation into the circumstances and cause of the fire. At this time, the cause of the fire has yet to be confirmed, and the Criminal Investigations Branch is working in conjunction with the Fire Marshal on the investigation.

ASSISTANCE TO UNIFORM PATROL

O.I.C duties – Cover platoon staffing for multiple shifts to permit in- service training

Arrest- Located and arrested an accused person on behalf of patrol member

Case Review- Intimate partner violence investigation

Search Warrants- Completed five Search Warrants to assist uniform with active criminal investigation.

MHCRT ACTIVITY

Officer Referrals/ Consultations = 1
Community Support Consultations/Referrals = 0
Incident Response/Support = 15
Proactive in Community Engagement (hours completed) = 1
STAR cases = 0

MEETINGS

Situation Table (STAR) Weekly Meetings
MARAM Monthly Meeting
Crown meeting, trial prep
Child Abuse Review Team Meeting

OTHER

Human Trafficking Awareness Town Hall
Assisted with police recruit interview

DRUG OVERDOSE INFORMATION

In October 2025 the city had no suspected drug related deaths.

To date, the Owen Sound has had (4) deaths from suspected drug overdoses.

Total drug overdose deaths in Owen Sound by year - 2024- 14
2023- 11
2022- 6
2021- 14
2020- 8

Missing Persons

No outstanding missing people.

SUBMITTED BY:

Insp. C. Matheson



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD

SUBJECT: **Auxiliary Board Report – October 2025**

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: November 26th, 2025

REPORT:

In October 2025, the Auxiliary Unit actively supported the Uniform Branch through ride-alongs, contributing a total of **238 volunteer hours**.

On October 20th, seven new Auxiliary Constables graduated from their eight-week training course. These members are eager to begin their volunteer roles and serve the residents of Owen Sound.

On October 30th, members of the unit participated in “Devil’s Night” patrols, assisting with proactive policing initiatives including crime prevention.

The Auxiliary Unit is currently in the planning stages of its annual food drive in support of the Owen Sound branch of the Salvation Army. Several food drives are scheduled to take place throughout November and December.

Members also look forward to continuing their involvement in community events, including the Remembrance Day Parade and the Santa Claus Parade in November.

OPERATIONS PLAN:

“Community Safety” and “Community Well-Being” are two of the four strategic priorities of the Owen Sound Police Service Board. Information in this Board report supports the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan’s goals: to address safety concerns identified by the community; to improve police visibility in the River District and at other priority areas and to build and foster relationships with community groups.

SUBMITTED BY: INSP C MATHESON



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD

SUBJECT: Community Oriented Response & Enforcement Unit – October 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: November 26th, 2025

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

FOOT PATROL (Hours)	15.5
BICYCLE PATROL (Hours)	
CRIMINAL CHARGES	
CDSA	
PROVINCIAL OFFENCES	1

- **PRIMARY FOOT/ BIKE PATROL**

The C.O.R.E. Unit conducted strategic foot patrol duties throughout October focusing on the River District as well as areas that are the subject of citizen and business owner concern as detailed below. These locations have been reported as areas of concern for loitering, drug use and mischief.

- **The River District** – General patrols conducted.
- **Safe 'n' Sound Shelter** – Ongoing monitoring and support provided.
- **Bank Vestibules** – Checks conducted to deter overnight sleeping and loitering.
- **Circle K** – Continued loitering issues observed.
- **Downtown Laundromat** – Regular patrols to address nuisance activity.
- **Owen Sound Transit Terminal** – Presence maintained for community safety.
- **Local Schools**- Visibility patrols conducted for student safety.
- **Lawson's store** – Loitering and suspected CDSA use in the rear parking area.
- **Fulford's store** – Individuals located sleeping under the front door overhangs.
- **Waller Optical** – Reports of attempted entry at the rear of the building and drug use.
- **King and Associates** – Individuals camping in the parking lot area.
- **Middlebro & Stevens** – Reports of individuals defecating in the parking lot and loitering.
- **Co-operators Insurance** – Ongoing concerns with individuals leaving garbage and causing property damage while waiting for methadone.
- **Runner's Den** – General patrols conducted; no major issues noted.
- **Coates and Best**– Individuals sitting on benches, leaving garbage, and engaging in disruptive behavior impacting customers.
- **Homeless Encampments** – Checked in coordination with MHCRT to ensure well-being.
- **Scenic Cycle**– Reports of CDSA use across the street from the business and one incident involving a female urinating on signage.

- **RESOURCE ASSISTANCE TO UNIFORM PLATOON**
 - Covered for Platoon 1 staffing shortages on the following dates;
 - October 10th -11th
 - Covered Platoon staffing shortages to allow for Niche training on the following days;
 - October 21st – 28th
 - Traffic Direction and Control duties to assist during an MVC investigation October 16th.
- **OTHER DUTIES**
 - Attended Hillcrest elementary school for the Special Olympics event
 - Provided a station tour for the Georgian College Police Foundations students
- **NOTEABLE INVESTIGATIONS**
 - False fire alarm at the Owen Sound library, resulted in a trespass notice being served on behalf of the staff at the library.

SUBMITTED BY: INSP. C. MATHESON



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD

SUBJECT: Bail Compliance and Warrant Apprehension Unit – October 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: November 26th 2025

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

FOOT PATROL (Hours)	2
BICYCLE PATROL (Hours)	0
CRIMINAL CHARGES	5
WARRANT ARRESTS	6
PROVINCIAL OFFENCES	0
COMPLIANCE CHECKS	10

- **COMPLIANCE CHECKS**
 - B.C.W.A. conducted compliance checks on 10 known criminal and sexual offenders that are on release conditions and reporting obligations.
- **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**
 - B.C.W.A. provided investigative assistance by drafting and obtaining a total of six search warrants during the month of October.
- **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**
 - BCWA conducted foot patrols in the river district to increase visibility and attempt to locate persons wanted on warrants and monitor persons on court- imposed conditions of release.
- **ASSIST UNIFORM PLATOONS**
 - BCWA is assigned to the Criminal Investigations Branch.
 - BCWA assisted uniform patrol by working several shifts as a patrol acting supervisor.

OPERATIONS PLAN:

- BCWA is temporarily assigned to uniform patrol and the Criminal Investigations Branch to accommodate for resources.

ATTACHMENT(S):

N/A

SUBMITTED BY:

Insp. C. Matheson



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD

SUBJECT: Front Line Patrol Report and Collision Statistics – October 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: November 26, 2025

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

The following report highlights key metrics from OSPS Front Line Patrol, the RIDE program, and Collision Statistics for October 2025.

Front Line Patrol Report:

	Platoon #1-4		Traffic/Part Time Officers	
	October 2025	October 2024	October 2025	October 2024
Highway Traffic Act:	70	75	6	32
Compliance Reports:	6	3		
Recorded Cautions:	16	53	32	34
Liquor Licence and Control Act:	3	8		
Criminal Code/ CDSA:	210	109	2	0
Other POA/By-Law:	12	27	1	3
Foot Patrol:	53.5	76	23	35
Warrants Executed:	45	36	3	2
Court Security Hours			216.5	0

Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE):

There were a total of **eight** on-duty RIDE checks in the month of October with 199 drivers checked.

The total statistics for RIDE were:

- 23 officers
- 8 hours
- 199 drivers checked
- 0 roadside breath tests

There was a total of **four** impaired drivers charged during the month of October.

Collision Statistics:

Oct 2025 Sep 2025 Oct 2024

Total Collisions:	43	52	49
Collisions - East side	19	27	27
Collisions - West side	4	10	9
Collisions - parking lots	20	15	13
Fail to Remain Collisions	12	8	4
Collisions referred to CRC:	20	29	23
Collisions investigated by OSPS:	23	17	26

OPERATIONS PLAN:

“Community Safety” is one of the four strategic priorities of the Owen Sound Police Service Board. Information in this Board report supports the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan’s goals: to address safety concerns identified by the community; to improve police visibility in the River District and at other priority areas; to address controlled substances, firearms, and violent crime; and, to promote road safety.

SUBMITTED BY:

Insp. C MATHESON

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD



SUBJECT: **Community Services**

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: October, 2025

RECOMMENDATION(S)

For Information purposes

REPORT: COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER #569

The following report highlights key engagements of the Community Services Officer in October, 2025

Traditional Corporate and Social Media for OSPS (Community Outreach Education/Celebrations/Awareness/Media Releases)

- Retiring Dispatcher, Take Picture Missing Persons, #OperationImpact, Thanksgiving, Lock Up Property, River District Halloween, Wiarton Willy Went AWOL, Citizens Police Academy, Halloween Safety, Foot Patrol in the River District

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & COMMITTEE WORK

CSO was off the first 2.5 weeks of October (surgery) & modified duties/shortened days rest of October

- Wheel & Ride Meeting- Community Partnership start up meeting for 2026 event with Kiwanis, Optimist & River District
- LEAPPS- Provincial meeting- OSPS Member
- VTRA planning meetings- Planning Committee

Community & School Presentations/Training

- No presentations or training in October due to absence from work followed by modified duties.

OPERATIONS PLAN

“Community Wellbeing” is one of the four strategic priorities of the Owen Sound Police Services Board. The work of the Community Services Officer is instrumental in progressing the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan’s goal to build and foster relationships with community groups, specifically the following actions: by educating OSPS members and the community on OSPS partnerships; by focusing on preventative youth programming in cooperation with school board and community groups; and, by fostering and building relationships with diverse groups within the community.

ATTACHMENT(S):



(Pictures L-R Halloween in the River District & CSO vehicle out on Halloween Night)

SUBMITTED BY:

Jason Cranny, Community Services Officer #569



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD

SUBJECT: Lost Hours – October 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: November 2, 2025

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

The following report highlights key metrics from OSPS full time members for October 2025, including lost hours due to leave from sick time, short term disability (STD), and Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB).

Lost Hours:

Month/Year	SICK/STD			WSIB		
	Number of Fulltime Members	Total Number of Shifts (complete and partial)	Total Number of Hours	Number of Fulltime Members	Total Number of Shifts (complete and partial)	Total Number of Hours
September 2025	9	24	288	0	0	0
October 2025	9	51	276.5	0	0	0
October 2024	16	45	484 (-42.9%)	2	46	368 (-100%)
YTD 2024	38	299	2999	2	432	3456
YTD 2025	39	276	2786 (-7.2%)	2	218	1744 (-49%)

The total number of YTD sick/STD lost hours in October 2025 compared to October 2024 saw a 7.2% improvement. The reduction in hours is attributed to two members who were off on medical leaves returning to work on modified duties.

The total number of sick/STD lost hours in October 2025 compared to October 2024 saw a 42.9% improvement.

The total number of YTD WSIB lost hours for October 2025 compared to October 2024 saw a 49% improvement.

The total number of WSIB lost hours for October 2025 compared to October 2024 saw a 100% improvement.

WSIB Update:

We have one WSIB case involving a full-time member pending final resolution.

We had one WSIB claim involving a part-time member resolved with the member returning to full duties.

Other Personal Injuries:

We have two part-time staff off on medical leave relating to personal injuries. One member is returning to work in November the other member has no return-to-work date.

FINANCIAL/RISK IMPLICATION(S):

The loss of scheduled work hours is a potential financial risk and is monitored to ensure a balance with members' physical and mental wellbeing. Financial resources are required to provide ongoing member training, which is an essential to updating qualifications, knowledge, and ultimately organizational risk mitigation.

OPERATIONS PLAN:

"Our Members" is one of the four strategic priorities of the Owen Sound Police Service Board. Information in this Board report supports the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan's goals: to promote members' mental and physical wellbeing; and, to promote professional development and training opportunities for all members.

SUBMITTED BY:

Wendy Pratt, Human Resources Manager



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD

SUBJECT: Training – October 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: November 26, 2025

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

The following report highlights Training for Owen Sound Police Service members for October 2025.

Training:

Members attended the following courses:

- Crimes Against Women Conference– 1 Officer
- Major Case Management– 1 Officer
- Niche UA (new version)- Many sworn officers
- Child Passenger Safety Technician – 1 Auxiliary Member
- Incident Management System 200 (IMS200)- 2 Officers
- Canadian Criminal Intelligence System – 1 Officer

FINANCIAL/RISK IMPLICATION(S):

The loss of scheduled work hours is a potential financial risk and is monitored to ensure a balance with members' physical and mental wellbeing. Financial resources are required to provide ongoing member training which is an essential to updating qualifications, knowledge, and ultimately organizational risk mitigation.

OPERATIONS PLAN:

"Our Members" is one of the four strategic priorities of the Owen Sound Police Service Board. Information in this Board report supports the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan's goals: to promote members' mental and physical wellbeing; and, to promote professional development and training opportunities for all members.

SUBMITTED BY:

Insp. C. MATHESON

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD

SUBJECT: Records, Courts, and Bylaw Report – October 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: November 26, 2025



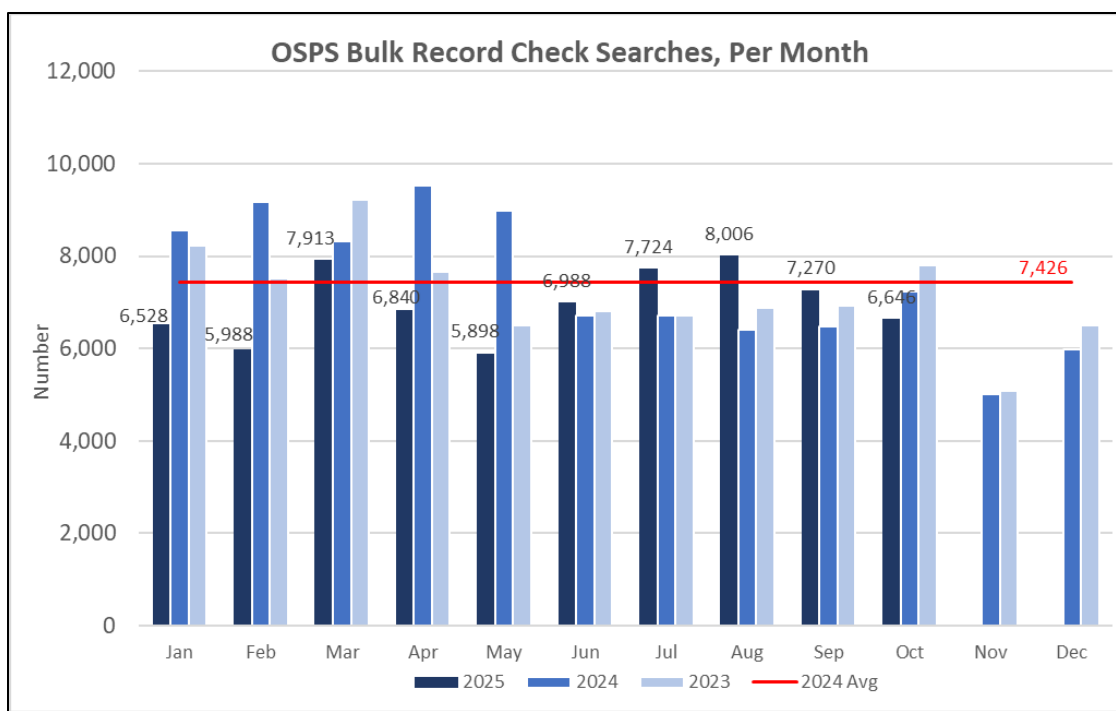
RECOMMENDATION(S):

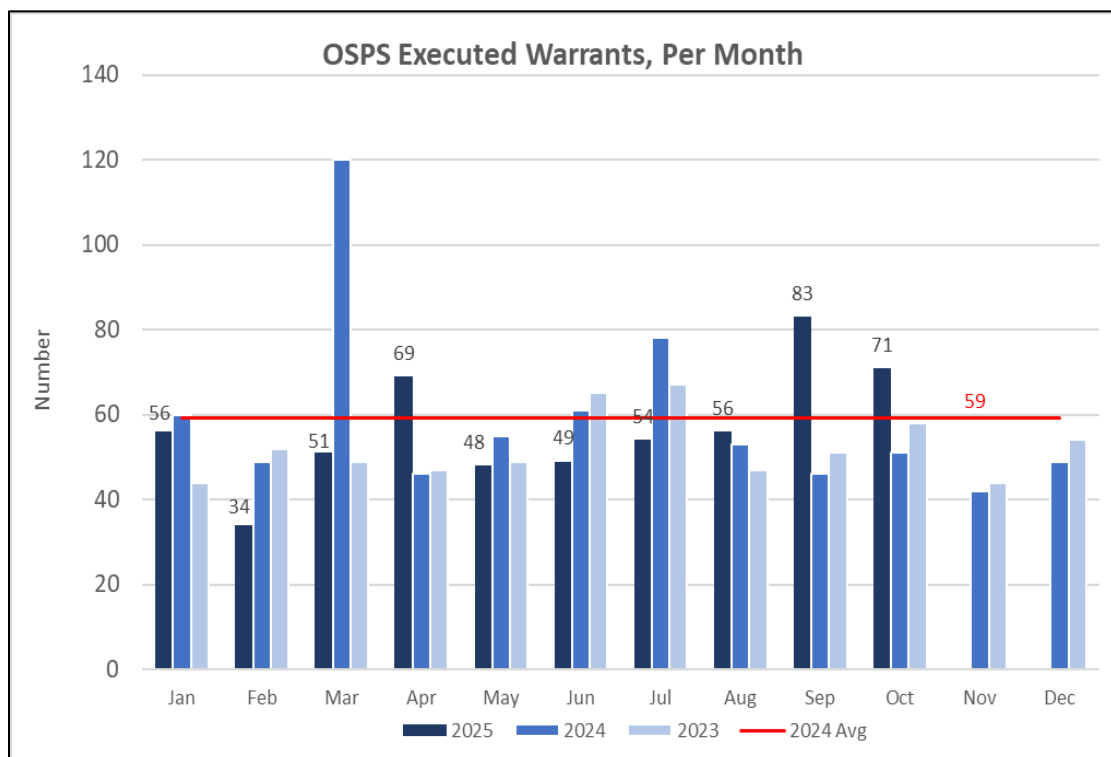
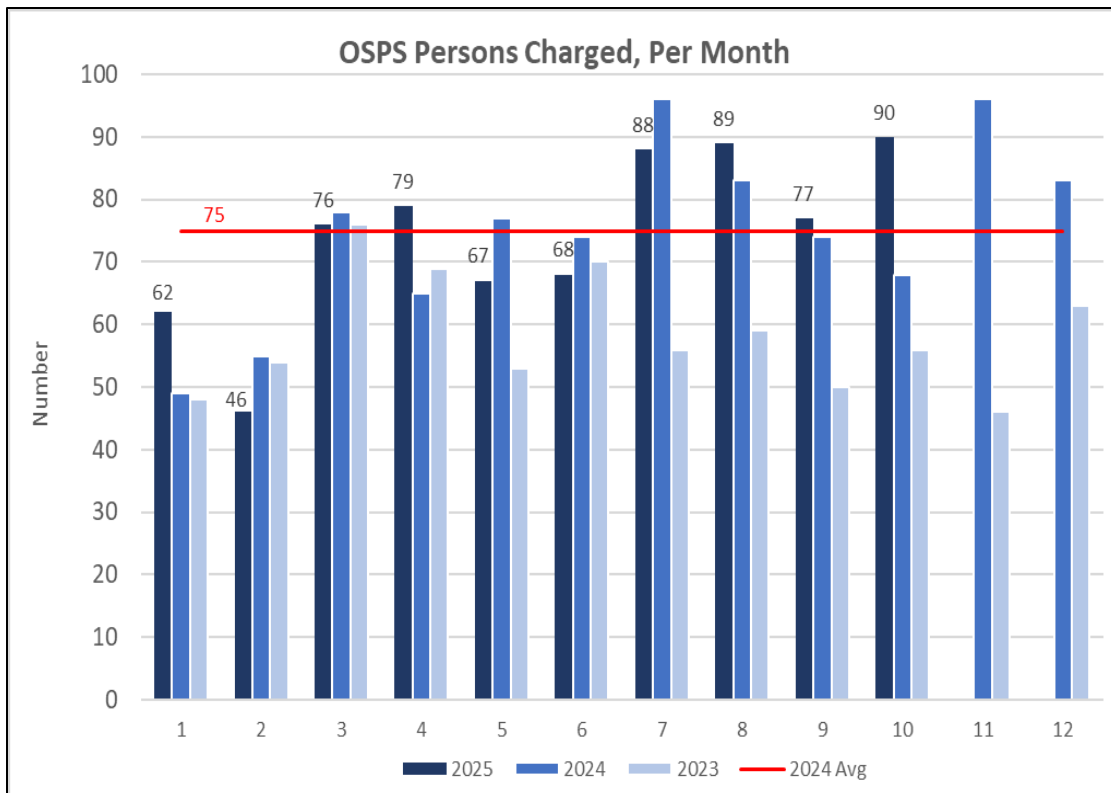
For Information

Report:

Records – October 2025:

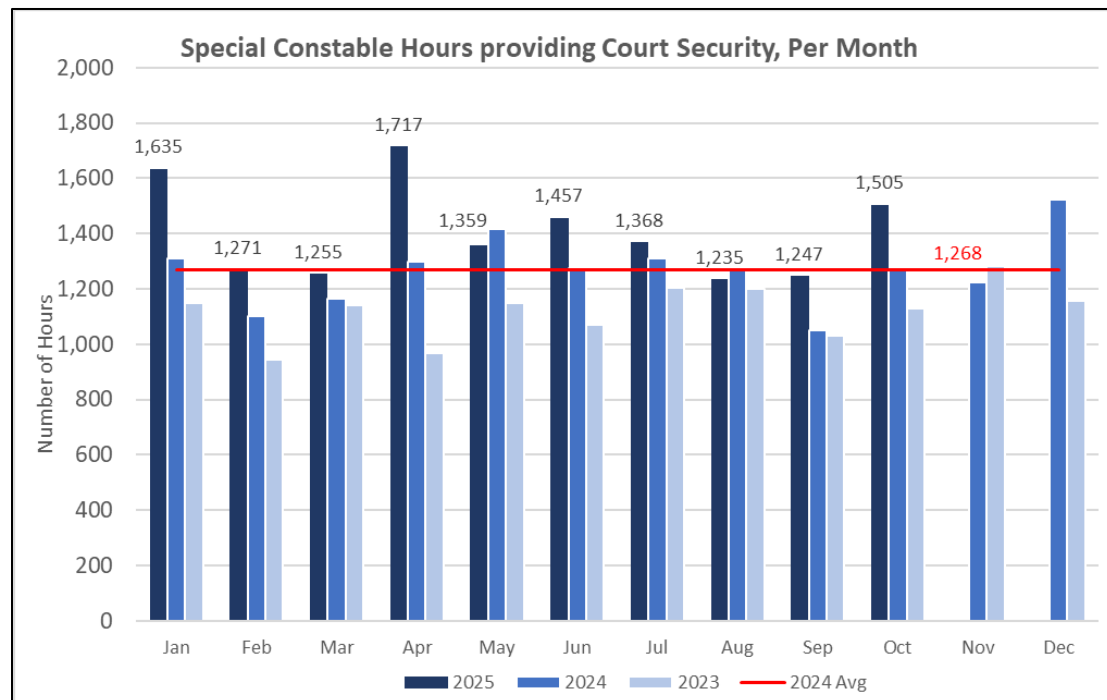
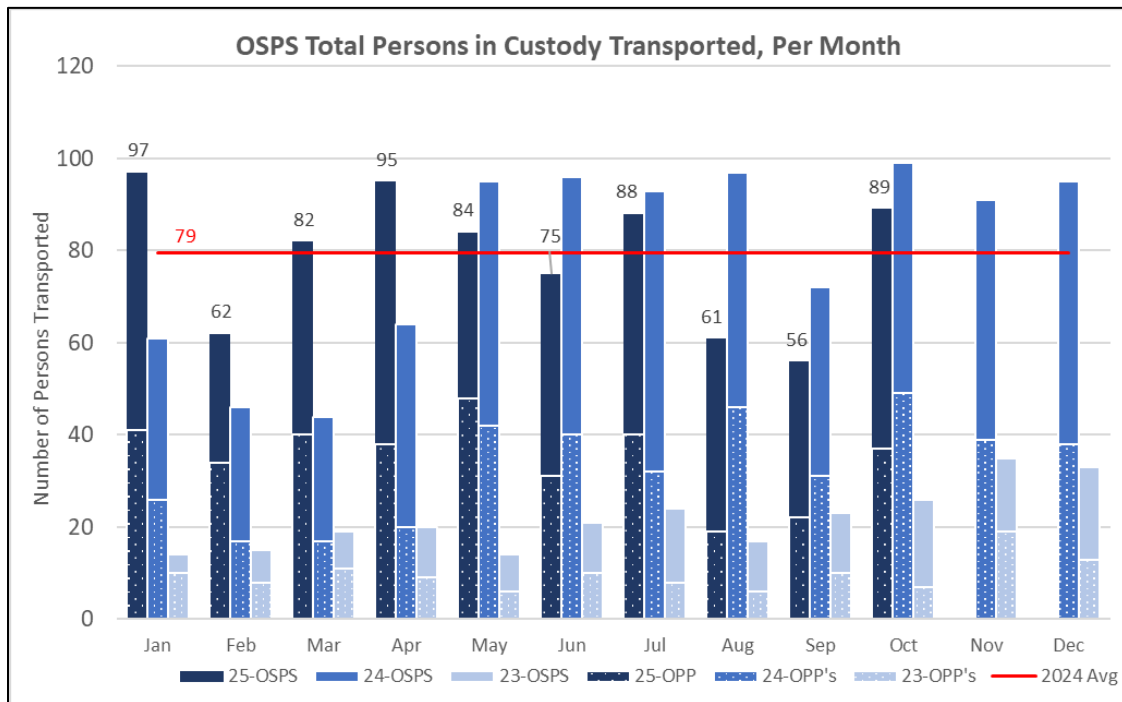
Records Operational Statistics							
	This Month	Previous Month		Same Month	2025	2024	
	OCTOBER 2025	September 2025	% Change	Previous Year	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	YTD
				October 2024	Jan.1-Oct.31, 2025	Jan.1-Oct.31, 2024	% Change
Records Services							
Bulk Record Check Searches	6,646	7,270	-8.6%	7,237	69,801	78,109	-10.6%
Executed Warrants	71	83	-14.5%	51	571	619	-7.8%
Persons Charged*	90	77	16.9%	68	742	719	3.2%





Courts – October 2025:

	This Month	Previous Month	Same Month	2025	2024	
	OCTOBER 2025	September 2025	Previous Year	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	YTD
		% Change	October 2024	Jan.1-Oct.31, 2025	Jan.1-Oct.31, 2024	% Change
Court Services						
Total Custodies Transported	89	56	99	789	767	2.9%
OPP	37	22	49	350	320	9.4%
OSPS	52	34	50	439	447	-1.8%
Video/Appearances	39	32	29	329	501	-34.3%
Special Constable Hours	1505	1,247	1,272	14,047	12,474	12.6%



Owen Sound Police Service now provides an armed officer at both the Ontario/Superior Court of Justice Courthouse and the Provincial Offences Court while courts are in session. This resulted in 7 armed officers scheduled per week to provide court security for the month of October totaling approximately 216.50 (+11.6% from September) hours for those officers. These hours are in addition to the 1505 (+20.7% from September) hours worked by the Special Constables for the month.

The increased number of work hours for Special Constable was a result of the number of Superior Court in-custody trial matters heard with one of those being a Walkerton Court in-custody matter. The Walkerton matter has been scheduled for several weeks at the Owen Sound Courthouse.

Bylaw – October 2025:

Nothing to report.

Financial/Risk Implication(s):

Providing court security and transporting persons in custody comes with inherent risk, while the efficient and accurate processing of judicial documentation is foundational to community safety.

OPERATIONS PLAN:

The administrative services within Records, Courts, and Bylaw are essential components of the OSPS Mission to deliver high quality policing services that strengthen public safety and community wellbeing. Community Safety and Sustainability are two of the four strategic priorities of the Owen Sound Police Services Board. As part of the Operational Plan, Court security costs will be assessed and reviewed annually to advocate for a sustainable police funding model.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Nil

SUBMITTED BY:

Krista Fluney, Director, Civilian Services

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD



SUBJECT: Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre (OSECC) -
October 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

DATE: November 26, 2025

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

Report:

911 Calls – October 2025:

Source: Bell Flex reports	This Month OCTOBER 2025	Previous Month September 2025	% Change	Same Month Previous Year October 2024	2025 Year-to-Date Jan.1-Oct.31, 2025	2024 Year-to-Date Jan.1-Oct.31, 2024	YTD % Change
All Incoming 911 Calls (Number)	5,688	5,882	-3.3%	5,601	59,737	56,880	5.0%
Avg Daily Rate	183.5	196.1	-6.4%	180.7	196.5	186.5	5.4%
No Answer 911 Calls (Number)	409	437	-6.4%	509	4,957	5,059	-2.0%
Answered 911 Calls (Number)	5,279	5,445	-3.0%	5,092	54,780	51,821	5.7%
Avg Daily Rate	170.3	181.5	-6.2%	164.3	180.2	169.9	6.1%
Transferred to Secondary PSAP (Number)	3,856	3,853	0.1%	3,598	39,485	37,046	6.6%
Dispatched by OSECC (Number)	1,423	1,592	-10.6%	1,494	15,295	14,775	3.5%
Avg Daily Rate	45.9	53.1	-13.6%	48.2	50.3	48.4	3.9%

The OSECC operates as both a primary and secondary PSAP. Approximately 70% of answered 911 calls are transferred to another PSAP, while Communicators in the OSECC dispatch about 30% of 911 calls to OSPs, five other police agencies, more than 50 fire stations, and Grey County Transportation.

According to the Bell 911 Flex portal data, there were 5688 incoming 911 calls to the OSECC in October, representing a 3% decline in the daily rate since last month. This decline in volume is anticipated as the summer season ends and is on par with last October (Figure 1). The average daily rate of 911 calls dispatched by the OSECC (Figure 2) is also down in October, from its peak levels in June, July, and August and from the previous month, with the average dispatch rate of 911 calls at 45.9/day in October, compared to 53.1 in September.

So far in 2025, compared to this same time in 2024, there are year-to-date increases in 911 call volume in all streams, except the non-answerable 9-1-1 calls. The rate of incoming 911 calls is up (5.4%), rate of answered 911 calls up by 6.1%, transferred calls up 6.6%, and rate of dispatched 911 calls up by 3.9%.

FIG 1: OSECC Average Daily 911 Incoming Call Rate Per Month (911 Calls + No Answers)

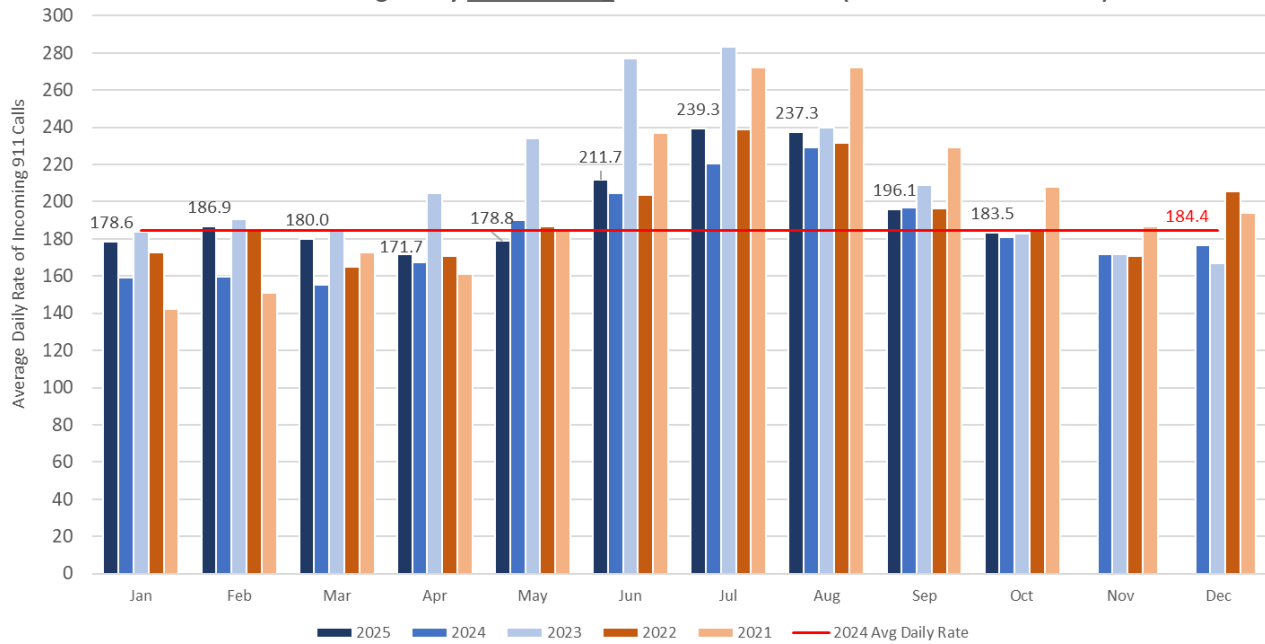
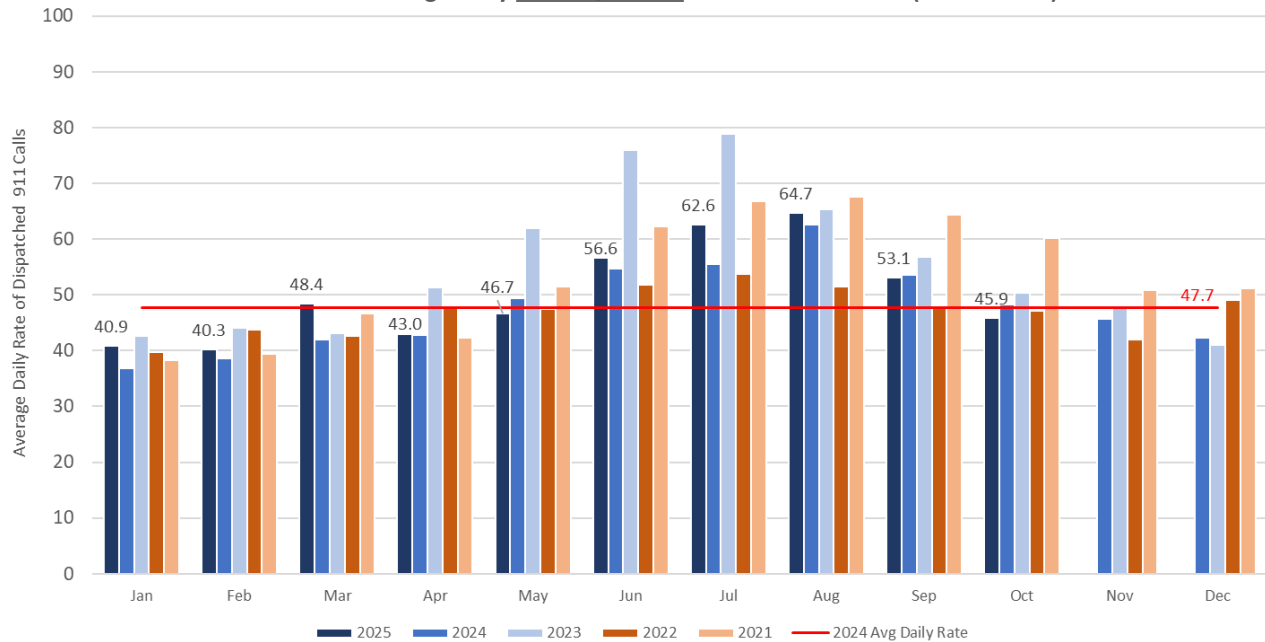


FIG 2: OSECC Average Daily 911 Dispatched Call Rate Per Month (OSECC PSAP)



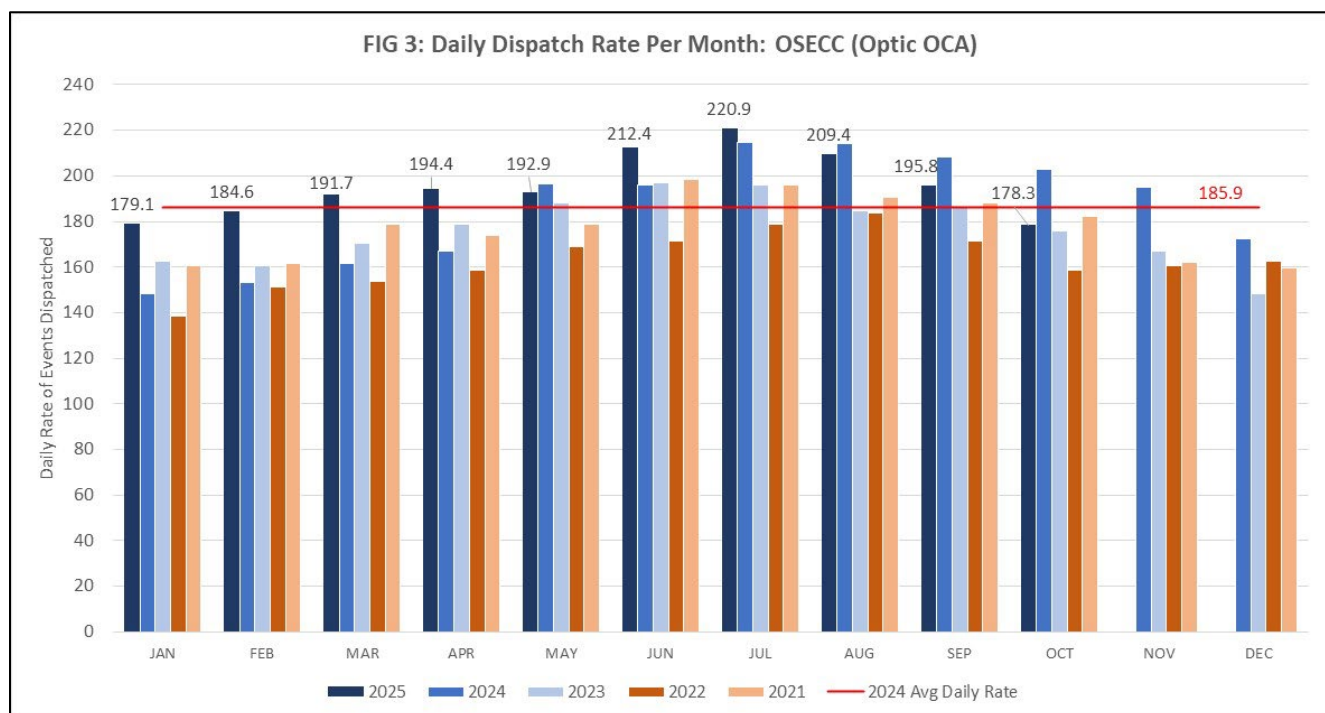
Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Events – October 2025:

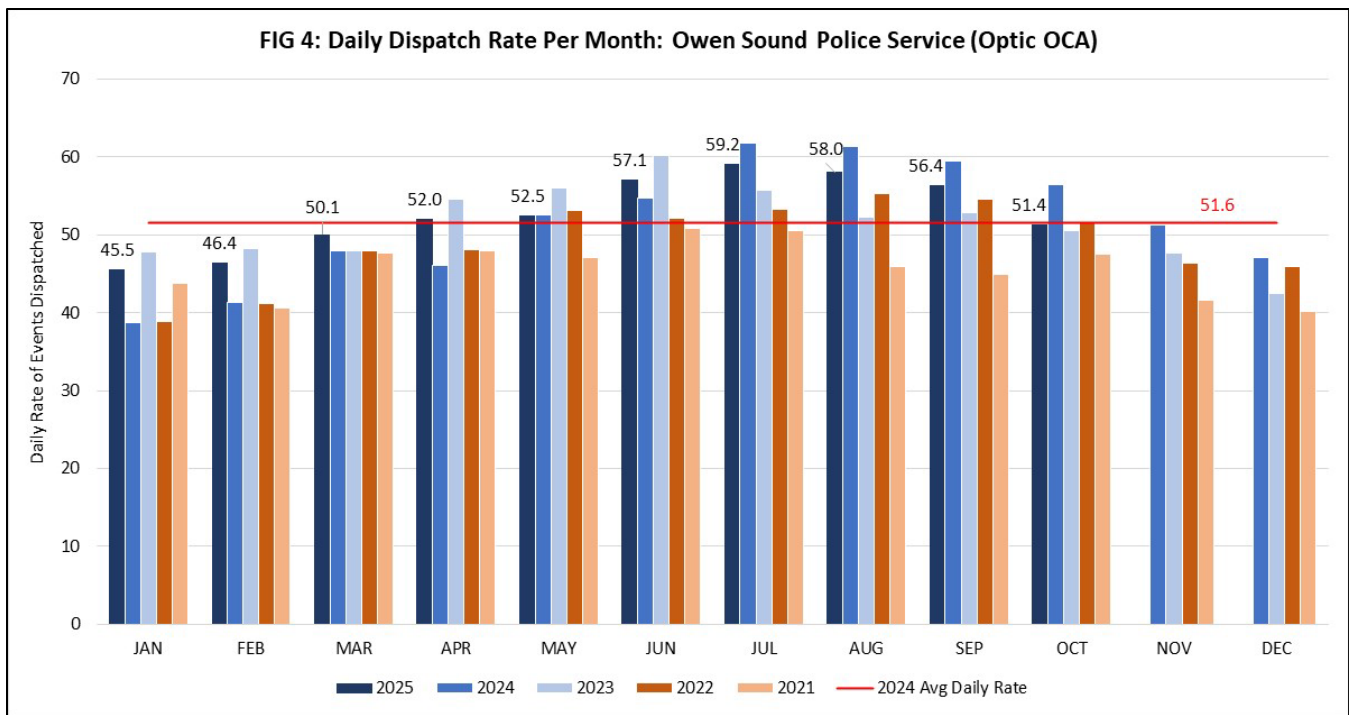
Source: OPTIC's OnCallAnalytics	This Month OCTOBER 2025	Previous Month September 2025	% Change	Same Month Previous Year October 2024	2025 Year-to-Date Jan.1-Oct.31, 2025	2024 Year-to-Date Jan.1-Oct.31, 2024	YTD % Change
All CAD Events in OSECC (Number)	5,527	5,875	-5.9%	6,289	59,590	56,886	4.8%
All Police (inc. OSPS)*	5,046	5,343	-5.6%	5,651	53,193	51,060	4.2%
All Fire	430	520	-17.3%	628	5,284	5,093	3.8%
Grey County Transport	51	12	325.0%	10	1,113	713	56.1%
OSPS	1,593	1,691	-5.8%	1,751	16,080	15,889	1.2%
All CAD Events in OSECC (Avg Daily Rate)	178.3	195.8	-8.9%	202.9	196.0	186.5	5.1%
All Police (inc. OSPS)*	162.8	178.1	-8.6%	182.3	175.0	167.4	4.5%
All Fire	13.9	17.3	-19.7%	20.3	17.4	16.7	4.1%
Grey County Transport	1.6	0.4	300.0%	0.3	3.7	2.3	59.1%
OSPS	51.4	56.4	-8.9%	56.5	52.9	52.1	1.5%

Calls that are dispatched through CAD come from a variety of sources such as the non-emergency (administrative) phone lines, walk-ins, officer generated, as well as the 911 emergency phone line.

According to CAD data captured in Optic's OnCallAnalytics platform, the average daily dispatch rate for all services dispatched by the OSECC in October dropped to 178 calls/day from its summer peak of 221 calls/day in July (Figure 3). This decline is expected with the change in seasons and is also reflected in the decline in calls dispatched for OSPS (Figure 4).

Year-to-date at the end of October 2025, compared to this same time in 2024, the OSECC is recording a 5% increase in the average daily dispatch rate. The year-to-date average daily OSECC dispatch rate in 2025 is now at 196 events/day compared to 186.5/day last year. Owen Sound Police Service's year-to-date average daily dispatch rate is up by 1.5%.





Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure – October 2025:

In October, the IT department completed both its primary and secondary site certifications for Next Generation 911 (NG911). This was completed by daily tests of two members for the entire month. Our organization can now meet its target of migrating to NG011 before the end of the year. Removing legacy systems support will follow upon migration. Substantial work still exists both for OSECC as well as our hosted platform for other agencies. Items include ongoing cyber security enhancements, analytics and documentation. This project will continue to be a major IT initiative for the next 12 months before it evolves to a lower priority of maintenance.

A communications refresh project was completed with radio vendors and the police services of Port Hope and Cobourg for lifecycle of equipment.

Additional radio infrastructure (repeaters) were installed at Brightshores Hospital to address communications connectivity issues in the emergency department for officers.

Training in Project Management was completed by the IT Director.

Financial/Risk Implication(s):

Risk management and contingency planning are integral to the day-to-day operations of a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). While the OSECC continues to grow and evolve, OSPS strives to maintain a balance of staffing that best aligns with workload demands, member wellness, emergency response standards, and contracted client expectations.

OPERATIONS PLAN:

Within the 2023-2026 OSPS Operations Plan, six unique actions have been identified as important to reach towards the goal of fostering a sustainable emergency communication centre. In addition, monitoring and publishing emergency response times to priority calls is part of the goal to address safety concerns identified by the community. Also, under the strategic priority of sustainability, developing a long-term IT plan that anticipates future IT priorities and demands is an important part of the goal to promote and plan for long-term succession.

SUBMITTED BY:

Suzanne Bell-Matheson, Director, Corporate Services

Chris Hill, Director, Information Technology
Marg Gloade, Strategic Analyst

REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE BOARD



SUBJECT: Human Resources – October 2025
TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Services Board
DATE: November 2, 2025

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For Information

REPORT:

Recruitment:

Conducted several first stage interviews for Recruit Constable vacancy, unfortunately none of the candidates were suitable to move to the next step of the process. We will be sponsoring an Indeed advertisement this month to recruit for the March intake.

The Service hosted a booth at the Community Open House at the Bayshore on the 20th however there was limited attendance from the general public.

Conducted interviews for four YIPI student positions took place. The students work after school from November through March averaging about 4 hours per week.

Staffing Overview:

The following are the staffing changes that have taken place during this reporting period.

- **Hires**
 - Calli MacArthur, PT Social Media/Communications Consultant (outside contractor)
 - She has a background in Journalism, Social Media and website.
- **Transfers/Promotions**
 - Dreyka Tkach, PT Dispatcher to FT Dispatcher
- **Retirements/Resignations**
 - N/A

Other Projects

Examining functionality of Cloud OSL administrative software to assist with onboarding, time and attendance, training and quartermaster. Several areas participating in vendor demonstrations over the next 2 weeks.

With the implementation of Microsoft 365 Human Resources is working with other departments across the organization to develop the architecture for storing and accessing data in a centralized location.

Time has been spent on a course that will inform how we want to structure our data across the Service and the project team will be working together over the coming months to migrate our information from our current server storage to the cloud.

FINANCIAL/RISK IMPLICATION(S):

Salaries and benefits of personnel are more than 90% of the police service's operating budget. People are the foundation of our service. Human resource management helps reduce and prevent risk with proper training, health and safety measures, attention to staff wellness, and appropriate staffing levels.

OPERATIONS PLAN:

"Our Members" is one of the Board's four Strategic Priorities in the 2023-2026 Operations Plan. The scope of Human Resources embraces many of the Plan's goals, such as: promoting members' mental and physical wellbeing; promoting professional development and training opportunities for all members; and promoting and planning for long term succession.

SUBMITTED BY:

Wendy Pratt, Human Resources Manager



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICES BOARD

SUBJECT: Chiefs Activity Report – September 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Services Board

DATE: November 20, 2025

-
- Days Off/Annual Leave – 3 days
 - Swearing In for Insp. Doherty, Insp. Matheson, Cst. Singh & Cst. Kinal – 3 hours
 - OACP Zone 5 Executive Meeting – 1 hour
 - OSECC Issues and Meeting – 16 hours
 - Grant Writing and Discussions – 7 hours
 - OACP/Solicitor General Meeting– 1 hour
 - Grey Bruce Police Leaders – 3 hours
 - Safe and Sound Outreach Speaker Series – 2 hours
 - OACP March Past Constable Kinal and Singh – 1 day
 - OACP Small and Mid Sized Chiefs Meeting, London – 2 days
 - Budget 2026 Prep and Meetings – 7 hours
 - Hiring Interviews – 3 hours
 - Court Management Meeting – 1 hour
 - Emergency Management Powering Preparedness Hydro One, Sydenham Campus – 1 day

SUBMITTED BY:

Craig Ambrose, Chief of Police



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICES BOARD

SUBJECT: Chiefs Activity Report – October 2025

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Services Board

DATE: November 20, 2025

-
- Days Off/Annual Leave – 7 days
 - Grant Writing and Discussions – 3 hours
 - OACP Zone 5 Executive Meeting – 1 hour
 - OSECC Issues and Meeting – 11 hours
 - City Meetings– 6 hours
 - Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee – 2 hours
 - HMCS Margaet Brooke Tour & Sailing – 1 day
 - OACP Zone 5 Meeting, Guelph – 7 hours
 - Budget 2026 Prep & Meetings – 4 hours
 - Community Safety and Wellbeing Planning – 2 hours
 - 4th Annual Rural Response to Femicide Prevention Forum, Clinton – 1 day
 - Court Security Meeting – 1 hour
 - Staff Appreciation Event, Heartwood – 4 hours

SUBMITTED BY:

Craig Ambrose, Chief of Police



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICES BOARD

SUBJECT: CSPA Aggregate Disciplinary Report

TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Services Board

DATE: November 27th, 2025

REPORT:

The Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA) which came into effect on April 1st, 2024, contains new requirements at Section 215(1) which states that;

A chief of police shall report, in accordance with the regulations, to the police service board or, in the case of the Commissioner, to the Minister regarding the aggregate disciplinary measures the chief has taken under this Part.

Regulation 90/24 of the CSPA then states at Section 9(1);

A chief of police shall, at a minimum, provide a report to the police service board or the Minister under subsection 215 (1) of the Act by June 1 and December 1 of every year.

The report shall contain the following information respecting the period covered by the report:

- 1. Each provision of Ontario Regulation 407/23 (Code of Conduct for Police Officers) made under the Act under which a disciplinary measure was imposed, which type of measure was imposed, and the number of times that each type of measure was imposed in relation to the provision.*
- 2. The number of times a disciplinary measure was imposed,*
 - i. under section 200 of the Act, without a hearing under section 201 of the Act,*
 - ii. under section 200 of the Act, following a hearing under section 201 of the Act, or*
 - iii. following a hearing under section 202 of the Act.*
- 3. If a disciplinary measure referred to in paragraph 1, 2 or 3 of subsection 200 (1) of the Act was imposed, for each paragraph,*
 - i. the average number of days or hours, and*
 - ii. the total number of days or hours.*
- 4. Any imposition of a disciplinary measure under section 200 of the Act without a hearing under section 201 of the Act in a previous period that was upheld, varied or overturned following a hearing during the*

period covered by the report, and information respecting any consequent effect on information included in a previous report.

(3) If the police service is divided into detachments or other sub-units, the information listed in subsection (2) shall be presented separately with respect to each detachment or sub-unit.

(4) The police service board or Minister shall publish each report on the Internet within 30 days of receiving it.

This report will cover the time period from June 1st, 2025 through November 27th, 2025.

During this time period, the Chief of Police imposed a disciplinary measure requiring a report under this section on one occasion.

A police officer with the Owen Sound Police Service was found to have committed a misconduct under Section 12(1) of Ontario Regulation 407/23 of the Community Safety and Policing Act, Code of Conduct for Police Officers as follows;

- A police officer shall not, in the course of their duties, use abusive language with any person or otherwise treat any person in a manner that is abusive.

A disciplinary measure of eight (8) hours forfeiture of time off was imposed by the Chief pursuant to Section 200(1) of the CSPA and agreed to by the officer to resolve the matter on September 19th, 2025.

In compliance with Section 9(4) of Regulation 90/24 it is recommended that the Board, on approval, publish this report to the Service's website within 30 days of receipt.

SUBMITTED BY:

Deputy Chief D. Bishop



REPORT TO THE OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICES BOARD

SUBJECT: CITIZENS ON PATROL (COP) UNIT
TO: Chair and Members of the Owen Sound Police Services Board
DATE: November 27th, 2025

RECOMMENDATION(S):

For decision.

REPORT:

The Citizens on Patrol Unit has existed as a volunteer group with the Owen Sound Police for more than 30 years.

With recent changes to the legislative requirements for police services under the new Community Safety and Policing Act, as well as consideration given for various training requirements, and potential liability risk exposure under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board and our insurance carriers, the Service has had to reevaluate the program with an eye to whether continuation of the program can remain viable.

A number of similar programs which had been operating in other jurisdictions such as Saugeen Shores have been recently shut down, and only a couple remain in larger Services where budget allocations allow for expenditures for training, uniforms and a Service supplied vehicle to alleviate some of the risk exposure.

In a meeting with the local COP Unit organizer held on October 31st, the various challenges were outlined along with the rationale of the Service to seek to divest itself from the Unit. An alternative was offered which entailed the Service supporting the Unit with approaching the River District Board of Management to determine whether they would consider maintaining the Unit as an entity of their organization, particularly considering that the Board of Management has been the sole funder of the Unit for the last number of years.

At a meeting of the COP Unit membership on December 17th, the membership voted unanimously to retire the Unit rather than to seek out changes to their structure.

As a result, the Unit has been retired effective December 18th, 2025 and is no longer a volunteer entity of the Owen Sound Police Service. Formal recognition of the volunteers will be provided at a final meeting to be held on December 8th, 2025.

SUBMITTED BY:

D. Bishop
Deputy Chief of Police

2026 OSPSB Meeting Dates

- January 28,2026
- February 24,2026
- March 25, 2026
- April 22,2026
- May 27, 2026
- June 24,2026
- September 23,2026
- October 28,2026
- November 25,2026
- December 16,2026

City Hall Illumination/Lighting Request Form

For full policy details outlining City Hall Illumination requests please [see the Flag Flying Proclamations and Public Awareness Campaigns policy here](#) (City Hall Illumination starts on page 7).

Name of Requesting Organization *

Blue Sea Foundation in Partnership with Safe 'N Sound Grey Bruce

Contact Information

Name *

Danielle Ringer

Email Address *

partners@blueseas.org

Home/Cell Phone Number *

[REDACTED]

Work Phone Number

Please enter your work phone number

City Hall Lighting Date(s)

Illumination requests will be granted for a maximum duration of seven (7) days unless there are no conflicting requests in which case the duration may extend to a maximum duration of fourteen (14) days, at the discretion of the City Manager.

Requests will be considered on a first come, first served basis, based on the date the request is received by the City Manager's office; requests should be made at least two (2) weeks in advance of the desired lighting date.

Please note that the changing of City Hall lights will take place on regular business days.

Starting Date of Illumination: *

2/28/2026



End Date of Illumination: *

2/28/2026



Requested Light Colours

At this time, the only colour options available are: Green, Blue, Red, White, and Pink/Purple.

No other colours are available at this time.

Please select the colour of your illumination request: *

- ☐ Green
- ☒ Blue
- ☐ Red
- ☐ White
- ☐ Pink/Purple

Details/Purpose of the illumination event: *

<https://cnoy.org/location/owensound>

The Coldest Night of the Year is a winterrific family-friendly 2 or 5 km fundraising walk in support of local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. Each year in February, tens of thousands of Canadians step outside the warmth and comfort of home to shine a light of welcome and compassion in their communities. Since 2011, the Coldest Night of the Year has raised over \$75,000,000 across Canada in 190 Canadian communities – 100% of net proceeds stay local to support our CNOY charity partners.

Safe 'N Sound is a community within a community where our Participants (people at risk of homelessness or who are currently homeless) can access basic needs as well as support, advocacy, and referral. Upon arrival, participants are warmly greeted by friends and understanding staff. Accessing our services is as simple as entering, grabbing a coffee, and settling in. No proof of eligibility is required; everyone is welcome as they are. All services are FREE!

We tailor our programming to meet individual needs, offering a range of essentials such as food, clothing, showers, laundry, hygiene products, and more. This inclusive approach attracts regular visitors who may not otherwise seek support, leading to opportunities for crisis counseling, housing assistance, and referrals to specialized programs. By fostering trust and rapport, we empower participants to access additional services when they're ready.

Join us on Saturday, February 28th, 2026 for the Coldest Night of the Year as we raise vital support for those in need right here in our community.

Description of your organization including a brief history and any other relevant information: *

<https://www.blueseas.org/>

Blue Sea Foundation specializes in Peer-to-peer fundraising—or P2P for short—a style of fundraising where individuals raise money on behalf of a cause they care about by leveraging their personal networks. Supporters create their own fundraising pages, then share them with friends, family, and coworkers to collect donations, often as part of an event or activity. Think of it as a form of fundraising that's rooted in relationships. The result? A wider circle of support, and a way to give that feels more personal and meaningful.

Held each year in February, this beloved peer-to-peer fundraising walk Coldest Night of the Year equips local charities with everything they need to raise significant funds in support of people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness. Blue Sea Foundation exists to see a more giving culture in Canada and see charities thrive.

Would you like to submit your City Hall illumination request to happen annually? *

- ☒ Yes, please repeat on an annual basis
- ☐ No, this one time only

Please note that it is up to the person/group submitting the request to contact the City if the annual date changes or discontinues for any reason.

By submitting this form, you affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. All City Hall illumination requests must adhere to the [Flag Flying, Proclamations and Public Awareness Campaigns Policy](#).

The personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, 2001, 227 and City Policy CMA34. The information is used for the City Hall lighting process including, but not limited to, evaluating requests for illumination events and contacting the requestor.

City Manager Approval - signature & date

Date on Council Consent Agenda

Correspondence Items Presented for Information January 12, 2026

- 1) Correspondence from AMO Re: AMO Policy Update.
 - a) Advocacy on Archaeological Heritage Protection, Long Lead Time Electricity Procurement, *Buy Ontario Act*, and AMPs for Wildland Fire Safety.
 - b) Advocacy on Local Electricity Distribution.
 - c) We Need Your Voice on OMERS Governance Changes & Bill 68.
 - d) Submission on Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities.
- 2) Correspondence from the Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response Re: *Emergency Management Modernization Act* Achieves Royal Assent.
- 3) Correspondence from the Deputy Clerk, City of Owen Sound Re: Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities (ERO #025-1257).
- 4) Correspondence from the Owen Sound Police Service Board Chair Re: Mayoral Directive and 2026 Operating Budget.
- 5) Correspondence from the Deputy Clerk, Township of Chatsworth Re: Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library 2026 Revised Draft Budget.
- 6) Correspondence from the Deputy Clerk, County of Grey Re: Grey County Housing Action Plan.
- 7) Correspondence from the Municipality of Magnetawan Re: Site Readiness Funding.
- 8) Correspondence from the CAO Clerk-Treasurer, Township of Nairn and Hyman Re:
 - a) Support Request for Nation-Building Improvements to Highway 11/17 (2+1 & Four Lane Options).
 - b) Support Resolution for Canada's Steel and Softwood Lumber Sectors.
- 9) Correspondence from the City Clerk, City of Brantford Re: Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry.
- 10) Correspondence from The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Re: Bill 9, the *Municipal Accountability Act, 2025*.

- 11) Correspondence from the Deputy Clerk, Town of Cobourg Re: Support for Elbows Up for Climate Action.
- 12) Correspondence from the Nuclear Innovation Institute Re: Clean Energy Frontier Program: Year in Review.
- 13) Correspondence from Pat Kelly, Owen Sound Resident Re: Future of Owen Sound.
 - a) December 14, 2025.
 - b) December 16, 2025.
- 14) Correspondence from Chiara Meneguzzi, Municipality of Meaford Resident Re: School Bus Stop Arm Cameras.



AMO Policy Update - Advocacy on Archaeological Heritage Protection, Long Lead Time Electricity Procurement, *Buy Ontario Act*, and AMPs for Wildland Fire Safety

Top Insights

- AMO supports advocacy on archaeological assessments that upholds treaty rights, advances reconciliation, and promotes strong municipal-Indigenous relationships.
 - The IESO is consulting on the design of its upcoming "long-lead time electricity procurement" for hydro-electric projects. AMO supports the proposed continued role for municipal approvals.
 - Bill 72, the *Buy Ontario Act* will require municipalities to prioritize Ontario and Canadian companies during procurement. AMO calls for flexibility to keep municipal services on-time and on-budget.
 - AMO submission supports the use of administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) in wildland fire safety and calls for additional opportunities to move charges to an AMP system.
-

Supporting Indigenous Advocacy on Archaeological Heritage Protection

AMO's letter to [the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism](#) supports Indigenous communities who are asking the province to protect treaty rights, archaeological heritage, and burial sites. The province is making changes to the archaeological heritage rules to exempt more projects from archaeological assessment. This could undermine the collaborative, meaningful relationships that municipalities and Indigenous communities are working hard to build. AMO calls on the province to balance heritage protection and reconciliation with faster development.

Preparing for Long Lead Time Electricity Procurements

The Independent Electricity System Operation (IESO) is consulting on the design of their upcoming long [lead time electricity procurement](#) (LLT) which will focus on hydroelectric generation projects. [AMO's feedback](#) on program design:

- Supports a requirement for projects to get a municipal support resolution;
- Encourages the IESO to work with the province and municipalities to manage source water protection;
- Recommends developers not seek municipal support resolutions during the "lame duck" period of the 2026 municipal elections.

***Buy Ontario Act* and Municipal Auto Procurement**

The *Buy Ontario Act* (Bill 72) allows the province to require municipalities to prioritize procurement from Ontario and Canadian businesses. AMO has asked the province to make sure municipalities have the flexibility to buy from other vendors when needed to avoid significant construction delays and price increases. AMO facilitated municipal input on a new provincial fleet

vehicle procurement policy setting new requirements for our sector. This involved hosting a joint webinar with the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement and circulating a survey to secure municipal staff expert input.

Submission on Administrative Monetary Penalties for Wildland Fire Safety

On December 10, AMO sent a [letter](#) to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of the Attorney General in support of the [proposal](#) to establish a framework for issuing administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) to encourage compliance with wildland fire safety requirements. Overall, AMO supports moving more charges to AMPs to help alleviate the already overburdened provincial offences court system. We encourage the Ministry of the Attorney General to work with AMO and our members to identify other charges that would be more appropriate in the AMP system to address backlogs in the system.

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



AMO Policy Update - Advocacy on Local Electricity Distribution

Top Insights

- The province's Panel for Utility Leadership and Service Excellence (PULSE) and AMO held townhall meetings with municipal elected officials and CAOs. The panel shared details about their mandate and scope, including that it is not considering mandatory consolidation and is instead focusing on making sure LDCs have the right tools to meet local needs.
- AMO's LDC review submission urged the province to prioritize local growth planning needs and accountability with broader provincial energy planning goals. We specifically asked the province to maintain majority public ownership of LDCs; provide flexibility on board composition and governance, financial models, and performance reporting; and take the timing of the 2026 municipal election into account in implementation plans.
- The province has released the final regulation outlining criteria for the designation of Special Economic Zones which can be used to exempt projects from legislation, regulations or by-laws. The province now has the authority to exempt designated projects from municipal by-laws while simultaneously offering municipalities "trusted proponent" status to bypass laws for high-priority local developments benefiting the economy.

AMO Townhalls on the Panel for Utility Leadership and Service Excellence (PULSE)

AMO recently hosted two townhall webinars led by PULSE Chair Anthony Haines, and members of the panel including Alex Nuttall, Paula Conboy, and David MacNaughton. These townhalls provided an opportunity for discussion and feedback on the PULSE mandate, and potential recommendations on how local distribution corporations (LDCs) can finance and deliver infrastructure. PULSE is expected to deliver its final recommendations to the Minister of Energy and Mines in early 2026.

Following the townhalls, PULSE Chair, Anthony Haines reached out to AMO expressing gratitude for AMO's stakeholder engagement support. He also took the opportunity to note that the panel is not recommending further LDC consolidation, in addition to summarizing key themes that emerged in stakeholder consultations. The full letter to Karen Nesbitt, Director of Policy and Government Relations at AMO, is reproduced in full, below.

Hello Karen,

We appreciate your continued engagement on the Panel for Utility Leadership and Service Excellence (PULSE) and thank AMO for its efficient coordination with municipalities across the province. The focus on municipal shareholder perspectives has been particularly helpful.

The Panel remains committed to developing solutions as stakeholders navigate the pressures of growth and change in the electricity distribution sector. Since amalgamation and corporatization began in 1998, the number of electricity utilities in Ontario has decreased from 307 to 58. While the Panel is not recommending further consolidation, our goal is to create an environment where municipal shareholders of electricity utilities can have informed conversations about the next steps in the evolution of electricity distribution in Ontario. We are not seeking to limit options, but rather to expand them.

Key themes emerging from our engagement include:

- **Local employment needs:** Many electricity utilities will require a significant increase in resources—potentially doubling—to meet growth

demands and this will require more skilled workers in communities across the province.

- **Long-term planning:** As asset-intensive businesses, electricity utilities need funding strategies aligned with long-term planning horizons.
- **Regulatory challenges:** Stakeholders have expressed concern that the current regulatory system is overly burdensome, leading to under-earning for many utilities. While customer protection remains essential, regulatory requirements should be re-evaluated to ensure they are balanced, incremental, and supportive of investor confidence.
- **Investment barriers:** The existing tax system presents obstacles to investment, and solutions must be identified to encourage capital inflows where necessary.
- **Mergers and acquisitions:** Where a merger or acquisition makes sense, the regulatory process is seen as cumbersome and slow, requiring retooling to better support timely decisions.
- **Governance models:** To attract external partners, governance structures must evolve to reflect collaboration with the financial community.
- **Funding diversity:** Funding sources will vary depending on utility size, and tailored solutions will be necessary for both the largest and smallest entities.

We recognize that further workshops are needed to refine options for smaller utilities. However, there is broad agreement on the principles guiding this work, which provides a strong foundation for moving forward.

Thank you again for your engagement and support. We look forward to continuing these discussions and working together on sustainable solutions for the sector.

Sincerely,

Anthony Haines, PULSE Panel Chair

AMO's Submission on the PULSE Review

AMO provided advice to PULSE and the Ministry of Energy and Mines as they finalize recommendations on how to deliver the next generation of distribution infrastructure. AMO advanced recommendations centred on ensuring local growth planning and provincial energy planning are undertaken in coordination while mutually supporting shared objectives. Specifically,

1. Majority municipal ownership of LDCs with expanded private financing tools.
2. Transparent and accountable performance reporting and board composition.
3. Flexibility for shareholders to decide what governance and financial models best meet local needs.
4. Implementation timelines that account for the 2026 municipal elections.

AMO looks forward to continuing to support PULSE and the province in modernizing LDC governance while making sure municipalities remain active participants in energy planning.

Province Announces Final Regulation for Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

The Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT) [has announced](#) the release of the final SEZ regulation. This new regulation sets criteria for the Minister to designate projects, trusted proponents, and geographic boundaries as SEZs. The province can now exempt designated projects from provincial laws and regulations, and municipal by-laws. The regulation does not outline a process for the province to determine what laws, regulations or by-laws would be exempt – the province has previously indicated an intent to make these decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Municipalities are named as a “trusted proponent” under the regulation, allowing them to bypass traditional regulatory hurdles to accelerate high-priority projects. This status is not universal and is tied to designated projects.

AMO continues to [encourage the province](#) to use this new authority in collaboration with host municipalities on proposed SEZ projects.

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



We Need Your Voice on OMERS Governance Changes & Bill 68

Updated tools to help you spread the word that OMERS is important to municipalities and that pension governance matters.

The OMERS pension plan is important to municipalities and their employees, but the governance changes in Bill 68 mean that municipalities will have less of a voice in the pension plan that we pay for.

Below are updated resources to make it easy for you to support AMO's advocacy on OMERS governance changes and Bill 68.

How you can help:

- **Stay informed** - Use [this deck](#) and [this toolkit](#) to educate yourself and your colleagues about what's happening, including key messages, and Q&As.
- **Pass a [Council resolution](#) and [send a letter](#) to the Ministers of Municipal Affairs & Housing and Finance**
- **Raise this issue with your local MPP and in delegations at ROMA.** Let your representatives know that:
 - The OMERS pension plan is important to municipalities and our employees.
 - Municipalities are concerned about the OMERS governance changes because these changes could lead to higher costs for taxpayers.
 - The current OMERS structure with two corporate boards is working; it provides predictability and stability.

- Pensions need to stay independent and accountable. They cannot be politicized.
- You want the province to work with AMO and the other plan sponsors to chart a path forward that limits major changes and protects the long-term interests of municipalities, taxpayers, and employees.

Get the Council Resolution

Together, we can help protect the integrity, independence, and long-term stability of OMERS.

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



AMO Policy Update - Submission on Proposed Regional Consolidation of Conservation Authorities

Top Insights

- AMO submitted [four recommendations](#) to the province on its [proposal](#) to consolidate the existing 36 conservation authorities (CAs) into seven regional CAs and the creation of a provincial oversight agency – the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA).
- We urged the province to maintain and prioritize local governance, expertise and decision making in CA consolidation, fund transition costs to mitigate service delivery impacts, restore a 50-50 municipal funding partnership that reflects increased provincial authority over CA operations, and potentially its fees and establish an implementation working to develop options that would deliver on the province's consolidation objectives while protecting local decision making and municipal fiscal sustainability.

AMO's Submission on Proposed Conservation Authority Consolidation and Creation of Provincial Oversight Body

In late October, the province announced plans of two transformative changes to Ontario's CA system. These changes are part of a [suite of broader legislative and regulatory changes](#) intended to facilitate getting more homes built, through reduced regulatory burden and speedier regulatory approvals.

The first change would see the creation of a provincial oversight body, the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA). The agency's mandate includes powers to issue binding guidelines on CA performance, standards, and asset management. The OPCA's funding will be a mix of provincial funding, service fees, and cost recovery from CAs.

The second change, if adopted, would create seven regional CAs by merging the existing 36 CAs. The proposed regional boundaries of the new mega CAs are based on natural watershed systems, keeping existing CA boundaries intact where possible, and aligning source protection regions.

AMO supports the province's goal to streamline and improve the land development services provided by CAs as it takes concrete action to build more homes and growth enabling infrastructure. AMO is concerned that the scale and pace of the proposed changes, when undertaken without prior consultation with affected stakeholders including the municipal sector and CAs, risks increasing regulatory burden and costs. The changes also erode responsive local decision making, including permitting time.

Given these concerns, AMO's recommendations to the province are centered on greater and collaborative stakeholder engagement that's foundational to addressing the governance and funding challenges in the current proposal. Specifically, we urge the province to:

1. Maintain and prioritize local governance, expertise and decision making in CA consolidation
2. Fund transition costs to mitigate service delivery impacts
3. Restore a 50-50 municipal funding partnership that reflects increased provincial authority over CA operations, and potentially its fees, and
4. Collaborate on creating an implementation working group that would develop options, and group membership would include AMO,

Conservation Ontario, select CAs and municipalities, developers, and Indigenous communities.

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

Ministry of Emergency Preparedness
and Response

Office of the Minister

438 University Ave., 14th Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2K8

Ministère de la Protection civile
et de l'Intervention en cas d'urgence

Bureau de la ministre

438, av. University, 14^e étage
Toronto ON M5G 2K8



DATE: December 9, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO: Heads of Council

SUBJECT: Emergency Management Modernization Act Achieves Royal Assent

Dear Heads of Council:

I am pleased to let you know that on December 3rd, 2025, the Government of Ontario's *Emergency Management Modernization Act, 2025*, which amends the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA) received Royal Assent.

The EMCPA is Ontario's framework for managing emergencies and defines the authority and responsibilities of the province, municipalities and specific individuals in emergency management.

From ice storms to flooding and wildland fire, the risks facing communities have grown in scale and impact. That's why under the leadership of Premier Ford, Ontario has urgently modernized its legislation to reflect the rapidly changing landscape of emergencies.

The amendments we have made enable a more effective, coordinated and comprehensive approach to emergency management and ensures response plans are tailored to local needs. Key changes now include:

- Clarifying the role of the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response as the provincial lead and one-window contact for coordinating emergency management activities.
- Outlining Ontario Corps as a key provincial emergency resource and capability that can be deployed to supplement local resources to support municipalities, when requested. (An emergency declaration is not required to request provincial support.)
- Strengthening Ontario's commitment to facilitating coordination among municipalities by implementing the joint emergency programs and plans for two or more municipalities.

The legislation will be implemented in phases, with future regulations to support it. Future work will enhance municipal emergency management by providing flexibility for programs based on local needs and capacity. Upcoming regulations will also clarify the process for municipal emergency declarations under the Act to ensure accountability.

Ongoing dialogue and collaboration with municipalities and emergency management partners will be key as the ministry continues engagement to inform future work related to these amendments.

On a personal note, it was a pleasure to meet with many of you this summer, including at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference to discuss Ontario's emergency management modernization. The feedback we received has been instrumental in shaping these legislative amendments.

Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to protect Ontario. I hope to see you at the Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference in January. Your commitment to emergency management makes a difference, and I look forward to moving this important work forward with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jill Q', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Jill Dunlop
Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response

cc: Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Robin Jones, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Staci Landry, Deputy Clerk
 City of Owen Sound
 808 2nd Avenue East
 Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4



Phone: 519-376-4440 ext. 1235
 Facsimile: 519-371-0511
 Email: slandry@owensound.ca
 Website: www.owensound.ca

December 17, 2025

Via Email

Public Input Coordinator
 MECP Conservation and Source Protection Branch
 300 Water Street North Tower, 5th Floor
 Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7
 (submitted online)

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities (ERO #025-1257)

City Council, at its special meeting held on December 15, 2025, considered the above-noted matter, and passed Resolution No. S-251215-002 as follows:

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-123 respecting Proposed Changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, City Council directs staff to:

- 1. Send this resolution, report and its attachments to the Province of Ontario as the City's response to Bill 68 and the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting 025-1257; and**
- 2. Forward this report to Paul Vickers, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors, all municipalities that are currently served by the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Conservation Ontario, and AMO."**

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Staci Landry
Deputy Clerk

Encl: Staff Report CS-25-123 from the Senior Planner Re: Proposed Changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*

c: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Hon. Mike Harris, Minister of Natural Resources
Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Paul Vickers, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
Town of the Blue Mountains
Township of Chatsworth
Township of Georgian Bluffs
Municipality of Grey Highlands
Municipality of Meaford
Town of South Bruce Peninsula
Conservation Ontario
Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Margaret Potter, Senior Planner
Meeting Date: December 15, 2025
Report Code: CS-25-123
Subject: Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-123 respecting Proposed Changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*, City Council directs staff to:

1. Send this resolution, report and its attachments to the Province of Ontario as the City's response to Bill 68 and the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting 025-1257; and
2. Forward this report to Paul Vickers, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors, Conservation Ontario, and AMO.

Highlights:

- Bill 68 is in effect, establishing the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to oversee Conservation Authorities and transition to a regional watershed-based framework.
- Conservation Authorities were established at the request of municipalities, yet municipalities were not consulted on this change.
- Owen Sound is proposed to be 1 of 80 municipalities within the jurisdiction of the Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority.
- The province is seeking input on the proposed boundaries, transition, budget, and governance. Staff have significant concerns about:
 - Maintaining voice as one of 80;

- Impact on budget;
- Erosion of relationship and responsiveness; and
- Loss of local knowledge.
- The province has not undertaken a cost-benefit analysis or provided proposed approaches for consideration.
- Municipalities currently provide approximately 44% of total Grey Sauble Conservation Authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 7%.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

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

It is also related to all of the themes of Vision 2050 as the provincial changes could impact Prosperous City (budget), Green & Resilient City (hazards), Celebrating & Embracing Culture (connection to water, input on master plans), City Building (development review), A City that Moves (infrastructure planning), Safe City (safe public spaces/conservation areas), and Fostering Mutually Beneficial & Respectful Relationships (partnerships to address complex issues and transparency in decision making).

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:

[ERO No. 025-1257](#) Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities

[Supplemental document](#) regarding proposed boundaries

[Bill 68](#), *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures)*, 2025 (No. 2) would establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

[GSCA Board of Directors Agenda November 26, 2025](#) – Report 033-2025 (page 56) Bill 68 and Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario's Conservation Authorities

[PDR-CW-70-25 Grey County Report](#) on Proposed Changes to Conservation Authorities in Ontario

Additional links to supporting documentation can be found in Schedule 'A'.

Background:

Conservation Authorities in Ontario

The *Conservation Authorities Act* was created in 1946. It provided for Conservation Authorities to be established at the request of municipalities in a common watershed where these municipalities agreed to work together with shared governance on local resource management, including flood and erosion issues. Conservation Authorities are accessible at the local level for service delivery, education, resource management, and engagement.

Two separate conservation authorities established in the late 1950s (North Grey Region and Sauble Valley) became the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority (GSCA) in 1985. Some highlights of GSCA include:

- 28 full and part-time staff (plus seasonal staff);
- The watershed areas within GSCA jurisdiction spans 3,191 sq. km.;
- GSCA owns the most publicly accessible land in the watershed:
 - Approximately 117.5 sq. km (29,000 acres);
 - 172 km of trails; and
 - Island properties accessible only by boat; and
- 32 Conservation Areas within the Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System (NEPOSS):
 - Majority connected by the Bruce Trail; and
 - Inglis Falls Conservation Area is one of the NEPOSS 9 nodal parks.

The lands in GSCA ownership were acquired, and many donated by families, for specific conservation purposes.

GSCA properties are accessible to the public with differing permitted uses and varying degrees of managed infrastructure associated with their purpose. Inglis Falls boasts over 100,000 visitors annually and is seamlessly connected by trails to Owen Sound's Harrison Park.

How is GSCA Governed?

Once established, a Conservation Authority (CA) is a distinct legal entity operating as a local public sector organization with a degree of autonomy from the individual municipalities and the province. Local decision making

and cost sharing provides flexibility to respond to matters affecting the local watershed using local expertise.

Conservation Authorities are governed by board members appointed from their member municipalities who decide the budget, programs, and policies for the CA within the legislated framework.

Because Conservation Authority jurisdiction follows watershed boundaries and not political boundaries, some municipalities fall within the jurisdiction of more than one Conservation Authority. The number of representatives that each municipality can appoint to the board is based on the population of the municipality within the Conservation Authority jurisdiction. Owen Sound is entirely within the jurisdiction of GSCA.

The makeup of the GSCA Board of Directors is as follows:

- Member Municipalities: 8
- Total board members: 11
- Owen Sound members: 2 (18%)

GSCA's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan is available online together with monthly Board agendas. GSCA minutes are included in City Council agenda packages for information.

GSCA has already undertaken significant modernization work aligned with provincial objectives, including Information Technology/Information Management, and leveraging technology to streamline planning and permit review processes processing 100% of major permits within the provincial timelines in 2024.

The Value of Natural Areas

A preliminary evaluation of GSCA's landholdings in 2018 determined that over \$86 million dollars (2024-dollar value) of ecosystem service benefits are provided annually to residents and visitors by the properties GSCA owns. These services include recreation, flood and drought mitigation, climate regulation, wildlife benefits, carbon sequestration and others. A copy of this report can be found on GSCA's website: [The Value of our Natural Areas](#).

Who Pays for GSCA Operations

The proposed draft 2026 operating budget of GSCA is just over \$4.2 million. The following table is excerpted from the GSCA 2026 Draft Budget as outlined in the [November 2026 Board of Directors Agenda Package](#).

DEPARTMENT & BUDGET REVENUES	Approved 2025 Budget	Proposed 2026 Budget	Proposed 2027 Budget	Proposed 2028 Budget
Total Operations Budget Funding				
Municipal Levy - Category 1 and General	1,675,839	1,730,554	1,804,119	1,877,057
Municipal Levy - Category 3	86,833	94,055	113,598	121,174
CAA S39	37,056	37,056	37,056	37,056
MECP (DWSP)	228,732	251,250	218,175	233,413
Agreements, MOUs and Grants	138,580	216,502	211,152	217,152
Services & Sales	1,658,642	1,751,550	1,728,007	1,755,334
Donations	22,500	15,000	5,000	5,000
Interest & Gains	26,000	19,200	19,200	19,200
From Reserves	51,022	131,147	112,429	100,611
From Surplus	24,916	-	-	-
From Deferred Revenue	31,736	-	-	-
Total Operating Budget	3,981,856	4,246,315	4,248,736	4,365,997

As outlined in the Budget Companion, **the total 2026 levy-based operating cost for all GSCA's programs equals approximately \$24.53 per resident per year or \$0.47 per week.**

The Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) does contribute to specific operations relating to Drinking Water Source Protection. For all other operations of GSCA, the transfer payment from the province is just over \$37,000 vs. over \$1.8 million from municipalities.

With limited provincial funding, CAs have to generate funds to pay for the services they provide. Applicant permitting and user fees are one way to do this.

Parking fees at GSCA properties go towards property and facility maintenance as well as municipal tax payments. GSCA currently does not charge a fee for general admittance or daily use. Some Conservation Authorities including [Saugeen Valley](#) do have a daily use fee.

Conservation Authority properties are not exempt from paying property taxes.

At one time CAs were funded approximately 50% by the province and 50% by municipal levy.

Looking back at the 2021 GSCA budget ([January 2021 Board Agenda](#)), the estimated provincial transfer payment was \$71,779 for 2019 whereas the actual was \$37,056, where it has remained.

Local municipalities currently provide approximately 44% of total GSCA funding while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 7%.

Relationships that Work

Owen Sound has a strong working relationship with GSCA. Many organizational roles are similar between a municipality and a CA and as we do in rural Ontario, our organizations lean on each other to share knowledge and work together to solve problems. We are both interested in providing the best service we can to our local ratepayers with limited provincial funding and strong ties to the communities we serve. We live, work and play here together. A member of the public can visit our offices and obtain service, whether applying for a permit or renting a pavilion.

Conservation Authorities carry out programs that serve provincial and municipal interests, including the following mandatory (under O.Reg. 686/21) programs:

- ✓ Natural Hazard Management:
 - Flood and Erosion Control
 - Dam management (including Mill Dam)
 - Infrastructure management (including erosion control in Owen Sound)
 - Parkview Estates
 - 9th Street and Sydenham River
 - Pottawatomi River and Alpha Street
 - Flood forecasting and warning
 - Drought/low water program
 - Advice to municipalities on natural hazard management and other matters (including land use policy and development review)
 - Regulating impacts of development and activities in hazardous land (such as floodplains, shorelines or wetlands) natural hazards and public safety through a permitting process
- ✓ Management of Conservation Authority Owned Land (e.g. West Rocks)

- ✓ Drinking Water Source Protection (under the *Clean Water Act*)
- ✓ Surface Water and Groundwater monitoring programs
 - Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Program (surface water)
 - Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network
- ✓ Operational Administration including:
 - Marketing and Engagement within the watershed
 - Information management and GIS resources that inform and engage municipalities, residents, and visitors
 - Governance support
 - Human resources and general administration
 - Asset management and financial management

Conservation Authorities can also provide additional services that further their purposes. Where these services require municipal funding or are provided on behalf of a municipality, an agreement is required to deliver these additional services. Where the CA undertakes these services to further its purposes and does not require municipal financing, no agreements are required.

GSCA provides additional programs and services including:

- ✓ Environmental Education and Community Outreach
 - Specialist High Skills Major in GIS
 - Day Camps
 - Curriculum development and delivery
- ✓ Forestry Service (including West Rocks Management Area)
- ✓ Watershed Report Cards (requiring additional watershed monitoring beyond provincial requirements)
- ✓ Watershed Stewardship and Restoration (securing external grant dollars to support landowners with projects that improve water quality, soil health, habitat restoration, invasive species management)
- ✓ Land Management programs such as:
 - Partnership building and support

- Stakeholders, committees, “friends of” groups, partnerships to provide value in delivery of programs and services
- Bruce Trail connectivity into Owen Sound would not be possible without GSCA properties
- Lease Agreement management, such as:
 - Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre
 - Public Health Grey Bruce
- Land Use Agreements
 - Everything from pavilion rentals to research to race events
- ✓ Managing Paid Parking
- ✓ Land Acquisition and Disposal
 - E.g. West Rocks Management Area has expanded over time
- ✓ Contracted services to manage Grey County Forests, forest trails, and CP Rail Trail
- ✓ Contracted services to oversee Grey County Forest Management By-law
- ✓ Drinking Water Source Protection Risk Management Services to 14 municipalities on a fee for service basis (including Owen Sound)

Owen Sound and other member municipalities benefit from all of the above. Community partnerships are integral to rural Ontario communities. Neither municipalities nor CAs could do all we do without support from organizations in our community with shared common goals.

These programs and services are provided across a jurisdiction of 3,191 sq. km, by a team of 28 staff (plus seasonal), for \$4.25 million. 49% of this budget is self-generated (not from levy or provincial funding).

More information on the costs of providing these services are included in GSCA’s 2026 Draft Budget. Attached as Schedule ‘C’ is a graphic comparing GSCA to other CAs in the province (source: GSCA 2018).

City of Owen Sound Zoning By-law 2010-078

The ridges and valleys that contribute to the beauty of Owen Sound also contribute to its hazards. In 2010, the Provincial Policy Statement (as does today's Provincial Planning Statement) directs development away from areas of natural hazards.

Under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, an authority shall provide programs and services related to the risk of natural hazards. For the purposes of accomplishing its objects, a Conservation Authority may collaborate and enter into agreements with ministries and agencies of government, municipal councils and local boards and other organizations and individuals. Through Memorandum of Agreement, GSCA provides *Planning Act* application review and technical clearance services to the City of Owen Sound.

Parts of the City that are by provincial definition "hazardous lands" are often also regulated by GSCA and we share the duty to direct development away from these hazards for the protection of people and property.

Zoning By-law 2010-078 has been amended over time but has not required a significant update to the Hazard Zone mapping in large part because of the significant work by GSCA.

At the outset of the process of creating the 2010 Comprehensive Zoning By-law, the idea was to create a more user-friendly Hazard Zone. GSCA provided revised Hazard Zone mapping based on technical guidance from the province relating to watercourses, steep slopes, and the shoreline. This mapping is based on orthorectified information and was completed in consultation with the City Engineering and Planning Divisions and the City's consultant. GSCA undertook numerous reviews and site visits to locations where the public/residents requested a more detailed assessment of the hazard land.

GSCA prepared a succinct overview of how provincial mapping guidelines were applied to the unique landscape of Owen Sound.

As general lot fabric is not geodetically referenced, staff recognized that the alignment of the hazard zone mapping would not perfectly translate on to available aerial photography. Wording was added to the Interpretation section of the by-law to provide for site specific interpretation:

"Where a Hazard (ZH) Zone boundary is left uncertain following a review of the Zoning Maps, the City may refer to Schedule "B" of this By-law, request confirmation of the boundary from the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority or

should further detail be required may request the owner have a survey prepared by an Ontario Land Surveyor.”

When a building permit application is submitted and there is hazard zoning on the property, City staff are able to articulate why based on the overview provided by GSCA. If the development is proposed near the hazard zone boundary, staff can confirm the hazard zone site specifically with GSCA. As the *Conservation Authorities Act* is “other applicable law” under the *Building Code Act*, at the same time GSCA staff can confirm whether a permit is required from their office.

If the development is proposed in a hazard area, then through pre-consultation GSCA helps City staff to determine the appropriate application processes and technical studies needed from the applicant to demonstrate that the development is safe and appropriate.

GSCA is considered a key external agency in the City’s Development Team approach to reviewing development applications.

Evolving Changes

Since 2022, Conservation Authorities have faced a rapidly changing legislative context.

In October of 2022, the province released the [*More Homes Built Faster Act \(Bill 23\)*](#) and it received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022. One of its key changes was to limit Conservation Authorities’ role in the planning and development review process and specifically remove their ability to provide review services for natural heritage on development applications or planning policy matters. Municipalities no longer had the option of choosing to allow CAs to undertake this work on their behalf through agreement, even though they had been undertaking it for years and this made sense because often areas of natural heritage align with areas of natural hazard. GSCA had been budgeting to hire one Planning Ecologist and revised their budget and fee schedule in December of 2022 as a result of Bill 23 ([GSCA report 035-2022](#)).

The Provincial Policy Statement and County and local Official Plans continued to require natural heritage review and the County of Grey stepped in to hire two Planning Ecologists whose main role is to review planning applications and contribute to policy updates to help protect natural heritage features for member municipalities.

Bill 23 also limited the right of conservation authorities to appeal decisions made under the *Planning Act* by restricting their role as a public body to those provisions related to natural hazard policies.

In December of 2022, GSCA received a letter from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (now MNR) placing a freeze on conservation authority fees for any work related to reviewing and commenting on planning and development related proposals, applications, or land use planning policies or for conservation authority permitting. This initial freeze was applicable for the entirety of 2023 and has been extended annually through 2025. The result is a loss in inflation based increases roughly equal to 1% levy apportionment (GSCA Reports [047-2023](#) and [007-2025](#)).

Provincial funding has remained stagnant since 2019, and the province has frozen fees for development review at 2022 levels.

Conservation Authorities are left to assume or pass on to municipalities a larger share of annual operating costs attributed to development.

In February of 2024, the Province approved Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits. Upon passing this regulation, the province revoked the individual regulations that each Conservation Authority had to regulate development, interference with wetlands and alterations to shorelines and watercourses. Locally Council might recall O.Reg. 151/06 was the GSCA specific regulation which is now revoked.

Conservation Authorities were given from February 16, 2024, to April 1, 2024, to prepare for implementation of this regulatory change and associated amendments to the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Applications received before April 1, 2024, remained subject to the older regulation.

GSCA staff prepared interim guidance and new permit application forms reflecting this change ready for Board of Directors approval before the end of March 2024 ([GSCA Report 007-2024](#)). Permits and Planning Applications reviewed by GSCA are regularly reported with timeframes to the Board of Directors.

The Current Proposal (Bill 68) Plan to Protect Ontario Act

On October 31, 2025, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks ([News Release](#)) announced the Government's intention to introduce legislation which, if passed, would amend the *Conservation Authorities Act* to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency – a provincial board-

governed agency – to provide centralized leadership, efficient governance, strategic direction, and oversight of Ontario’s conservation authorities.

Another key action announced by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Chief Conservation Executive is the plan to consolidate the province’s 36 conservation authorities into regional conservation authorities that continue to align with watershed boundaries.

Some of the reasons the province gives for making this change:

1. Each CA follows different policies;
2. Each CA follows different standards;
3. Each CA follows different fees; and
4. Each CA follows different staffing and technical capabilities.

The province suggests this has led to unpredictable and inconsistent turnaround times for approvals, uncertainty and delays for those seeking permits, and undermines CA’s ability to protect communities from floods and hazards.

On November 6, 2025, the province gave first reading to [Bill 68, Plan to Protect Ontario Act \(Budget Measures\), 2025 \(No. 2\)](#). This bill has since received Royal Assent on November 27, 2025.

Among other matters, Schedule 3 of the Bill amends the *Conservation Authorities Act* to establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency to oversee conservation authorities and the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for conservation authorities in Ontario.

The [Conservation Authorities Act](#) now includes PART VIII.1 THE AGENCY.

There was no Environmental Registry Posting or request for comment on this change. **The legislation was passed less than 30 days after the time of initial announcement.**

The impact of these changes on local representation and funding expectations has not been indicated.

The *Conservation Authorities Act* (historically) was not unlike the *Municipal Act* in how it provides a framework for how each of Ontario’s 444 municipalities have policies, standards, and local by-laws that reflect local circumstances.

Similarly, Conservation Ontario, like the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) provides support for municipalities to work together to achieve shared goals and meet common challenges.

AMO has not yet provided a full response to the province's posting on these changes but states on their website:

"The government is making changes but it is not providing any new, ongoing provincial funding to run conservation authorities effectively, while simultaneously creating a new provincial oversight agency and weakening local municipal leaders' control over conservation and environmental protections."

Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities [ERO No. 025-1257](#)

Through this ERO posting, the province is *"seeking feedback on the proposed boundaries and the criteria applied to inform the proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities. This feedback will help inform the development of further proposed changes to the Conservation Authorities Act that may be introduced at a later date."*

The criteria applied for determining the proposed boundaries for regional Conservation Authorities is indicated as:

- Maintaining watershed-based jurisdictions – aligning with natural hydrological boundaries to support effective flood and water management, consistent with drinking water Source Protection Areas and Regions.
- Relationships between conservation authorities and municipalities – reducing administrative duplication and overlap for municipalities and conservation authorities to simplify accountability and strengthen local partnerships.
- Balancing expertise and capacity across conservation authorities – enhancing technical skills and resources across conservation authorities to improve service and program delivery.
- Service continuity – ensuring uninterrupted delivery of local conservation authority programs – including flood forecasting and warning, permitting, and source water protection – through and after consolidation.

The ERO posting provides discussion questions relevant to the planning for the future state:

- What do you see as key factors to support a successful transition and outcome of regional conservation authority consolidation?
- What opportunities or benefits may come from a regional conservation authority framework?
- Do you have suggestions for how governance could be structured at the regional conservation authority level, including suggestions around board size, make-up and the municipal representative appointment process?
- Do you have suggestions on how to maintain a transparent and consultative budgeting process across member municipalities within a regional conservation authority?
- How can regional conservation authorities maintain and strengthen relationships with local communities and stakeholders?

GSCA is proposed to be consolidated into the proposed Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority including the former:

1. Grey Sauble Conservation Authority
2. [Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority](#)
3. [Maitland Valley Conservation Authority](#)
4. [Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority](#) (page 100)
5. [Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority](#)
6. Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority
7. [Lakehead Region Conservation Authority](#)

(Note: the above links are to available comments from that CA)

The makeup of the Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority would be as follows:

- Jurisdiction: 23,500 square kilometers
- Lakehead Conservation Authority includes Thunder Bay
- Member Municipalities: 80
- Total board members: unknown
- Owen Sound members: unknown

The general timeline for the changes is expected to be:

- Consultation process – winter of 2026.
- Conservation Authorities operate with present governance until after the 2026 Municipal election.
- Implementation of changes – January 1, 2027.

Analysis:

The changes proposed by the province are indicated to better align Conservation Authorities' services with provincial priorities on housing, the economy, infrastructure, and climate resilience.

In response to the reasons the Province gives for making this change:

1. Each CA follows different policies

All CAs now operate under the same O.Reg. 41/24. There are still activities which require permit to undertake within regulated areas. O.Reg. 41/24 prescribes that each authority shall develop and prescribe policy and procedure documents with respect to permit applications and reviews.

As this regulation is fairly new, many developers may not have even encountered it or know that there is now a common set of regulations in place.

The [Provincial Planning Statement Chapter 5](#) (PPS) deals with natural hazards to public health and safety. GSCA comments on natural hazards when reviewing proposals and provides information and expertise to help the municipality and developer meet provincial policy requirements for natural hazards.

Hazardous lands, hazardous sites, flooding and different types of hazards are defined in the PPS, and **these definitions apply across the province**. However, each municipality will not have the same types of hazards occurring in their jurisdiction. For example, an inland municipality will not have the types of hazards associated with shorelines of the Great Lakes.

The province has the authority to standardize policies and procedures for Conservation Authorities without creating an additional level of bureaucracy or consolidating boundaries.

2. Each CA follows different standards

O.Reg. 41/24 includes Schedule 1 which stipulates the applicable flood standards for each CA in the province.

Under this fairly new (2024) regulation, the province has stipulated different flood event standards to be applied to different Conservation Authorities.

It is interesting to note that the seven (7) CAs proposed to be consolidated into the Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority do not share a flood

event standard under this regulation. Even within the GSCA jurisdiction there are different standards applied for the different watersheds.

Different standards can be necessary to respond to different local contexts. Applying the same standards across Ontario would be like having a single zoning by-law, it would remove the ability to respond to local needs.

The reason that different watersheds have different standards applied should be seriously considered before making further changes in order to ensure the people and property of Ontario are protected from flooding for the long term.

The standards applied should be those that best serve to protect the health, safety and property of Ontarians in their individual watersheds.

3. Each CA follows different fees

Owen Sound has been calling on the province to provide more equitable, reliable, and sustainable means of funding Conservation Authorities since 2015. Instead, fees have been frozen limiting the ability of CAs to recover costs and allocate necessary resources to development review.

Fees are necessarily different in different regions, as the landscape and needs differ. Where fees are intended to recover costs associated with offering a service, the fee must be different if the cost to provide the service is different.

This is not unlike municipalities, where costs to deliver services such as parks, snow removal, building services, etc. are different, reflecting local needs and priorities.

Aerial photography provides a high level of information at a point in time, but nothing can replace expert eyes on the ground. Often, site visits result in better outcomes for everyone involved. They offer an opportunity for staff and property owners (or their consultants) to discuss the reason for policy and regulation in relation to the actual environment, the needs of the owner, and review pros and cons of different alternatives. This level of service builds understanding and trust and can lead to increased levels of future compliance. This level of service takes time and resources yet is absolutely invaluable to accurate assessment of hazards and to building relationships. The cost of conducting site visits will be different in a CA that covers less area simply due to the time and transportation costs to get to the site.

When developers are not paying appropriate fees for cost recovery of development review, local ratepayers are covering the costs of this important work.

The province has the authority to mandate fees without creating a new Agency or regional CAs.

Ensuring CAs have the necessary funding to undertake development review is a step the province could take immediately to speed up development review.

The creation of a new provincial agency will create another layer to development review. It is unclear how this agency can operate without adding to costs and complexity for Ontarians.

4. Each CA follows different staffing and technical capabilities.

It makes sense that staffing levels might be different for the same reason that fees might be different. Site visits across larger geographic areas take more time and therefore might necessitate more staff. Staff with different levels of experience might require more or less time to process applications depending on whether they are familiar with the specific type of development or property, and that necessitates more or less staff in total.

Similarly, different staffing levels and technical capabilities can be found amongst Ontario municipalities.

Variation in technical capabilities could be addressed by the province funding and providing for cost sharing among CAs to hire shared staff or consultants with necessary expertise.

Conservation Ontario already provides a network amongst CAs to share information, education, and best practices, and could be leveraged to provide networking in this regard.

Alternatively, the province could provide increased technical support through existing ministries where expertise already exists.

An entirely new overseeing agency and regional model is not necessary to overcome different staff and technical capabilities.

Considerations for Owen Sound

Conservation Authorities were created at the request of municipalities to respond to local conditions and have built long standing relationships with the communities they serve. They are substantially funded by the

communities served. Conservation Authorities play a critical role in protecting people and property in Ontario from the impacts of erosion or flooding.

Owen Sound relies on the expert local knowledge and ongoing relationships with GSCA staff to support many activities, including development review and permitting.

Conservation Authorities collectively own and manage thousands of hectares of land, much of which was donated or sold by local residents and entrusted to Conservation Authorities as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed Conservation Authorities.

Owen Sound residents benefit from GSCA lands within and close to the City and benefit from many programs and services they offer. The City has several properties owned jointly (e.g. West Rocks) and leased from GSCA (e.g. Bayshore).

Owen Sound and the other member municipalities have governed GSCA for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers.

Bill 68 (Schedule 3) has legislated the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency whose objects include overseeing Conservation Authorities and the transition to a regional watershed-based framework for Conservation Authorities in Ontario with municipal cost contribution yet to be defined.

Under this proposal, the GSCA would be consolidated into a new “Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority” that is over 23,000 square kilometers in size and consists of 80 municipalities.

The City of Owen Sound has had a record year of residential building permits (553 new residential units as of September 2025).

Owen Sound has a strong working relationship with GSCA which has resulted in a defensible policy framework to protect people and property from natural hazards with shared responsibility for implementation. GSCA works closely with City staff to ensure these homes and other buildings are appropriately located for long term return on investment.

Despite ongoing changes to the legislative framework, downloading of responsibility, and continually reduced funding (or funding that does not

keep pace with inflation) both municipalities and Conservation Authorities strive to fulfill our legislated mandates and provide value added services to our ratepaying communities.

The province has proposed substantial changes to a system that has been working for decades without reasonable consultation with Conservation Authority Boards and municipalities that fund the system.

The province has provided no cost-benefit analysis to demonstrate how these changes will benefit municipalities and Ontario residents or achieve the stated intents. The province has not provided an estimate of the costs of the new Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency or regional conservation authority structure, shared how local interests would be represented at the regional level or how input will be considered, nor demonstrated an openness to local input in recent legislative changes.

For Owen Sound, this could mean:

- Significant loss of representation.
- Limited control of budgets and levies.
- No guarantee that local levies or fees will be invested locally.
- Merging of assets including land and reserves to a regional authority.
- Potential revisiting of existing legal agreements (lease, maintenance, etc.).
- Updates to land use policy to address legislated and operational changes.
- Reduced prioritization of local issues and priorities.
- Potential substantial transition costs related to rebranding, human resources, IT, and financial merging.
- Longer wait times for review of development applications. Given the provincial emphasis on timely decision making this is a significant concern. Owen Sound and GSCA have a well-established system for timely review and commenting on planning applications.
- Higher costs for permits and technical review as GSCA fees are less than other CAs.
- The creation of regional Conservation Authorities will create uncertainty for developers, stakeholders, and community organizations. This could lead to hesitancy in investing in development, hesitancy to enter into shared maintenance and land use agreements, or hesitancy to donate to ongoing conservation programs or new properties.

- Owen Sound has been calling on the province to provide more equitable, reliable, and sustainable means of funding Conservation Authorities since 2015. Instead, fees have been frozen limiting the ability of CAs to respond to increased development applications with increased staff.

Recommendations:

Owen Sound calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based Conservation Authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands.

Owen Sound does not support the proposed "Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority" boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257 as the proposal lacks sufficient justification, would significantly diminish local governance, and fails to recognize the effectiveness and efficiencies already achieved within existing watershed-based models. The existing watershed-based boundaries should be maintained.

Owen Sound affirms that large-scale regional consolidation is unnecessary, would introduce substantial transition costs, and would divert resources away from frontline watershed programs. The Council further asserts that restructuring at this scale would erode local decision-making, weaken municipal accountability, and disrupt long-standing community partnerships that are central to delivering responsive watershed management.

While Owen Sound supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down approach structure without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red-tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs.

Owen Sound urges the Province to strengthen centralized standards, resources, and tools rather than undertaking broad structural amalgamation and to provide sustainable, predictable provincial funding across Conservation Authorities to enable local CAs to advance ongoing digitization and systemization work that has already resulted in improved efficiency and consistency in recent years.

Owen Sound calls on the province to undertake a cost-benefit analysis (including a workforce and geographical analysis) of the current system of Conservation Authorities against the proposed Regional system. Regionalization should only proceed if there are known performance indicator outcomes (KPIs) that will be improved by such a system.

Owen Sound requests that the Ministry engage meaningfully and collaboratively with affected municipalities, Conservation Authorities, and local Indigenous leaders and agencies before advancing any consolidation, to ensure that any changes reflect both local needs and the practical realities of implementation. Local solutions to local problems, as was originally intended by the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Owen Sound cautions the province on implementing a new permitting portal without significant consultation with municipalities and potential users. Not all residents of Ontario have access to broadband internet, and not all residents of Ontario use digital tools even where they are available. Existing ministerial portals do not satisfactorily follow phases of development process and have added to application processing times for municipal staff. Should a new online permitting portal be implemented, that work can be undertaken within the existing conservation authority framework without requiring structural amalgamation.

Owen Sound supports the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority's (LRCA) recommendation that would see LRCA remain a stand-alone Conservation Authority under any new regional model as they are the only Conservation Authority in northwestern Ontario.

With respect to speeding up development processes, Owen Sound reminds the province of the [Minister's message](#) respecting the *More Homes Built Faster Act*:

"In some areas with upper- and lower-tier municipalities (for example, the City of Mississauga which is a part of the Region of Peel), both levels of government have input into development approvals. We're proposing to focus responsibility for land use policies and approvals in the local, lower-tier municipality. This would give the public more influence over decisions, clarify responsibilities and improve efficiency."

Local communities should retain influence over decisions that impact them directly and that they are paying for.

Financial Implications:

Overall financial implications are unknown at this time.

Changes to the structure and operations of Conservation Authorities will impact all City departments and necessitate staff education and training.

Legal fees will be incurred if lease or maintenance agreements need revisiting.

The City's land use policies may require revision if a regional CA wishes to operate differently. Updating local policy documents in response to provincial changes requires significant financial and time investment.

Communication Strategy:

It is recommended that this report and its attachments be provided to the Province of Ontario as the City's response to Bill 68 and the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting 025-1257; and

Forward this report to Paul Vickers, MPP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Grey Sauble Conservation Authority Board of Directors, Conservation Ontario, and AMO.

Consultation:

Staff regularly consult a range of professional sources to inform their analysis and recommendations. Links to resources are included throughout this report and in Schedule A.

Staff have reviewed and have shared considerations of impacts with Grey County as well as other lower tiers.

Staff have also attended a meeting where GSCA made a presentation on the proposed changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Attachments:

Schedule 'A': Links to Supporting Documentation

Schedule 'B': Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities – Supplemental Document

Schedule 'C': Infographic – How GSCA Stacks Up Provincially

Recommended by:

Margaret Potter, BES, RPP, Senior Planner

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 Margaret Potter, Senior Planner at mpotter@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1250.

Links to Supporting Documentation:

[Ontario Planning Act](#)

[Provincial Planning Statement, 2024](#)

Proposed Boundaries for the Regional Consolidation of Ontario's Conservation Authorities ([ERO No. 025-1257](#))

[Supplemental document](#) regarding proposed boundaries

[Bill 68](#), *Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures)*, 2025 (No. 2) would establish the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency

[PDR-CW-70-25 Grey County Report](#) on Proposed Changes to Conservation Authorities in Ontario

[GSCA Board of Directors Agenda November 26, 2025](#)

- Report 033-2025 (page 56) *Bill 68 and Proposed Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Ontario's Conservation Authorities*
- Report 036-2025 (page 162) *Draft Budget – For Circulation*

[CS-15-113](#) *Comments on the 2015 Conservation Authorities Act Review*

[CS-22-149](#) *Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act – Changes Proposed to the Ontario Planning Act and Ontario Heritage Act*

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/more-homes-built-faster> Minister's Message respecting More Homes Built Faster Act (2022)

[CS-22-013](#) Recent Amendments to the Planning Act under Bill 276, the Supporting Recovery and Competitiveness Act, 2021 & Bill 13, The Supporting People and Businesses Act, 2021

[CS-22-084](#) Bill 109 More Homes for Everyone Act

[CS-22-149](#) and [CS-23-078](#) Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act

[CS-23-053](#) Bill 97, Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act, 2023

[CS-23-012](#) and [CS-23-080](#) Proposed Provincial Policy Statement 2023

[CS-23-122](#) Bill 139 Proposed Less Red Tape, More Common Sense Act, 2023

[CS-24-038](#) Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2023

[CS-24-078](#) Provincial Planning Statement, 2024

[CM-25-016](#) Bill 17, Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025

[CS-25-118](#) Bill 60, Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act

[GSCA Board of Directors Agenda February 26, 2025](#)

- Report 007-2025 (page 82) *Extension of Minister's direction for conservation authorities regarding fee changes associated with planning, development, and permitting fees*
- Report 008-2025 (Page 94) *Ontario Regulation 474/24: Minister's Reviews Under Section 28.1 and 28.1.2 of the Act and Minister's Orders Under Section 28.1.1 of the Act*
- Report 009-2025 (Page 101) *2024 Annual Permit Report*

[GSCA Board of Directors Agenda January 22, 2025](#)

- Report 001-2025 (page 65) *2025 Draft Budget – For Approval*
 - o Note page 66 chart demonstrating portion of operating budget revenue attributable to Provincial Transfer

[GSCA 2025 Budget Companion](#)

[GSCA Board of Directors Agenda March 27, 2024](#)

- Presentation (page 88) *Transition to O.Reg.41/24 Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits*
- Report 007-2024 (page 102) *Transition to O.Reg.41/24 Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits*

[GSCA Board of Directors Agenda December 19, 2023](#)

- Report 047-2023 (page 51) *Minister's Direction for Conservation Authorities Regarding Fee Charges Associated with Planning, Development and Permitting Fees*

[GSCA Board of Directors Agenda December 21, 2022](#)

- Letter from GSCA to Premier Ford RE: Bill 23 and ERO Posting 019-6141 (page 36)
- Report 035-2022 (page 130) *Environmental Plan Review and Permit 2023 Fee Schedules – Revision to Lower Fees in result of Bill 23*
- Report 036-2022 (page 140) *ERO Posting #019-2927 Proposed updates to the Regulation of Development for the Protection of People and Property from Natural Hazards in Ontario*

[Conservation Ontario Response to Bill 23](#)

[PDR-CW-10-23](#) Grey County report on Natural Heritage Options following Bill 23

[Ontario Bar Association Article](#) *One Conservation Authority to Rule them All*

[PSD Citywide Case Study](#) *Preserving the Integrity of Ontario Conservation Authorities*

PSD Citywide provides software and advisory services

[Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#) *Advocacy on Bill 60, Data Standards, Blue Box and Conservation Authority Consolidation*

Proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities – supplemental document

Posting closes December 22, 2025, at 11:59pm
Please submit comments via the ERO posting or by email to
ca.office@ontario.ca

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Summary of Proposal

This proposal seeks feedback on proposed boundaries and criteria for the regional consolidation of Ontario's 36 conservation authorities.

It is proposed that Ontario's 36 conservation authorities would be consolidated into the following 7 regional conservation authorities:

- Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority – covers southwestern Ontario watersheds draining into Lake Erie, including the Thames, Grand, and Sydenham systems, supporting agriculture, industry, and shoreline communities. Primarily based on the Northern Lake Erie Secondary Watershed
- Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority – includes watersheds along Lake Huron's northern shore and the Lake Superior basin, supporting conservation and flood management across vast northern watersheds. Primarily based on the Eastern Lake Huron and southern portion of Eastern Georgian Bay Secondary Watershed and in the north the central portion of Northwestern Lake Superior Secondary Watershed.
- Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority – extends along the western Lake Ontario shoreline from Niagara through Halton and Peel, encompassing urban and rural watersheds that support the Greater Toronto–Hamilton corridor. Primarily based on the western portion of the Northern Lake Ontario and Niagara River Secondary Watershed.
- Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority – covers the watersheds from north of Toronto, including parts of York Region, west through Peel Region, east through Durham, and into parts of the Kawarthas, balancing urban growth and agricultural lands while protecting key tributaries to Lake Ontario. Primarily based on the central portion of the Northern Lake Ontario and Niagara River Secondary Watershed.
- Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority – Includes watersheds draining to eastern Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte, including the Trent and Cataraqui systems, supporting a mix of agricultural, urban, and coastal communities. Primarily based on the eastern portion of the Northern Lake Ontario and Niagara River Secondary Watershed.
- St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority – Encompasses watersheds flowing into the St. Lawrence River, including the Raisin and South Nation areas, coordinating flood and water management across eastern Ontario. Primarily based on the Upper St. Lawrence, Lower Ottawa River, and southern portion of the Central Ottawa River Second Watersheds.
- Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority – brings together the conservation authorities in the northeast, maintaining coordination across large

watershed areas and shared northern infrastructure and ecosystems. Its work focuses on maintaining healthy waterways, protecting natural habitats, and promoting sustainable land and water use across major watershed areas that span parts of Northern Lake Huron, the Abitibi, Missinaibi, Mattagami, Wanipitai, French, and Upper Ottawa River systems.

No changes are proposed to the overall extent of conservation authority jurisdiction within the province, and under consolidation the new regional conservation authorities would remain independent organizations operating with municipal governance and oversight, in accordance with requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act*, as administered by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

In addition, the important work that conservation authorities do to protect people and property from the risks of flooding and other natural hazards will not change. The regional conservation authorities would continue to fulfill provincially mandated programs such as drinking water source protection under the *Clean Water Act*, managing development and other activities in areas at risk of natural hazards like flooding and erosion (e.g., floodplains, shorelines, watercourse and wetlands), flood forecasting and warning, and managing their lands and recreational trails so that Ontarians have access to local natural areas and outdoor activities. Regional conservation authorities would continue to provide additional municipal and other watershed programs and services set out under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

We welcome your feedback in response to the proposed boundaries and criteria applied to inform the proposed boundaries for the regional consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities. Comments may be submitted through the Environmental Registry posting or by email to ca.office@ontario.ca.

Boundary Criteria

Provided below are criteria applied for determining the proposed boundaries for regional conservation authorities:

- **Maintaining watershed-based jurisdictions** – Aligning with natural hydrological boundaries to support effective flood and water management, consistent with drinking water Source Protection Areas and Regions.
- **Relationships between conservation authorities and municipalities** – Reducing administrative duplication and overlap for municipalities and conservation authorities to simplify accountability and strengthen local partnerships.
- **Balancing expertise and capacity across conservation authorities** – Enhancing technical skills and resources across conservation authorities to improve service and program delivery.
- **Service Continuity** – Ensuring uninterrupted delivery of local conservation authority programs – including flood forecasting and warning, permitting, and source water protection – through and after consolidation.

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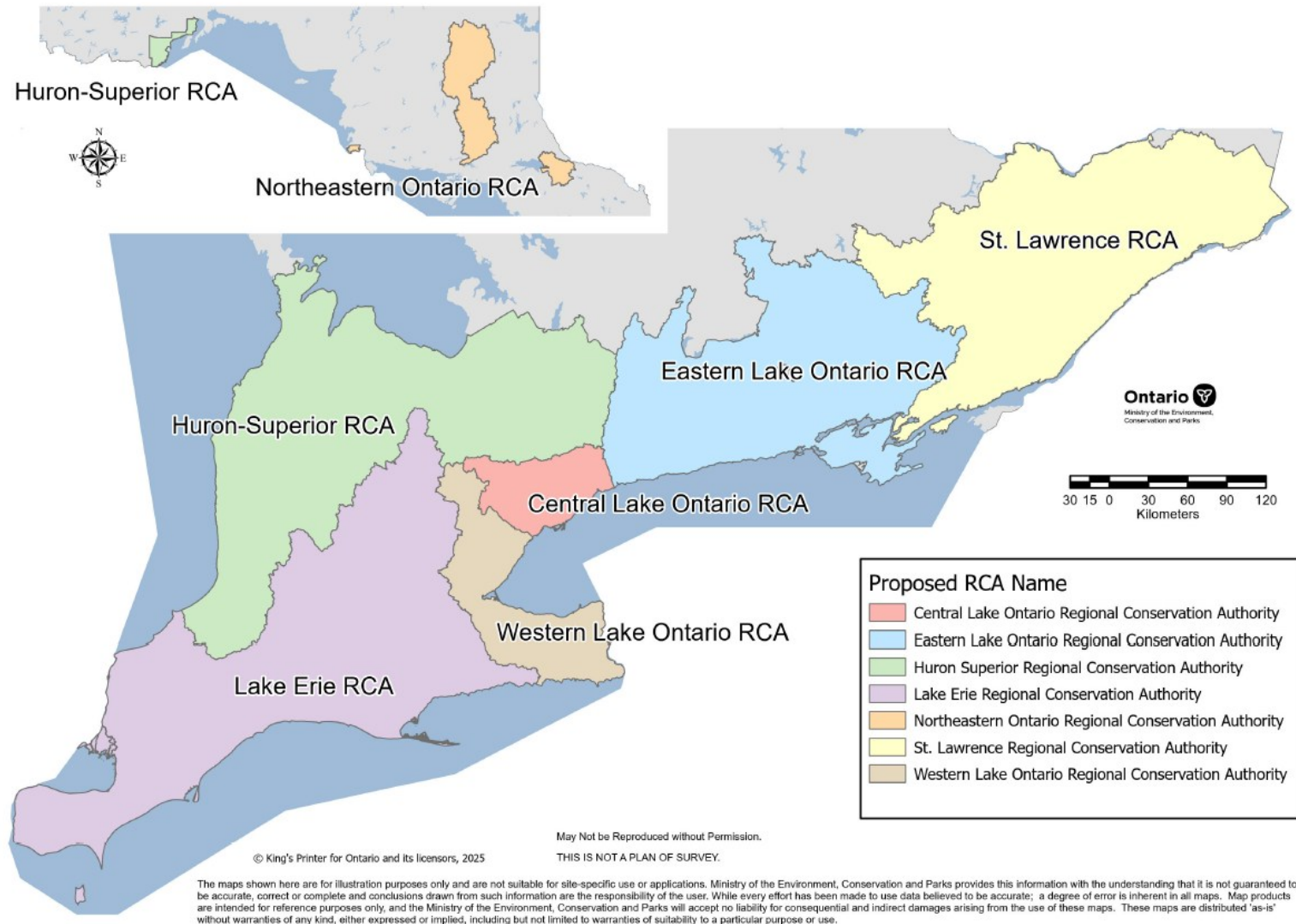
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Maps

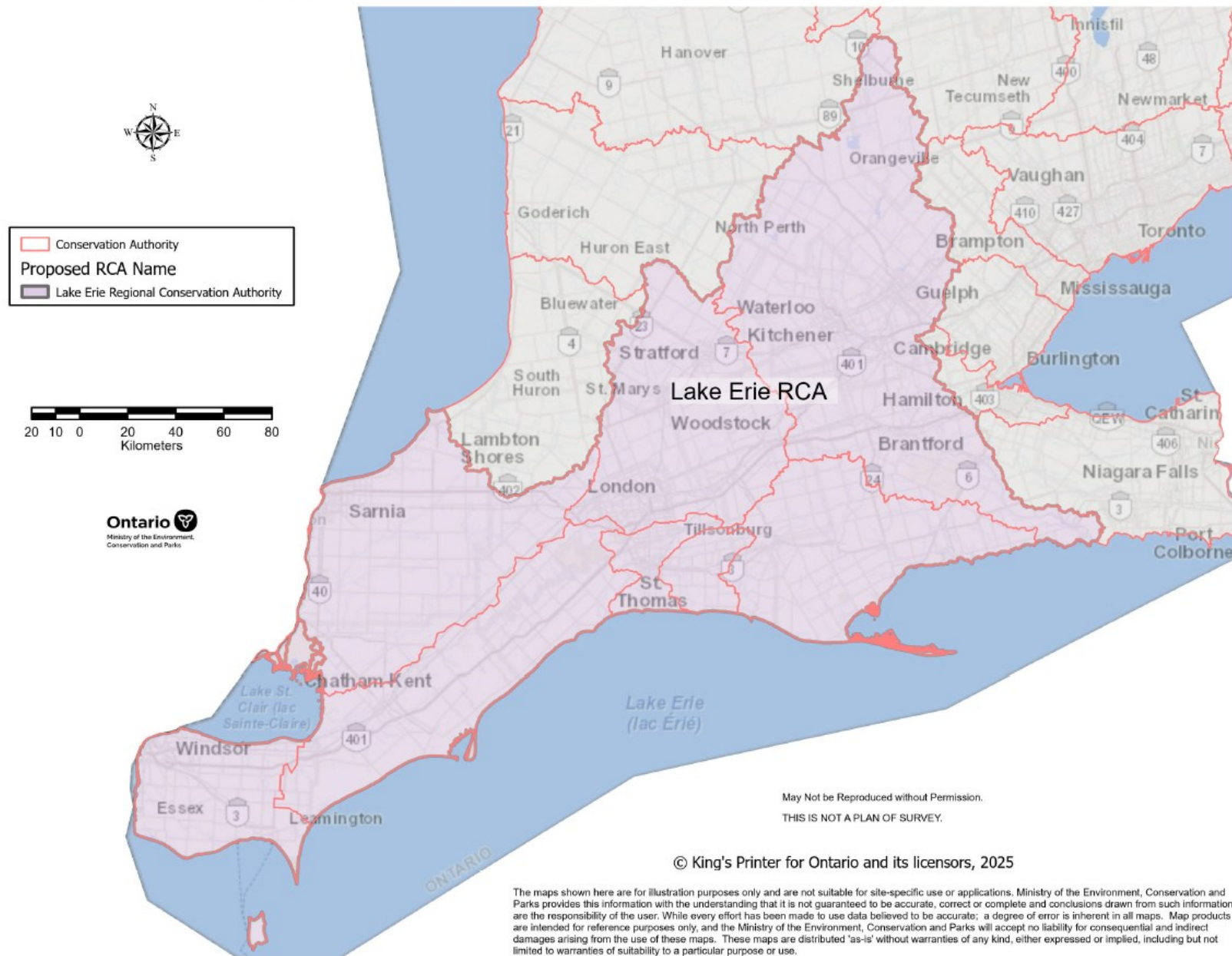
Map of Proposed Regional Conservation Authorities

PROPOSED 7 REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES (RCA)



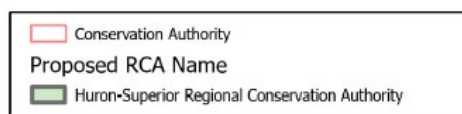
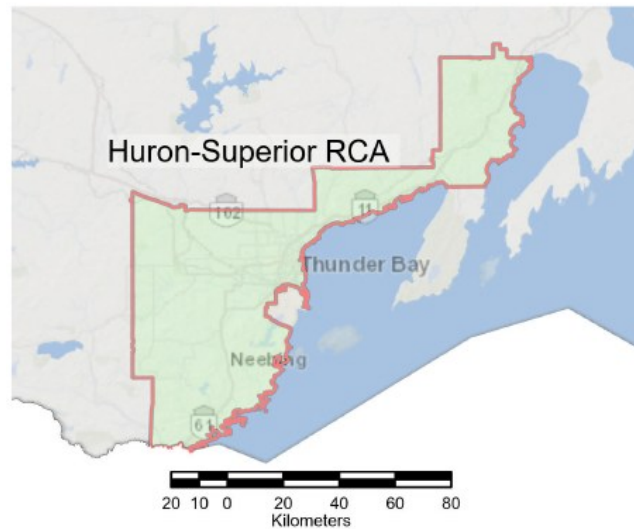
Map of Proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority

LAKE ERIE REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



Map of Proposed Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority

HURON-SUPERIOR REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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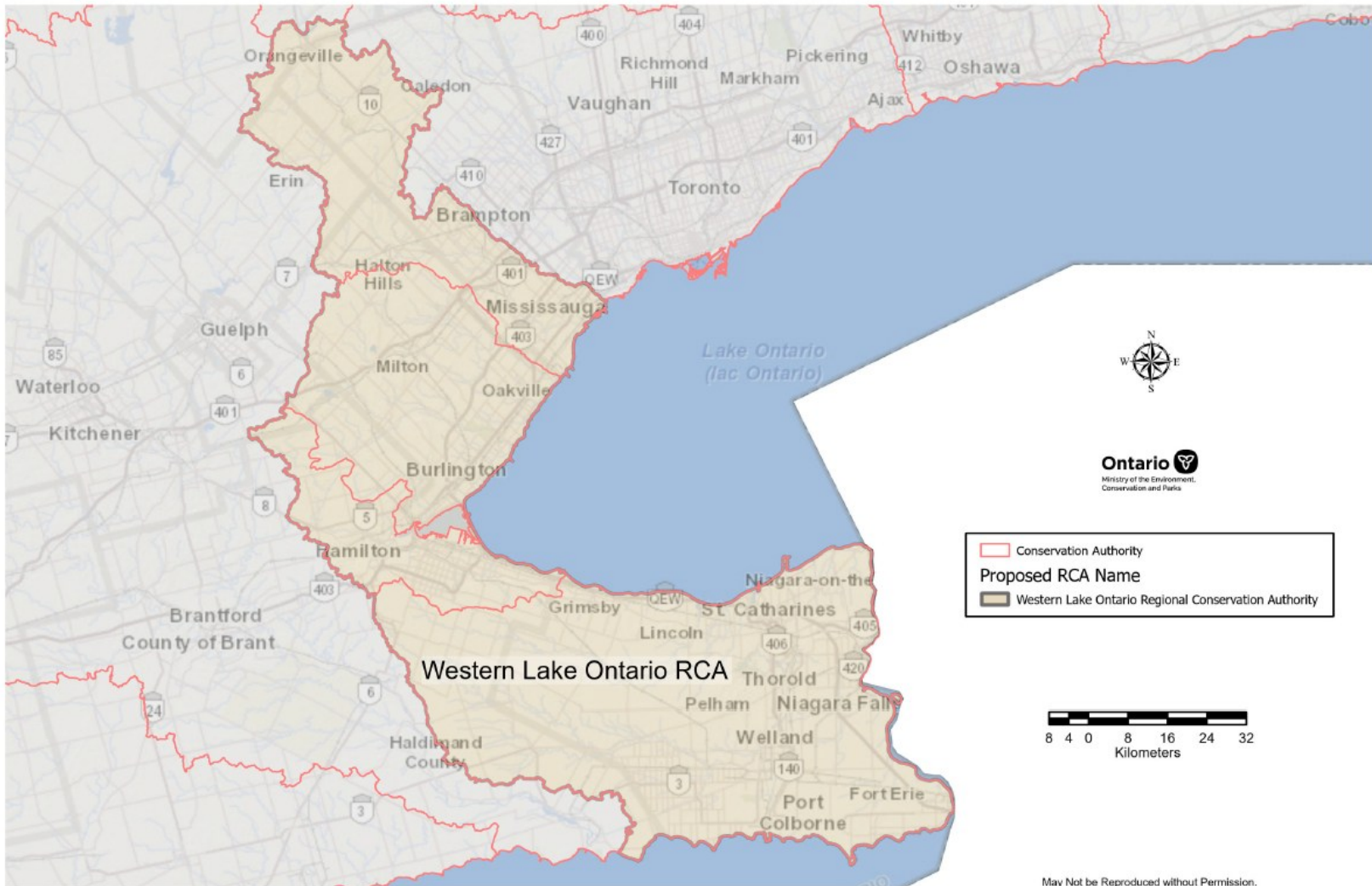


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Map of Proposed Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

WESTERN LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



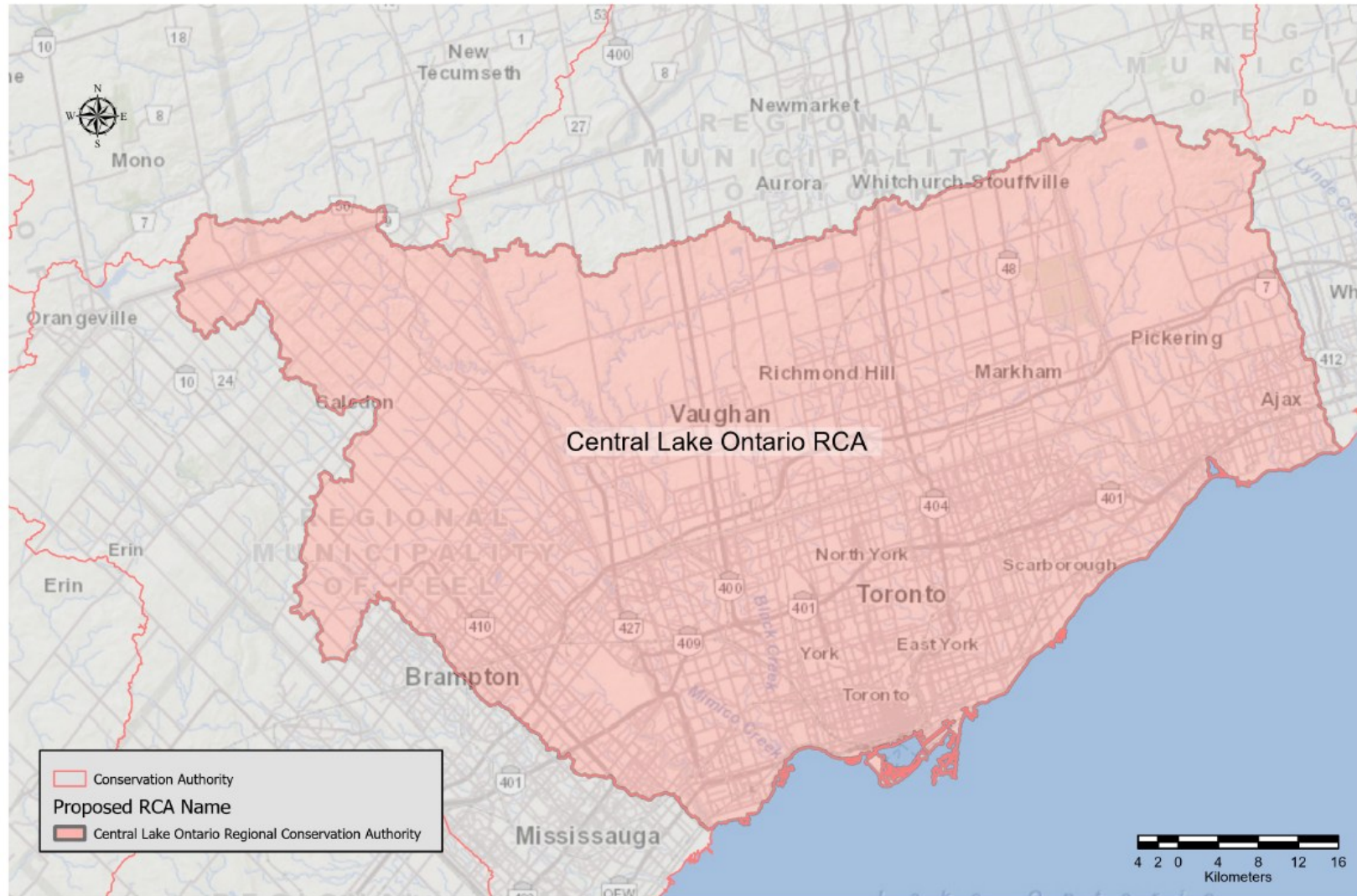
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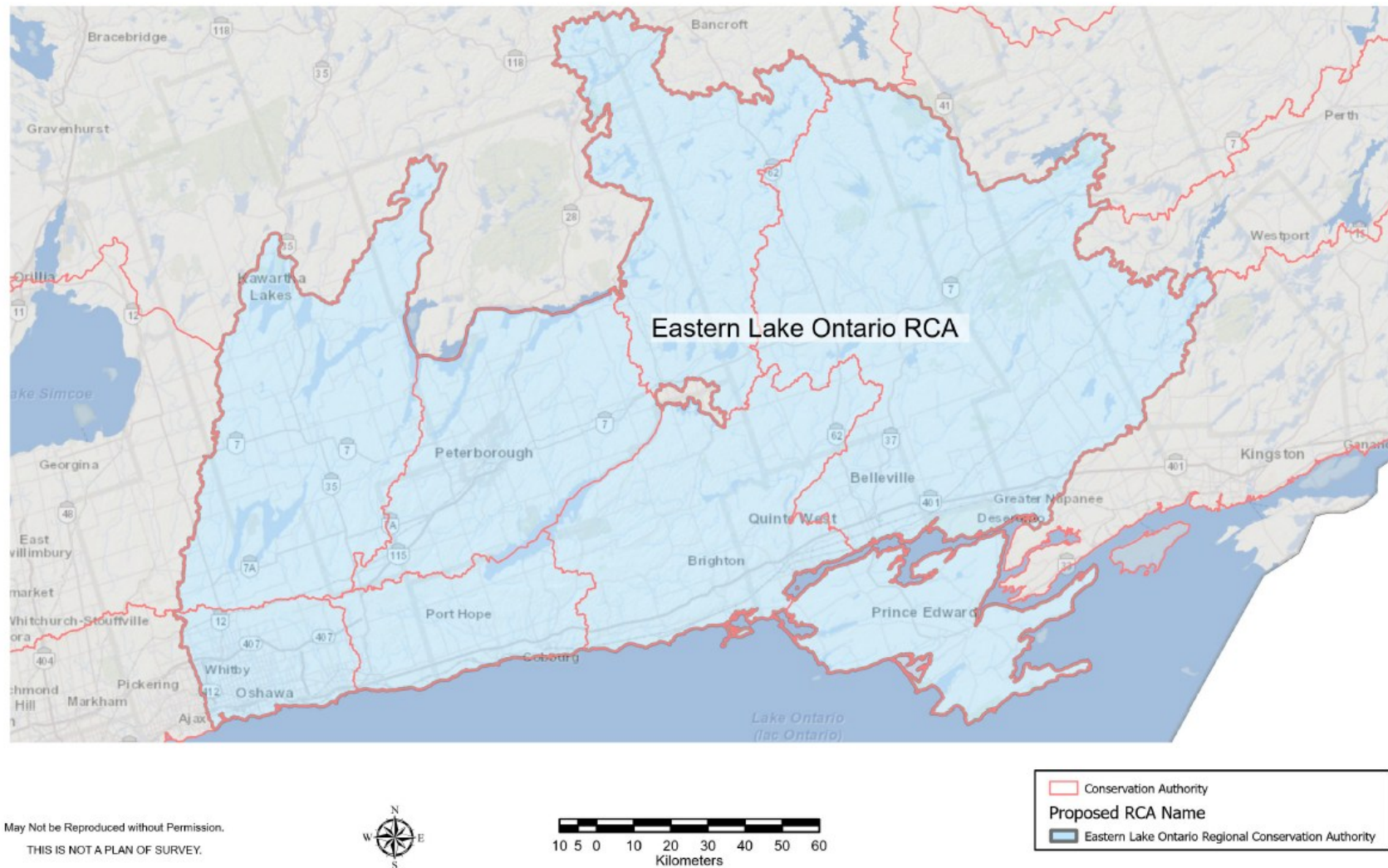
Map of Proposed Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

CENTRAL LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



Map of Proposed Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

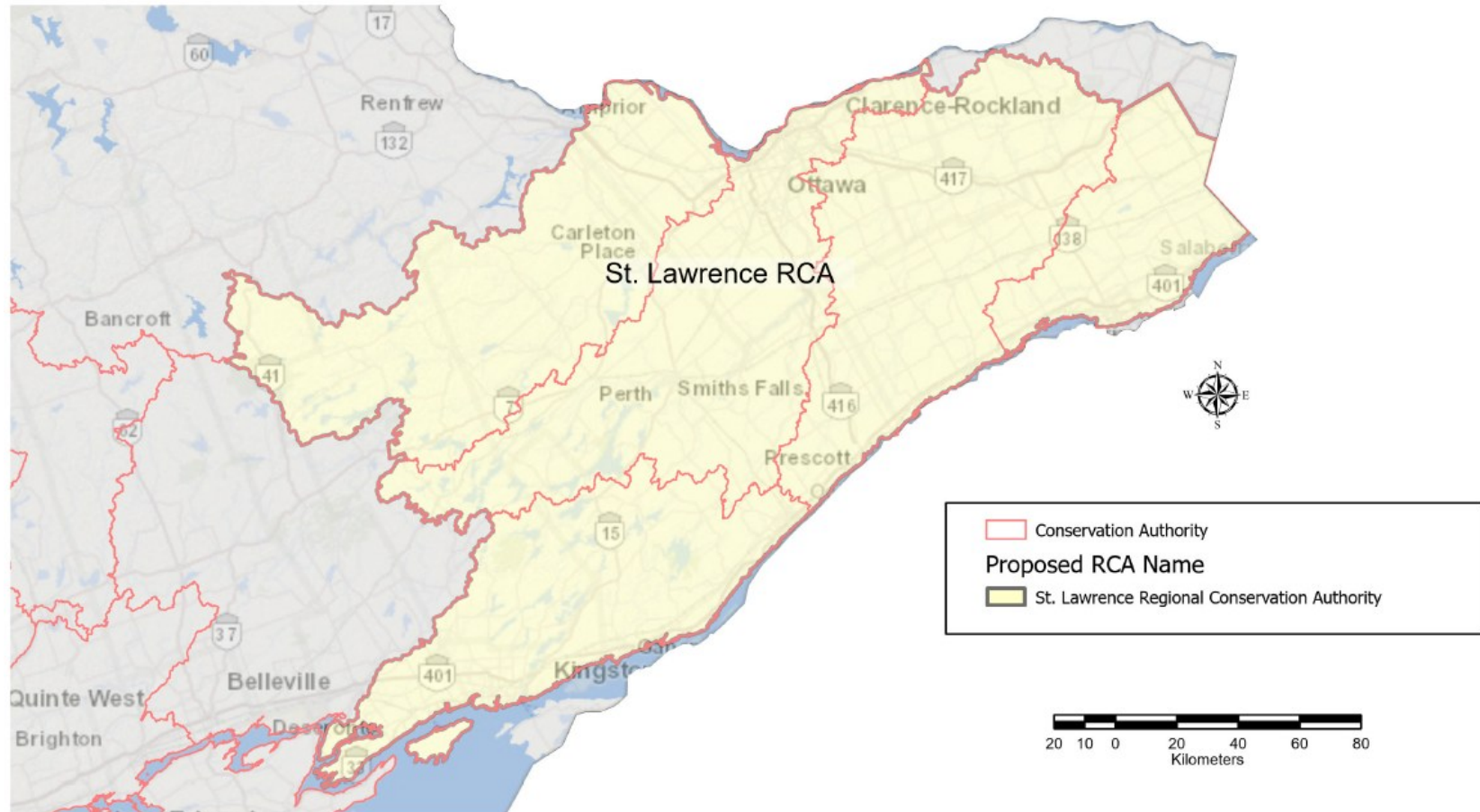
EASTERN LAKE ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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Map of Proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority

ST. LAWRENCE REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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Ontario
Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Map of Proposed Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



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Listing of Municipalities and Conservation Authorities

Below are listings of the current conservation authorities that are proposed to be included with each regional conservation authority, and of the municipalities that would fall within each proposed regional conservation authority.

Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Essex Region CA
- Lower Thames Valley CA
- St. Clair Region CA
- Upper Thames River CA
- Kettle Creek CA
- Catfish Creek CA
- Long Point Region CA
- Grand River CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Lake Erie Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Brantford
- City of Cambridge
- City of Guelph
- City of Hamilton
- City of Kitchener
- City of London
- City of Sarnia
- City of St. Thomas
- City of Stratford
- City of Waterloo
- City of Windsor
- City of Woodstock
- County of Brant
- Haldimand County
- Municipality of Bayham
- Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston
- Municipality of Central Elgin
- Municipality of Chatham-Kent
- Municipality of Dutton/Dunwich
- Municipality of Huron East
- Municipality of Lambton Shores
- Municipality of Leamington
- Municipality of Middlesex Centre
- Municipality of North Perth
- Municipality of South Huron
- Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
- Municipality of Thames Centre
- Municipality of West Elgin
- Municipality of West Perth
- Norfolk County
- Town of Amherstburg
- Town of Aylmer
- Town of Erin
- Town of Essex
- Town of Grand Valley
- Town of Halton Hills
- Town of Ingersoll
- Town of Kingsville
- Town of Lakeshore
- Town of Lasalle
- Town of Milton
- Town of Minto
- Town of Mono
- Town of Petrolia
- Town of Plympton-Wyoming
- Town of St. Marys
- Town of Tecumseh
- Town of Tillsonburg
- Township of Adelaide-Metcalf
- Township of Amaranth
- Township of Blandford-Blenheim
- Township of Centre Wellington
- Township of Dawn-Euphemia
- Township of East Garafraxa

- Township of East Zorra-Tavistock
- Township of Enniskillen
- Township of Guelph/Eramosa
- Township of Lucan Biddulph
- Township of Malahide
- Township of Mapleton
- Township of Melancthon
- Township of North Dumfries
- Township of Norwich
- Township of Pelee
- Township of Perth East
- Township of Perth South
- Township of Puslinch
- Township of Southgate
- Township of South-West Oxford
- Township of Southwold
- Township of St. Clair
- Township of Strathroy-Caradoc
- Township of Warwick
- Township of Wellesley
- Township of Wellington North
- Township of Wilmot
- Township of Woolwich
- Township of Zorra
- Village of Newbury
- Village of Oil Springs
- Village of Point Edward

Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Ausable Bayfield CA
- Maitland Valley CA
- Saugeen Valley CA
- Grey Sauble CA
- Nottawasaga Valley CA
- Lake Simcoe Region CA
- Lakehead Region CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Barrie
- City of Kawartha Lakes
- City of Orillia
- City of Owen Sound
- City of Thunder Bay
- Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
- Municipality of Bluewater
- Municipality of Brockton
- Municipality of Central Huron
- Municipality of Grey Highlands
- Municipality of Huron East
- Municipality of Kincardine
- Municipality of Lambton Shores
- Municipality of Meaford
- Municipality of Middlesex Centre
- Municipality of Morris-Turnberry
- Municipality of Neebing
- Municipality of North Middlesex
- Municipality of North Perth
- Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula
- Municipality of Oliver Paipoonge
- Municipality of Shuniah
- Municipality of South Bruce
- Municipality of South Huron
- Municipality of West Grey
- Municipality of West Perth
- Town of Aurora
- Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
- Town of Caledon
- Town of Collingwood
- Town of East Gwillimbury
- Town of Georgina
- Town of Goderich
- Town of Hanover
- Town of Innisfil
- Town of Minto
- Town of Mono
- Town of New Tecumseth
- Town of Newmarket

- Town of Richmond Hill
- Town of Saugeen Shores
- Town of Shelburne
- Town of South Bruce Peninsula
- Town of The Blue Mountains
- Town of Wasaga Beach
- Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- Township of Adelaide Metcalfe
- Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
- Township of Amaranth
- Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh
- Township of Brock
- Township of Chatsworth
- Township of Clearview
- Township of Conmee
- Township of Dorion
- Township of Essa
- Township of Georgian Bluffs
- Township of Gillies
- Township of Howick
- Township of Huron-Kinloss
- Township of King
- Township of Lucan Biddulph
- Township of Mapleton
- Township of Melancthon
- Township of Mulmur
- Township of North Huron
- Township of O'Connor
- Township of Oro-Medonte
- Township of Perth East
- Township of Perth South
- Township of Ramara
- Township of Scugog
- Township of Severn
- Township of Southgate
- Township of Springwater
- Township of Tay
- Township of Tiny
- Township of Uxbridge
- Township of Warwick
- Township of Wellington North

Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Niagara Peninsula CA
- Hamilton Region CA
- Halton Region CA
- Credit Valley CA

Municipalities that would fall within up the proposed Western Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Brampton
- City of Burlington
- City of Hamilton
- City of Mississauga
- City of Niagara Falls
- City of Port Colborne
- City of St. Catharines
- City of Thorold
- City of Toronto
- City of Welland
- Haldimand County
- Town of Caledon
- Town of Erin
- Town of Fort Erie
- Town of Grimsby
- Town of Halton Hills
- Town of Lincoln
- Town of Milton
- Town of Mono
- Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Town of Oakville
- Town of Orangeville
- Town of Pelham
- Township of Amaranth

- Township of East Garafraxa
- Township of Puslinch
- Township of Wainfleet
- Township of West Lincoln

Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Toronto and Region CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Central Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Brampton
- City of Markham
- City of Mississauga
- City of Pickering
- City of Toronto
- City of Vaughan
- Town of Ajax
- Town of Aurora
- Town of Caledon
- Town of Mono
- Town of New Tecumseth
- Town of Richmond Hill
- Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
- Township of King
- Township of Scugog
- Township of Uxbridge

Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Central Lake Ontario CA
- Kawartha Region CA
- Otonabee Region CA
- Ganaraska Region CA
- Lower Trent Region CA
- Crowe Valley CA
- Quinte Region CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Eastern Lake Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Belleville
- City of Kawartha Lakes
- City of Oshawa
- City of Peterborough
- City of Pickering
- City of Quinte West
- County of Prince Edward County
- Municipality of Brighton
- Municipality of Centre Hastings
- Municipality of Clarington
- Municipality of Hastings Highlands
- Municipality of highlands East
- Municipality of Marmora and Lake
- Municipality of Port Hope
- Municipality of Trent Hills

- Municipality of Trent Lakes
- Municipality of Tweed
- Town of Ajax
- Town of Cobourg
- Town of Deseronto
- Town of Greater Napanee
- Town of Whitby
- Township of Addington Highlands
- Township of Alnwick/Haldimand
- Township of Asphodel-Norwood
- Township of Brock
- Township of Cavan Monaghan
- Township of Central Frontenac
- Township of Cramahe
- Township of Douro-Dummer
- Township of Faraday
- Township of Hamilton
- Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen
- Township of Limerick
- Township of Loyalist
- Township of Madoc
- Township of North Frontenac
- Township of North Kawartha
- Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan
- Township of Scugog
- Township of Selwyn
- Township of South Frontenac
- Township of Stirling-Rawdon
- Township of Stone Mills
- Township of Tudor and Cashel
- Township of Tyendinaga
- Township of Uxbridge
- Township of Wollaston

St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Cataraqui Region CA
- Rideau Valley CA
- Mississippi Valley CA
- South Nation River CA
- Raisin Region CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed St. Lawrence Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Brockville
- City of Clarence-Rockland
- City of Cornwall
- City of Kingston
- City of Ottawa
- Municipality of Mississippi Mills
- Municipality of North Grenville
- Municipality of South Dundas
- Municipality of The Nation
- Town of Carleton Place
- Town of Gananoque
- Town of Greater Napanee
- Town of Perth
- Town of Prescott
- Town of Smiths Falls
- Township of Addington Highlands
- Township of Alfred and Plantagenet
- Township of Athens
- Township of Augusta
- Township of Beckwith
- Township of Central Frontenac
- Township of Champlain
- Township of Drummond/North Elmsley
- Township of East Hawkesbury
- Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal
- Township of Elizabethtown-Kitley
- Township of Front of Yonge
- Township of Greater Madawaska
- Township of Lanark Highlands
- Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands
- Township of Loyalist
- Township of Montague
- Township of North Dundas
- Township of North Frontenac
- Township of North Glengarry

- Township of North Stormont
- Township of Rideau Lakes
- Township of Russell
- Township of South Frontenac
- Township of South Glengarry
- Township of South Stormont
- Township of Stone Mills
- Township of Tay Valley
- Village of Casselman
- Village of Merrickville-Wolford
- Village of Westport

Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority

Current conservation authorities that would make up the proposed Northeastern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority include:

- Nickel District CA
- Sault Ste. Marie Region CA
- Mattagami Region CA
- North Bay-Mattawa CA

Municipalities that would fall within the proposed Northeastern Regional Conservation Authority include:

- City of Greater Sudbury
- City of North Bay
- City of Sault Ste. Marie
- City of Timmins
- Municipality of Callander
- Municipality of Powassan
- Municipality of East Ferris
- Town of Iroquois Falls
- Town of Mattawa
- Township of Black River-Matheson
- Township of Bonfield
- Township of Calvin
- Township of Chisholm
- Township of Matachewan
- Township of Mattawan
- Township of Nairn and Hyman
- Township of Nipissing
- Township of Papineau-Cameron
- Township of Prince

GSCA: A LOT FROM A LITTLE

How GSCA Stacks Up Provincially

0.6% 
Of Provincial Population

0.8% 
Of All Conservation Authority Staff

0.9% 
Of All Conservation Authority Revenue

2.9% 
Of All Conservation Authority Watershed Area

3.8% 
Of All Conservation Authority Owned Wetlands

7.8% 
Of All Conservation Authority Owned Lands

9.8% 
Of All Conservation Authority Owned ANSI's

10.3% 
Of All Conservation Authority Owned Forests

John H. Thomson
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



Executive Fax: (519) 376-2456
Operations Fax: (519) 376-6131

December 18, 2025

Mayor Ian Boddy
City of Owen Sound
808 2nd Ave East,
Owen Sound, ON
N4K 2H4

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mayor Boddy,

Re: Mayoral Directive and 2026 Operating Budget

The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge receipt of your Mayoral Directive dated December 2, 2025, directing the police service budget be returned to city staff with a levy impact not exceeding 5.5 per cent. The revised final documents are to be submitted by Thursday, December 18, 2025. I understand the pressures that informed that position for the city levy, but I also understand the issues that were the basis for the evidence-based police budget.

As you may recall, our "preliminary" estimated increase for 2026 was originally 8.35 percent, and ahead of our meeting, Chief Ambrose was able to reduce that amount down to 7.49 percent.

In your letter you provided some observations that arose from your internal review and from your auditors that might assist the Board in achieving the 5.5 per cent threshold. The police board would like to provide comments surrounding those observations.

NG911 Revenue Recognition

We are in agreement that a formal revenue policy should be developed to recognize the NG911 dispatch services, consistent with PSAS 3400.

Chief Ambrose, Chris Hill, Jeff Hawke and I met prior to the latest board meeting on Tuesday and went through and developed a revenue policy that accounts for revenue recognition. This information will be passed along to city staff and does not change the revenue realized from this account for 2026.

Contingency and Staffing Gapping

You mention that wages accounted for 87 percent of total gross costs in 2025, and will represent a similar proportion in 2026. I agree, staffing costs are a major cost in any municipal police service. You also mention that natural savings from vacancies, delayed hiring, retirements, and position transitions, contribute to wage gapping that reduces the in-year impact. While this observation is true, the impact of prolonged gapping simply to meet an imposed budget cap has significant additional costs such as overtime, officer wellbeing, and sick time. It also delays meeting the actual needs of the community due to the approximate nine-month training for an officer from the date of hire to working independently. This greatly affects workload on existing officers. For example, of all our current complement of officers, six remain in training at this time from 2025 hires. During the budget process the chief went to considerable lengths to examine the true impacts of these components. We are currently operating with a number of officers that are very new to the job as a result of retirements. This puts a significant additional workload on our experienced officers and has the real potential to increase overtime and add to stress and the potential of burnout of our officers. A strategy to reduce a budget simply by lowering staff costs, yet maintaining or increasing work levels is not practical much less possible. I would like to note that budgeting or planning to wage gap should not be part of a business plan, but an anomaly and used as a last resort as a result of unplanned circumstances during a budget period. I would also note that the OSPS has probably the lowest number of WSIB claims in any of the small or mid-size services in Ontario, with only one member currently receiving WSIB.

Chief Ambrose has done a thorough review for the timing for onboarding new officers and anticipated retirements. This detailed review allowed us to reduce our original budget proposal from the original 8.35 percent to the proposed 7.49 percent as discussed at our meeting.

Court Case Manager Costs

I have been advised that the agreement with the court was prepared by the city without any consultation with the chief prior to final approvals. The city calculated the grant based on the difference between the provincial funding grant and the actual costs of court security. The grant does not cover any supervision of the security members, and this should have been included in the county agreement, but did not include sufficient funds to cover the costs related to the court security management function. The overall increase in court costs is twofold. One is related to a significant increase in the number of court cases being heard at the Owen Sound Court House. There are also a number of instances where court cases from other jurisdictions have been transferred here

with no funding provided or any cost sharing formula.

The second is a result of a shooting in a northern court room last summer. A recommendation was made by the Solicitor General's office in August regarding armed officers within the courthouse. It was also suggested that the Provincial Offences court, held at the County Building also have an armed officer during proceedings. This leads not only to increased court costs but takes at least two officers or more off the streets from patrol duty and the downtown area where we have been specifically requested to increase our presence. The chief is trying to meet with the justice department locally to get clarification on their needs, as to the number of armed officers they want present.

Grant Revenues

With respect to grant revenues, I think you would agree that Chief Ambrose and his staff have applied for every grant available to the service and have been very successful in having the majority of these grants approved, which have reduced additional policing costs to the tax payer. For example, the service was successful in obtaining the Community Safety and Policing grant for the 2025-26 fiscal year. This provided \$229,519 to assist the OSPS in maintaining their Part Time Officer Enhancement Initiative. This initiative will allow for part time police officers to assist with traffic enforcement and calls during peak volume periods. The second allotment for \$417,679 under the Provincial Priorities Funding Stream will assist with the funding of our CORE unit and provide a greater visibility in the River District and other areas that are a concern to citizens.

We have also applied for and been approved for all NG911 grants available to us. Since our meeting we have received an additional \$47,971 in funding from the Solicitor General's office to support eligible expenditures for NG911. We will continue to apply for all policing grants available to the service.

Items Impacting the 2026 Police Budget

I would also like to take the opportunity to highlight items that impact this year's police budget. They include:

- Newly negotiated collective agreements for both the OSPA and the Senior Officers Association – with added salary costs. These increases are affecting budgets for all police services across Ontario with the majority facing much higher increases than we are experiencing in Owen Sound.
- Significant new reporting requirements to the Inspectorate of Policing and related costs as a result of the CSPA, including the reinstatement of the deputy chief position that had been left unfilled for several years.

- Our officers have the highest clearance rates for services of our size, which is a positive impact for citizens. This high clearance rate speaks to the volume of work and pressures they are under.
- The OSPS is actually policing a market population of 153,000 not a population of 21,800.
- The proposed budget increases the complement of officers in order to staff at least one armed officer at the courts and to add one officer to each platoon. This will allow officers to assist with the increased demands for armed court security and meet demands for service. The is the first front line staffing have increased in over 10 years despite doubling our calls for service and criminal charges in that same time period.
- The proposed civilian staffing levels remain the same but better reflects the actual costs as a result of a negotiated contract in place in 2026 and better tracking of training and staffing related costs.

Board members have also asked me to include their remarks in this letter:

"I have a real concern that reducing the budget as requested may impact the board's ability to fulfill its obligation of providing adequate and effective policing for our municipality as required under the act. The police budget submitted is essential and is not out of line with other municipal police services across the province. Doesn't the act say that a municipality that maintains a municipal board shall provide the board with sufficient funding to comply with the CSPA and the regulations? Is a municipality allowed to impose an artificial cap?"

"When I look at our police service, we are the busiest service in Ontario. Charges per officer is at an all-time high and our employees are feeling the pressure of work-related stress. I would hate to see our WSIB claims rise because of work related stress injuries."

"The proposed budget will add to our short-staffed platoons and alleviate some of the stress from our employees and boost morale in the workplace. Our police budget is still much lower than many municipal police budgets across Ontario. What I don't want to take responsibility for is seeing people missing work from stress or being unreasonably overworked."

"Community safety remains a priority focus supported by the adequate and appropriate fiscal tools to provide this. Impacts on the police budget formulation and submission directly results from the additional legislated requirements placed on police services that adds to the police budget requirements submitted. This legislated requirement differentiates the service, adds to the costs and is distinct from other boards in the city. The data provided to the Board and the responses from the public

through surveys and the Vision 2050 feedback supports the police budget approved by the Board for submission."

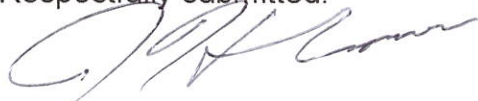
"I continue to hear comments from the community about safety in Owen Sound and that won't happen without the continued effort of our police service and our support."

The police board met on December 16, 2025. At that meeting the chief presented the board with a revised budget which he was able to reduce from the December 2, 2025 proposal of 7.49 percent. As outlined in staff report CR-25-099 the police service spent a significant amount of time discussing the demands for service and the requirement for adequate and effective policing. Following those guidelines and the city's directive that service levels drive the budget; the budget does not drive service levels. The board has reviewed your directive and is not able to meet your request, while continuing its efforts to be in compliance with the requirements for adequate and effective policing and meeting the needs of the community and the police service."

Based on the information presented above and significant discussion and deliberation around the board table, the board has voted unanimously in favour of accepting the Chief's 2026 budget increase of 7.23%.

Mayor Boddy, thank you for your time in reviewing these comments.

Respectfully submitted.



John Thomson – Chair of the Owen Sound Police Service Board

cc: Members of the Owen Sound Police Service Board
Craig Ambrose, Chief of Police
Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk



TOWNSHIP OF CHATSWORTH
316837 Highway 6, RR 1
Chatsworth, Ontario N0H 1G0
Telephone 519-794-3232 – Fax 519-794-4499

December 18, 2025

By Email Only: tnichollsharrison@library.osngupl.ca & videoguyorama@gmail.com

Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library
 824 1st Ave, W
 Owen Sound, ON N4K 4K4

Attention: Tim Nicholls Harrison, CEO / Chief Librarian

Re: Resolution: 2026 Draft Budget Revised

Please be advised at Township of Chatsworth Council held on December 17, 2025 the following resolution was carried:

THAT Committee of the Whole receive the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library 2026 revised draft budget for information; and
 FURTHER THAT Committee of the Whole recommends to Council that the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library 2026 revised draft budget be supported and the proposed levy for the Township of Chatsworth of \$187,790.00.

Should you require additional information please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Tyler Zamostny, AMP, Dipl.M.A.
 Deputy Clerk

Cc:

Carly Craig, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk (Township of Georgian Bluffs):
ccraig@georgianbluffs.ca

Briana Bloomfield, City Clerk (City of Owen Sound):
bbloomfield@owensound.ca

Elizabeth Thompson, Township of Chatsworth Board Member:
elizabeth.thompson@chatsworth.ca



Clerk's Department

595 9th Avenue East, Owen Sound Ontario N4K 3E3
519-372-0219 / 1-800-567-GREY / Fax: 519-376-8998

December 19, 2025

Grey County Local Municipalities
VIA EMAIL

Please be advised that at its meeting held December 11, 2025, Grey County Council supported the following resolution:

CW164-25

Moved by: Councillor Nielsen

Seconded by: Councillor Dobreen

That report PDR-CW-64-25 is received; and

That a copy of this report be shared to the member municipalities within Grey County, and with MPs and MPPs for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound and Simcoe-Grey, for information purposes.

Please find enclosed the above referenced report for your reference.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BRier".

Brittany Rier
Deputy Clerk
548-877-0731
brittany.rier@grey.ca
www.grey.ca

Page 2

cc: MPP Vickers: Paul.Vickers@pc.ola.org
MPP Saunderson: Brian.Saunderson@pc.ola.org
MP Dowdall: Terry.Dowdall@parl.gc.ca
MP Ruff: Alex.Ruff@parl.gc.ca

/enclosure: Staff report PDR-CW-64-25



Committee Report

To:	Warden Matrosovs and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	November 27, 2025
Subject / Report No:	PDR-CW-64-25
Title:	Clerk's Department
Prepared by:	Liz Buckton, Senior Policy Planner
Reviewed by:	Scott Taylor
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All Member Municipalities in Grey County

Recommendation

1. That report PDR-CW-64-25 is received; and
2. That a copy of this report be shared to the member municipalities within Grey County, and with MPs and MPPs for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound and Simcoe-Grey, for information purposes.

Executive Summary

This report offers updates regarding various actions pursued under the County's Housing Action Plan since last reporting to County Council in late 2024. It also describes emerging progress relating to some of the more abstract innovation and community-development-related actions described within the plan and offers some suggested next steps regarding plan implementation and future updates. Staff are recommending the report be received and shared as an update on the County's Housing Action Plan progress.

Background and Discussion

Further to the housing initiatives of the County's Community Services department, an Updated Grey County Housing Action Plan (HAP) was endorsed by Council in August 2023. The HAP was developed in collaboration with municipal staff from across the County, identifying a variety of actions that may be undertaken to support the creation of affordable and below-market rate rental units, as well as affordable home ownership units, which are often referred to as 'attainable'.

Work on the identified actions within the HAP has continued since that time, with overarching update reports having been offered in October 2024 (Appendix 1- 3) and action-specific reporting on Surplus Lands initiatives in September 2025 (Appendix 4). Staff encourage a review of these prior reports to give the most fulsome picture of the various elements of work underway.

This report is offered as further information relating to HAP progress, focusing on several distinct elements of the plan, rather than offering a global summary. It is structured in two parts:

- 1) **Update & Advance:** This section includes a short list of ongoing items where a status update is offered, alongside commentary relating to next steps; and,
- 2) **Innovate & Educate:** This section offers commentary relating to several of the more ‘abstract’ actions included within the plan, offering some preliminary strategic consideration and recommendation relating to how the County may orient to participate and advance action on these unique elements of the Plan.

1. Update & Advance

	Housing Action Item	Description
1.1	Surplus Lands	This action relates to inventory, assessment and potential future offering of County-owned (surplus) lands for housing creation purposes.
1.2	Enhanced Data Collection & Sharing	This action focuses on addressing data needs to support housing creation, needs/gap identification, creation of targets, and, for progress monitoring.
1.3	Grey County Housing Fund	This action affirms the County’s intent to maintain a levy-based funding contribution towards future affordable housing projects to serve the County’s most vulnerable populations.
1.4	Community Improvement Plans (CIP)	This action speaks to the County’s support of CIPs as a useful tool for municipalities to incent affordable and attainable housing creation.
1.5	Planning Documents and Processes	These actions propose updates to the County and municipal official plans and zoning by-laws to incorporate affordable/housing-supportive policies. The importance of coordinated land and infrastructure planning for growth and streamlined municipal processes are also highlighted.

1.1 Surplus Lands

This element of the Housing Action Plan remains in progress. Report PDR-CW-57-25 '*Surplus Lands for Housing – Site Preparation & Derisking Activities*' (Appendix 4) was recently presented to Council in September of 2025. This report outlined next steps for site investigation and de-risking activities for two pilot properties located in Markdale and in Durham. Funds requested to support this work will be further considered via the 2026 budget process.

1.2 Enhanced Data Collection & Sharing

Staff note that data related work has been ongoing and is an important underpinning element of the HAP. As described in detail within report PDR-CW-57-24 '*Housing Planning Data Needs & Regional Housing Strategy*' (Appendix 3), several specific data tasks have been included on staff workplans for 2025, as will further extend into 2026.

These tasks include the completion of an updated Growth Management Strategy (GMS) for the County, as well as subsequent preparation of a County-wide Housing Need Assessment (HNA). In turn, this updated data will inform further strategic thinking, writing, and a future update to the Housing Action Plan.

Growth Management Strategy (GMS)

The GMS is now well underway and expected to conclude in late 2025 or very early 2026. The County retained Hemson Consulting Ltd. to complete this work, as has been informed by outreach to local municipal staff for both planning data and narrative/observational input. As part of this process, staff have also been consulting with other public sector partners, such as school boards, the health care sector, and public health.

The GMS forecast approach is in-keeping with the proposed updated methodology released by the province earlier this year. Data outputs will include updated population, household, and employment forecasts for the County to the year 2051. These County-wide forecasts will be further broken down into local municipal growth allocations for the member municipalities over this same planning horizon. As is typical, once completed and endorsed, the growth forecasts will be embedded into the County's official plan, via a future amendment.

Housing Need Assessment (HNA)

Data gathering has begun to inform the planned Housing Need Assessment (HNA), which is intended to follow the GMS work. The HNA will provide a better understanding of the built resources (i.e., housing amounts, types, locations) required to support or facilitate the population and employment growth forecasted via the GMS.

Presently, municipalities of 30,000 population or more are required to submit a formal HNA in support of applications for federal infrastructure funding. While this mandatory requirement does not currently apply to smaller municipalities, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada have recently begun issuing pre-populated HNA templates for smaller municipalities to support completion of such assessments.

In addition to supporting housing planning by local government, completed HNAs are quite useful to inform individual applications within the community. For example, a HNA may be used where:

- a) a local non-profit may be required to demonstrate community need, in relation to an affordable housing project they are seeking federal construction funding for, or,
- b) where a for-profit developer may be looking to access preferred Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) mortgage insurances for their new rental building.

The federally pre-populated HNA template documents have now been obtained for each of the member municipalities. Housing demand figures will be an additional output of the GMS work and will further help to inform the HNA. Additionally, Rural Housing Information System (RHIS) data will continue to be a useful resource for this work. Staff intend to document the data sources underpinning the final HNA for feedback/sharing to Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) as may support curation of relevant data within the RHIS to support future HNA work by the County and others.

Housing Targets & Monitoring Metrics

Staff would finally note that housing related data, targets, and monitoring metrics remain an ongoing item of discussion around the municipal staff-level Affordable Housing Community of Practice table. Updated affordable/attainable housing targets and monitoring metrics could perhaps be explored in greater detail as a component of the future HNA and embedded via future updates to the HAP and/or the Grey County Official Plan.

1.3 Grey County Housing Fund

As the system Service Manager, Grey County is responsible for overseeing the delivery of housing and homelessness services for our most vulnerable population. The County develops and maintains a 10-year Housing and Homelessness Plan, reviewed every five years, aligned with provincial policy statements. The next revision of Grey County's housing and homelessness plan is due May 2026.

The current Housing and Homelessness Plan consists of four strategies:

- Create more affordable housing
- Preserve existing stock
- Initiate a by name list
- Increase supportive housing

In December 2020 the Affordable Housing Committee proposed a 1% levy contribution towards an affordable housing development fund be created. The fund would be used to fund affordable housing builds, buy surplus lands or properties and support rent supplements to support our lowest income families and singles.

The County also made the decision to sell off older single detached homes to add to the affordable housing fund. The houses are sold as they become vacant, to date seven houses have been sold.

In the last four years the affordable housing build fund has provided \$5,845,000 in funding for the following projects:

- a) Lutheran Social Services Owen Sound towards a 40-unit seniors' apartment building;
- b) 12 units of supportive housing with 24-hour supports on site;
- c) Purchase of a 22-unit motel to provide transitional housing and supports to those experiencing homelessness;
- d) Acquisition of land for affordable housing in partnership with the City of Owen Sound;
- e) Committed funds for a 40 unit build in Dundalk by Grey County housing starting in 2026.

Currently, all funds are committed, and the fund will continue to support affordable housing projects with non-profits and Grey County housing as more funds become available. There are currently three future projects waiting for funding from the County and other levels of government to move forward.

1.4 Community Improvement Planning (CIPs)

Under Section 28 of the *Planning Act*, a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) enables municipalities to support community improvement through tools such as grants and loans. These plans can address a range of priorities, including affordable housing, infrastructure, intensification, environmental standards, energy efficiency, mixed-use and transit-oriented development, accessibility, and employment.

In Grey County, most member municipalities have a CIP program in place, though these plans vary in their scope and resourcing. Staff note that several municipalities have CIP updates currently in process, or intentions to update their plans in the near term. Staff-to-staff discussion and information sharing is ongoing in this regard. County staff would

generally encourage inclusion of affordable/housing-specific programs within the local CIP's as may be tooled or targeted to respond to identified needs or gaps in the local housing supply.

County CIPs

As noted in report PDR-CW-56-24 '*Housing Action Plan – Emerging Understandings*' (Appendix 2) Staff identify that a CIP at the County level, could be a further useful tool to facilitate support for strategically important housing creation across the County.

For example, a County CIP could support offering of incentives for those housing types and pricings that the market may not be well positioned to achieve or perhaps could support community acquisition of lands or existing at-risk affordable housing. A County CIP may further offer flexibility relating to the nature of future disposals of surplus lands for housing purposes (i.e., at reduced cost; subject to specific desired housing outcomes). Importantly, this tool could also facilitate incenting of affordable units by social purposes and/or traditional market-developers. This is challenging to do outside of the CIP framework, often resulting in time-limited affordability via capital facilities agreements, rather than offering any affordability in perpetuity.

Generally, an upper-tier CIP could create opportunity for incentives to be offered more nimbly by the County to support uptake of emerging public/private/non-profit partnership models for affordable and attainable ownership, over the long term. This could perhaps be aligned alongside the existing Grey County Housing Fund as is alternately targeted towards deepest affordability projects, supportive of the County's most vulnerable populations.

Pursuing a County CIP

Currently, only eight *upper-tier* municipalities in Ontario are permitted to prepare CIPs as listed in Ontario Regulation 221/07. There are no parameters identified in the *Planning Act* regarding how upper-tier municipalities may seek to be prescribed for CIP purposes. As such, County staff pursued preliminary discussion with Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff in this regard. At that time, it was suggested that a letter of request be submitted to the Minister.

Subsequently, the province has introduced Bill 60 the Fighting Delays, Building Faster Act, 2025. Bill 60 proposes changes to the *Planning Act*, as would allow an upper-tier municipality to designate a community improvement project area and administer a CIP.

At the time of writing this report, Bill 60 had not yet received third reading or royal assent. Staff intend to monitor the progress of this element of Bill 60. Should this element of the Bill be approved, no further request to the province would be required to establish such a tool in Grey County. Should the County wish to prepare a CIP at a

future time, a further staff report would be prepared to outline the process and associated financial and resource implications for Council's consideration.

1.5 Planning Documents & Processes

The County and member municipalities have been making progress on these elements of the HAP, with various amendments completed or underway to update local planning documents to incorporate recent legislative and policy changes, and to embed affordable/housing-supportive policies and permissions. This work has included the following:

- additional residential unit (ARU) policies and zoning permissions,
- approaches regarding Short-term Accommodations and how they are permitted and regulated locally,
- the inclusion of housing-related goals, objectives and targets to guide future efforts, and
- height, density, and intensification policies, as may support affordability and a fulsome housing mix.

Some municipalities have taken the further step of preparing local project charters (e.g., Meaford) or housing-specific workplans (e.g., The Blue Mountains), to build upon the direction offered within the County's HAP and outline how related work will occur at the local level. There has also been some action locally around land acquisition for future housing use/partnership (e.g., Owen Sound) as may tangibly support affordable/housing creation in future.

2. Innovate & Educate

As noted above, this second section of the report will offer commentary relating to several of the more 'abstract' actions included within the Housing Action Plan (HAP). It also includes some preliminary strategic consideration relating to how the County may participate and advance action on these unique elements of the plan.

	Housing Action Item	Description
2.1	Work with non-profits to create affordable housing and build local capacity for affordable housing creation	This action relates to an ongoing expressed intent by the County to work together with the not-for-profit sector on the creation and delivery of affordable housing and to explore opportunities to further support and build non-profit sector capacity in Grey.
2.2	Explore funding models and tools to build affordable housing (e.g.,	This action speaks to the desire of the County to learn and explore the potential of alternative and emerging financing tools, approaches and models for affordable housing creation.

	community bonds, social finance tools)	This action places the County in a ‘learning stance’ in this regard, and the Housing Action Plan notes that <i>‘innovative ideas may flow from this...stance. Opportunities to ‘workshop’, refine and advance innovative local solutions and transfer of knowledge should be explored as they may arise.’</i>
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2.1 Non-Profit Housing Creation & Capacity:

In addition to the direct project and partnership work of the County’s Housing Services Manager with local non-profits in the creation and maintenance of deeply affordable housing, the HAP also targets exploration of broader support and capacity building actions for this sector in Grey County.

As described within, the HAP orients Grey County as a lead organization regarding actions falling within its spheres of influence and control. However, the HAP relies on local municipalities, local charitable, non-profit and community partner agencies, and the development community, to participate in these actions. Each local partner/sector is encouraged to consider further actions that may fall within their respective spheres of influence and control which could be pursued towards the collective goal of addressing the housing affordability crisis in Grey County.

Ongoing co-learning and networking

As noted in report PDR-CW-55-2024 – ‘*Housing Action Plan – Status Update (2024)*’ (Appendix 1), staff have engaged in ongoing networking and co-learning with community partners, such as the [Institute of Southern Georgian Bay](#) (‘the Institute’) in this regard. The work and focus of the Institute’s Housing and Social Finance Learning Circle has aligned well with the above-noted actions of the County’s HAP. This work represents a great example of a local community partner taking action to explore how they may further support achievement of collective housing goals, locally and regionally.

Staff note that there are several ways local government may engage around non-profit sector capacity building for housing purposes (e.g., funding, data-sharing, skills incubation, partnership, etc.). However, there are some things that the County and/or member municipalities are not ideally positioned, resourced, or otherwise able to do. The work of the Institute builds upon this understanding, proposing a ‘whole community’ approach as it seeks to align municipal and community efforts across the region to drive affordable housing creation at greater scale.

A whole community approach

This proposed collaborative approach would suggest a local government focus on the following items:

- The targeting of policy, permissions and implementation tools towards affordability, for example, offering clear definitions, data resources, and targeted incentives to support affordable housing and non-market housing.
- Establishing and maintaining good regional communication to facilitate community buy-in and collaboration across sectors, as may additionally include a regional 'table' or oversight/coordination committee, in future.
- Municipal engagement around community wealth and social finance approaches, as are being explored by community partners for local implementation.
- Development of a cohesive regional perspective on workforce housing and associated needs and approaches.

Community focus would be oriented around these items:

- Building the local 'systems architecture' (i.e., organizations and functions) to support affordable and non-market housing at a greater scale, as may include a land trust organization and regional community development organization.
- Linking of non-market housing creators, such as non-profits, cooperatives, and social service agencies through a community of practice.
- Support for local citizens groups, relating to advocacy, education and skills development to encourage affordable housing creation and related municipal efforts.
- Preparation of a regional community wealth/social finance strategy, as would explore how our communities can lend, spend / invest for community benefit, and help to inform the development of supportive social finance tools for local housing creation.

At the time of future update to the HAP, it may be appropriate to embed some of these ideas formally within the plan, further detailing those items recommended for local government focus. As the community-based work continues, staff suggest ongoing engagement and support by the County at a staff level. This support would be through data and information sharing, and active consideration/exploration of how the County may support or align together with the community elements of this work.

Community incubation of system components

Staff are pleased to further highlight a partnership, building off the work of the Institute of Southern Georgian Bay's Housing and Social Finance Learning Circle, and Community Foundation Grey Bruce's (CFGB) Vital Focus on Housing Report (2023).

The CFGB will be incubating a new 'Grey Bruce Community Development Corporation' (CDC) beginning this fall.

CDCs operate throughout the world in various forms, being non-profit organizations with primary emphasis on growing economic and community well-being projects. The intent is that the new CDC will be initially focused on affordable housing throughout the two counties. The Community Foundation envisions that the CDC will:

- offer mentorship and technical support for community housing projects,
- explore social finance tools (like community bonds) to unlock new local investment,
- initiate the development and/or protection of affordable housing in Grey Bruce, and
- create space for collaboration between governments, developers, and non-profit partners.

To guide the CDC, Ryan Deska joins Community Foundation Grey Bruce as a Strategic Initiatives Consultant on Housing. Mr. Deska brings deep experience in rural housing and community development, including his work with Habitat for Humanity Guelph Wellington in the design and implementation of its community bonds program.

Staff see great potential associated with such a community-based development organization to help coordinate, facilitate, and resource affordable and attainable housing creation across the County, partnering together with the government sector, non-profits, or traditional developers. Such an organization may support the local curation of niche skills and capacities to support affordable housing creation, as they differ from market-based residential development generally. This could include, for example, skills and expertise relating to multi-partner partnership models to support affordable unit creation.

Sector-based skills building

Other resources are also emerging as may support skill building within the non-profit/non-market sector. For example, the United Way has recently begun offering [Community Real Estate Capacity Building](#) training/courses.

Staff expect that similar skills building within the municipal sector would be advantageous to facilitate County and/or local municipal participation in such future partnerships, as well. This may be particularly useful, for example, in relation to surplus lands offerings and related partnership opportunities. The province, or perhaps municipally focused organizations such as Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) could be well positioned to curate and deliver such educational material on a broad basis for the municipal sector.

Achieving scale for affordable and non-market housing creation

Staff would additionally note that with the early stages of the roll out of the [Federal Build Canada Homes](#) initiative now underway, there has been early signaling towards future federal support and prioritization for non-market affordable housing creation, at scale. There is much detail yet to come around the program and the future funding and financing approaches that will support it. Staff are cognizant of language within early documents, such as *the 2025 Build Canada Homes - Market Sounding Guide* (Appendix 5), that speak to an intent to grow the stock of affordable housing in Canada through “*substantial individual projects (e.g. 300+ units)*” or “*as a collection of smaller projects grouped within a broader portfolio*”.

It appears that the federal [Affordable Housing Fund](#), as has supported individual builds and community housing upgrades, will continue until enhanced funds are exhausted. Beyond that, staff do not know if/how smaller-scale or standalone projects may continue to be funded or financed via future program iterations under the Build Canada Homes umbrella. Staff wonder if there may be some future aggregation of projects needed (e.g., regionally) to access future financial tools/federal investment for housing creation of this nature. If this were to be the case, the County or perhaps a community-based development corporation (or both working in concert) may be supportive in such aggregation role.

Staff would note that there are also several existing provincial and partnered federal/provincial funding programs in place that support housing delivery in Grey County. These include, though are not limited to:

- Direct-transfer programs to the Housing Service Manager, for example, under the National Housing Strategy (NHS), the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) are offered to help protect and renew existing social housing stock, and to support expansion of community housing supply over time;
- Application-based housing-enabling infrastructure funding or financing programs, as may apply to both core infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges, culverts) and water systems (e.g. drinking, wastewater and stormwater); and,
- The Building Faster Fund offers funding to municipalities that meet provincially assigned housing targets. This fund also contains a small/rural communities funding carve out intended for those municipalities not assigned provincial targets.

While these programs are important and the support for community housing and housing-enabling infrastructure is appreciated, staff recommend that additional funding and greater certainty around its availability will be necessary to achieve a larger scale of affordable housing development in Grey County.

With respect to the Building Faster Fund specifically, staff note that despite the small/rural communities funding carve out, eligibility criteria for communities without provincial targets are quite stringent and have excluded most Grey County member municipalities. Summary data compiled by the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus for the first year of the fund, found that 3 of 117 municipalities in rural Western Ontario had received such funding for a total of just 2.7% of the total funding envelope, while representing 26% of municipalities in the province. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has recently [offered advice to the Ministry](#) around the Building Faster Fund for 2026, as would recommend retooling of the program to tackle systemic barriers to housing development, rather than an explicit focus on housing start targets.

Staff will continue to monitor roll out of the federal Build Canada homes program, as well as the evolution of provincially offered funding/financing for housing purposes. Until further details emerge, ongoing advocacy by the County is likely appropriate to both federal and provincial governments requesting maintained and enhanced access to funding and financing for affordable and community housing creation in small urban and rural communities like here in Grey County.

2.2 Finance Innovation for Affordable Housing

The social purposes financial sector, comprised of distributed actors across Canada, have offered pre-election and pre-budget advocacy in 2025 to help to further grow and shape social and community investment related financial tools tailored to non-profit and non-market housing applications. Staff would highlight organizations like [Catalyst Community Finance](#), and [Tapestry Community Capital](#), as emerging leaders in this sector, and the [Canadian Coalition for Community Capital](#) as an example of such ongoing collective advocacy work.

This work is pursued in recognition that non-profits and even mid-sized local governments may lack access to the adequate capital or the preferred rate financing necessary to deliver affordable community housing on an appropriate scale to meet local needs. In Grey County, the addition of mechanisms to facilitate local investment into local projects could enhance the viability of affordable housing creation, reduce reliance on external granting and investment, and perhaps be employed for other types of non-housing community development work as well.

Community bonds, represent one such tool gaining traction across Canada. Staff offer the following links as examples of active community bond campaigns, showing how such offerings can be structured to support local housing creation and acquisition: [Housing Forever Bonds](#) (Ottawa Community Land Trust); and, [Redwood Community Housing Bonds](#) (Redwood Park Communities, Simcoe County).

Emerging partnered impact fund models

In addition to the development of small-scale local investment tools and associated advocacy relating to the applicable regulatory environment, there are also emerging examples of larger scale partnered funds being established together with local government and other investors, for targeted housing intervention.

As an example, staff would highlight the Canadian Alliance for Transit-Connected Housing or '[CATCH fund](#)', which is a new blended capital fund designed to support the acquisition, development, and preservation of community housing near transit lines. This blended capital fund model combines public investment from government and municipal sources; catalytic philanthropy to absorb risk and attract private partners, and institutional capital seeking impact with stable returns. The CATCH fund offers the following:

- Flexible, mission-aligned financing for community housing providers, especially in high-demand areas near transit.
- Support for land and building acquisition, enabling providers to act before affordability is lost.
- Low-cost financing to advance development projects.
- Bridge and cash flow financing during construction phases.

This work builds on an earlier funding prototype/affordable housing innovation lab in Hamilton. It offers an example of bold investment and municipal funding innovation that could perhaps be replicated to support targeted housing creation on a regional basis in rural Ontario also.

Based on direction within the HAP, staff recommend that ongoing learning around these emerging tools and models should continue. As noted in the HAP '*Opportunities to 'workshop', refine and advance innovative local solutions and transfer of knowledge should be explored as they may arise.*'

Conclusion

This report has been provided to offer an update on the Housing Action Plan and related implementation activities. A further update to the plan itself is targeted to occur following completion of the planned Housing Need Assessment and the related drafting of strategic approaches to address housing supply gaps identified through this work.

Staff suggest such strategy writing, with regional scope, would build from the GMS and HNA data and understandings of where certain housing types and pricing are needed, and where broader population and economic growth opportunities are likely to exist. This work will consider how municipal structures and capacities can be best positioned, used, or applied, to facilitate these targeted housing creation opportunities and would be

further translated into discrete actions for inclusion in the HAP. As noted herein, future HAP updates could also embed the ‘whole community’ approach and related distributed actions for both local government and community partners. Staff Report *PDR-CW-57-24 Planning Data Needs & Regional Housing Strategy* (Appendix 3) further describes the anticipated interplay between the ongoing data work, and such future intended HAP update.

Relevant Consultation

- ☒ Internal – Community Services, CAO’s Office, Communications
- ☒ External – The Institute of Southern Georgian Bay (including participation by various local municipal staff and councilors, Grey Bruce Community Foundation staff, various local non-profit housing organizations, front line social service providers & housing advocates, and various visiting speakers/experts etc.); Grey County/Municipal Staff Community of Practice members; Cross-county staff network (including staff from Bruce, Huron and Simcoe Counties).

Appendices and Attachments

Appendix 1: [PDR-CW-55-24 Housing Action Plan Update \(2024\)](#)

Appendix 2: [PDR-CW-56-24 HAP – Emerging Understandings \(2024\)](#)

Appendix 3: [PDR-CW-57-24 Housing Planning Data Needs & Regional Housing Strategy](#)

Appendix 4: [PDR-CW-57-25 Surplus Lands for Housing – Site Preparation & De-Risking Activities \(Sept. 2025\)](#)

Appendix 5: [Build Canada Homes – Market Sounding Guide](#)



RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 333

DECEMBER 10, 2025

Moved by:

Brad Kneller

Seconded by:

Bishop

WHEREAS staff submitted an application for Invest Ready–Certified Site Designation, which was denied due to the absence of water, wastewater, and natural gas infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS staff subsequently met with representatives of the associated grant funding program, who advised that additional funding opportunities for rural communities would be forthcoming;

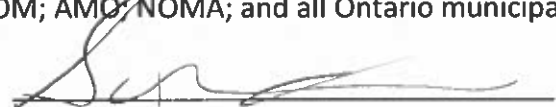
AND WHEREAS the Site Readiness Program for Industrial Properties has since been launched, with eligibility requirements stipulating that any missing infrastructure must be in place and serviceable within two years of acceptance into the grant funding program;

AND WHEREAS it is not financially feasible nor in the best interest of our ratepayers to install full municipal water, wastewater, and natural gas services, as the associated capital and operating costs would impose an undue financial burden on the Municipality's ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS alternative servicing solutions commonly used in rural and northern Ontario—such as properly designed and maintained septic systems for wastewater, drilled wells for drinking water, and propane or hydro for heat—are proven, reliable, and effective forms of infrastructure that can safely and efficiently support industrial and commercial development;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan urges the Province of Ontario to revise its grant funding criteria to recognize and accept these alternative servicing methods as eligible infrastructure, and to ensure that rural and northern municipalities lacking municipal gas, water, and wastewater systems are not excluded from support;

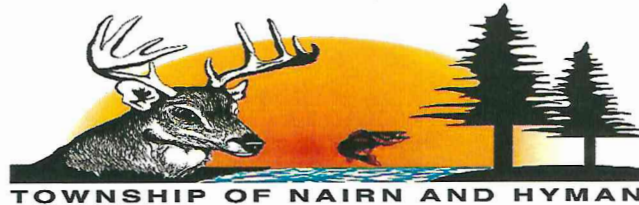
AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford; the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; the Honourable Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP for Parry Sound–Muskoka; the Honourable Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound–Muskoka; FONOM; AMO; NOMA; and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried ☒Defeated ☐Deferred ☐

 Sam Dunnett, Mayor

Recorded Vote Called by: _____

Recorded Vote

Member of Council	Yea	Nay	Absent
Bishop, Bill			
Hetherington, John			
Hind, Jon			
Kneller, Brad			
Mayor: Dunnett, Sam			



64 McIntyre Street • Nairn Centre, Ontario • P0M 2L0 ☎ 705-869-4232 📠 705-869-5248
 Established: March 7, 1896 Office of the Clerk Treasurer, CAO E-mail: belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca

December 17, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
 Office of the Prime Minister
 80 Wellington Street
 Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Support Resolution

Please be advised our Council adopted the following resolution at their meeting of December 8, 2025:

**SUPPORT REQUEST FOR NATION-BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS TO HIGHWAY
 11/17 (2+1 & FOUR LANE OPTIONS)**

RESOLUTION # 2025-14-241

MOVED BY: Karen Richter

SECONDED BY: Wayne Austin

WHEREAS Canada's east-west trade and national mobility rely on the Trans-Canada Highway system, including Highways 17 and 11 across Northern and Eastern Ontario, which carry significant freight volumes but remain predominantly two-lane corridors; and

WHEREAS four-laning the entirety of Highway 17 is the ultimate goal of the communities along the corridor; and

WHEREAS the proven "2+1" highway design - alternating passing lanes with a continuous median barrier - delivers safety outcomes comparable to full twinning at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes (2+2) as volumes grow; and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced a 2+1 pilot between North Bay and Temagami and a further extension toward Cochrane, creating a near-term implementation pathway; and

WHEREAS modernizing Highways 17 and 11 will improve safety, reduce closures, strengthen supply-chain reliability for mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing, and enhance national resilience and emergency response capacity; and

WHEREAS a phased 2+1 build - prioritizing Highway 11 (North Bay --+ Cochrane, then Cochrane--+ Nipigon} and key sections of Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew--+ Sudbury; Sault Ste. Marie --+ Sudbury; Thunder Bay--+ Kenora} - aligns with nation-building criteria, supports economic reconciliation with Indigenous partners, and enables integrated EV charging and low-carbon construction practices;

WHEREAS analysis summarized by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, (FONOM} demonstrates high freight demand on these routes and strong safety/economic rationale for a 2+1 program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman formally endorses the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 17 and 11 as a nation-building project; and

THAT the Government of Canada be urged to designate this initiative as a project of national interest under the Building Canada Act and to partner with Ontario to co-fund and accelerate planning, design, procurement, and construction; and

THAT the Government of Ontario be urged to expand the announced pilot to a corridor-wide program, sequencing works as follows (subject to readiness and safety benefit}:

THAT the Government of Ontario prioritize these projects into the Ministry of Transportation's Major Projects Division; and

THAT both governments ensure early, ongoing, and capacity-supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, with opportunities for Indigenous training, contracting, and equity participation; and

THAT the program incorporates corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife considerations}, resilience measures (closure mitigation, climate adaptation}, and clean-growth elements (EV charging readiness, recycled aggregates, lower-carbon materials; and

THAT this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada}, the Minister of Infrastructure (Canada}, the Ontario Minister of Transportation, local MPs and MPPs, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM}, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA}, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO}, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM}, Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA}, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC} for support.

CARRIED

Sincerely Yours,



Belinda Ketchabaw
CAO Clerk - Treasurer

BK/mb

cc: Federal Minister of Infrastructure
Federal Minister of Transport
Premier of Ontario
Ontario Minister of Transportation
FONOM
NOMA
AMO
FCM
ROMA
EOWC
Local Member of Parliament
Local Member of Provincial Parliament

For Immediate Release

Northern Ontario Hill Days: NOMA and FONOM Bring a Unified Northern Voice to Ottawa

Thunder Bay, ON / North Bay, ON — December 3, 2025 — The Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) have concluded two highly productive days of meetings on Parliament Hill as part of **Northern Ontario Hill Days**, a coordinated advocacy mission that brought municipal leaders directly to federal decision-makers to advance the priorities of Northern communities.

Over the two-day mission, representatives from NOMA and FONOM met with **MPs from all parties, Cabinet Ministers, Opposition Leaders, and senior federal officials**, underscoring a shared message: **supporting the North is essential to strengthening Canada's economy, infrastructure, and communities.**

High-Impact Meetings Across Parliament Hill

Throughout the mission, the delegation engaged in focused discussions with:

- **Staff from the Leader of the Official Opposition**
- **MP Marcus Powlowski (Thunder Bay–Rainy River)**
- **MP Pauline Rochfort (Nipissing–Timiskaming)**
- **Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne**
- **Minister Patty Hajdu**
- **Minister Mélanie Joly**
- **Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Housing Jennifer McKelvie**
- **Parliamentary Secretary for Immigration Peter Fragiskatos**
- **Housing Critic Scott Aitchison (CPC)**
- **MP Eric Melillo (Kenora / Kiiwetinoong - CPC)**
- **Senior staff in the Prime Minister's Office**

These discussions centred on the urgent needs of Northern communities and the unique role the region plays in national economic growth, resource development, supply chain reliability, and community safety.

Advancing Key Priorities for Northern Communities

NOMA and FONOM presented a coordinated set of priorities, including:

■ **Strengthening the Trans-Canada Highway System**

Northern Ontario is home to the most vulnerable stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway. The delegation called for federal investment in 2+1 highway models, redundancy around critical pinch points, and long-term resilience planning to ensure the continuity of Canada's national supply chain.

▪ **Addressing Labour Shortages Through Tailored Immigration Pathways**

Municipal leaders emphasized that severe labour shortages are slowing growth across essential services, small businesses, and major industrial projects. The delegation pressed for rural- and Northern-specific immigration solutions to attract and retain workers and to support regional post-secondary institutions facing enrolment pressures.

▪ **Community Safety and Meaningful Bail Reform**

Delegates urged the federal government to take decisive action on chronic reoffending, improve accountability within the bail system, and support measures that restore safety and confidence in Northern communities.

▪ **Unlocking Economic Growth and Critical Minerals Development**

NOMA and FONOM highlighted the global significance of Northern Ontario's critical mineral potential and called for accelerated permitting, strategic infrastructure investments, and continued support for Indigenous-led partnerships.

Quotes:

"Northern Ontario's highways are Canada's highways. The Trans-Canada corridor through our region is the most vulnerable stretch in the entire country, and without real federal investment in redundancy, expansion, and safety upgrades, the national supply chain remains at constant risk. At the same time, our communities are facing historic labour shortages across every sector. We made it clear in Ottawa that Northern Ontario is ready to grow, but we need the workers—and the safe, reliable transportation infrastructure—to support that growth."

— **Rick Dumas, President, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)**

"Municipalities across Northern Ontario are confronting a community safety crisis driven by chronic and repeat offenders, and we pressed the federal government for meaningful bail reform that protects victims, reinforces accountability, and ensures our communities can feel safe again. At the same time, labour shortages are holding back everything from small businesses to major resource projects. Northern Ontario needs a federal partner committed to real solutions on both fronts if we are going to thrive."

— **Dave Plourde, President, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)**

A Strong and Collaborative Presence

Northern Ontario Hill Days showcased unprecedented collaboration between the two regional associations, presenting a united and solutions-focused voice to federal leaders. Together, NOMA and FONOM affirmed that **a strong, growing Northern Ontario is foundational to building a strong and competitive Canada.**

Looking Ahead

NOMA and FONOM expressed their commitment to continuing this momentum through **annual federal engagement**, ensuring that the issues facing Northern communities remain front and centre in national discussions.

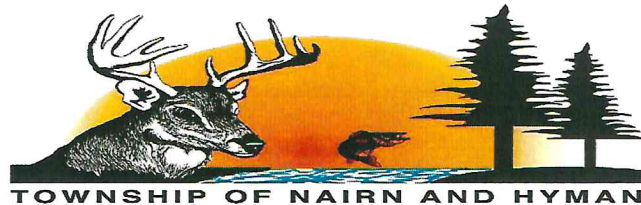
Both organizations also extended an invitation to federal leaders, stating that they **look forward to welcoming MPs, Ministers, and the Prime Minister** to their upcoming conferences to continue dialogue, strengthen relationships, and advance shared priorities for Northern Ontario.

—30—

Media Contacts:

Dave Plourde, President, FONOM
705-335-1615 | fonom.info@gmail.com

Rick Dumas, President, NOMA
807-683-6662 | admin@noma.on.ca



64 McIntyre Street • Nairn Centre, Ontario • P0M 2L0 ☎ 705-869-4232 📠 705-869-5248
 Established: March 7, 1896 Office of the Clerk Treasurer, CAO E-mail: belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca

December 17, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
 Office of the Prime Minister
 80 Wellington Street
 Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Support Resolution

On behalf of the Council of the Township of Nairn and Hyman, I am writing to formally convey Council's support for recent federal measures aimed at stabilizing and strengthening Canada's steel and softwood lumber sectors.

As a small Northern Ontario municipality whose economy is closely tied to the continued operation of Interfor, a local softwood lumber mill, Council is increasingly concerned that ongoing trade pressures and market uncertainty are placing added strain on the long-term viability of this key employer. Any reduction in operations or a potential closure would have significant and lasting consequences for local employment, municipal revenues, and the overall economic and social wellbeing of our community.

In this context, and in response to the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities' November 26, 2025 media release, Council adopted the enclosed resolution at their meeting of December 8, 2025:

SUPPORT FOR STEEL AND LUMBER SECTORS

RESOLUTION # 2025-14-247

MOVED BY: Karen Richter

SECONDED BY: Wayne Austin

WHEREAS the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) has issued a media release dated November 26, 2025, welcoming the Government of Canada's new measures to support the steel and softwood lumber sectors in response to ongoing U.S. tariff pressures; and

WHEREAS the federal actions—including strengthened protections for domestic producers, expanded financial supports, and increased incentives to utilize Canadian steel and lumber in federal infrastructure and housing projects—represent important steps in stabilizing industries that are vital to Northern Ontario's economy; and

WHEREAS municipalities across the North continue to experience the economic impacts of industry closures, including the recent shutdown of Domtar a pulp and paper mill in the neighboring Town of Espanola, which has demonstrated the vulnerability of resource-dependent communities and the need for coordinated intergovernmental support; and

WHEREAS the Township of Nairn and Hyman recognizes the significant role of Interfor, our local soft-wood lumber mill, as a major employer and economic anchor in our region, and further recognizes that any threat to its continued operation would have devastating consequences for workers, families, and local businesses; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has a shared responsibility to ensure the long-term sustainability of the forestry, lumber, and steel sectors, which are foundational to the economic wellbeing of Northern and rural communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Township of Nairn and Hyman commends the Government of Canada for its leadership and for implementing substantial measures to support Canada's steel and softwood lumber industries during this period of trade volatility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council respectfully urges the Government of Ontario to introduce additional financial, regulatory, and policy-based supports to ensure that Ontario's steel, forestry, and lumber sectors remain competitive, resilient, and able to withstand ongoing international trade pressures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council specifically calls upon the Province of Ontario to work directly with industry stakeholders, including municipalities and major employers such as Interfor, to create programs and investments that will help protect jobs, maintain production capacity, and support long-term industry growth in Northern Ontario; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Northern Development, FONOM, MP Jim Belanger, MPP Bill Rosenberg and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Sincerely Yours,



Belinda Ketchabaw
CAO Clerk - Treasurer

BK/mb

cc: Premier of Ontario
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Minister of Northern Development
FONOM
MP Hon. Jim Belanger
MPP Hon. Bill Rosenberg
All Ontario Municipalities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 26, 2025

FONOM Welcomes Federal Support for Steel and Lumber Sectors Impacted by U.S. Tariffs

Northeastern Ontario – The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) welcomes today's announcement by Prime Minister Mark Carney outlining new federal measures to support Canada's steel and softwood lumber industries, which continue to face unprecedented challenges due to aggressive U.S. tariff actions.

The federal plan includes strengthened protections for domestic producers, expanded financial supports for companies facing liquidity pressures, and new incentives to increase the use of Canadian steel and lumber in national infrastructure and housing projects. These measures aim to stabilize sectors vital to the economies of many Northern Ontario communities.

Prime Minister Carney announced that Canada will significantly tighten tariff-rate quotas on foreign steel imports, opening an estimated **\$850 million in domestic demand** for Canadian producers. In addition, the federal government is allocating **\$500 million in new financing** for softwood lumber firms, paired with a further **\$500 million expansion** of the Business Development Bank of Canada's softwood guarantee program.

FONOM is encouraged by the federal government's recognition of the pressures facing Northern resource-based communities, where steel and lumber operations support thousands of jobs and anchor local economies.

"These measures acknowledge what Northern Ontario has long understood — that our steel and lumber sectors are national economic pillars," said FONOM President Dave Plourde **"U.S. tariffs continue to destabilize communities across the North, and today's announcement provides needed tools to help our workers and industries adapt, compete, and grow."**

FONOM also welcomes the federal commitment to **reduce interprovincial freight rates by 50 per cent** for steel and lumber shipments beginning next spring. Lower transportation costs will help Northern producers access new domestic markets and move product efficiently while north-south trade remains constrained.

As part of the plan, the federal government will also advance the **Buy Canadian Policy**, ensuring that major defence, construction, and infrastructure projects prioritize Canadian steel, aluminum,

and wood products. This aligns strongly with FONOM's longstanding advocacy for procurement policies that support Canadian jobs and supply chains.

"Keeping Canadian dollars working in Canada is essential," added the President. "These steps will create new demand for made-in-Canada materials while helping stabilize communities affected by unpredictable U.S. trade actions."

FONOM looks forward to continued collaboration with federal officials to ensure the timely rollout of these programs, and to ensure that Northern Ontario municipalities and industries can fully benefit from the measures announced today.

Media Contact:

Dave Plourde, President

Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)

705-335-1615 | fonom.info@gmail.com



December 19, 2025

Honorable Mark Carney

Sent via email: mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

Dear Honorable Mark Carney:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council, at its meeting held December 16, 2025 adopted the following:

12.2.7 Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry - Councillor Samwell

WHEREAS the community of Welland and the surrounding communities were deeply impacted by a recent heinous crime that highlighted critical gaps in Canada's criminal justice and offender-management systems; and

WHEREAS on September 4, 2025, Mayor Frank Campion of the City of Welland wrote to the Premier of Ontario urging comprehensive reform to strengthen sentencing, parole, and bail provisions for violent sexual offenders, and to enhance public safety protections; and

WHEREAS on September 12, 2025, Mayor Mat Siscoe of the City of St. Catharines wrote to the Prime Minister of Canada expressing strong support for these reforms and calling for immediate federal action to strengthen sentencing, parole, and accountability measures for violent sexual offenders; and

WHEREAS the City of Thorold, at its meeting of September 9, 2025, adopted Resolution 14.2 requesting the Province of Ontario to amend Christopher's Law (Sexual Offenders Registry), 2000 to make Ontario Sex Offender Registry publicly accessible; and

WHEREAS several Niagara municipalities; including Grimsby, Fort Erie, Port Colborne, and St. Catharines have subsequently endorsed this call for greater transparency and reform; and

WHEREAS municipal councils, though not responsible for criminal law or parole, play a vital role in advocating for the safety and well-being of their residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. THAT the Council of the City of Brantford hereby supports the City of Thorold's Resolution calling for the Publication of the Sexual Offender Registry and the City of Welland's correspondence dated September 4, 2025, calling for reform to sentencing, parole, and registry provisions concerning violent sexual offenders; and
- B. THAT the Province of Ontario be urged to amend Christopher's Law (Sexual Offender Registry), 2000 to make the Ontario Sex Offender

Registry publicly accessible, subject to appropriate privacy and safety safeguards; and

C. THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:

- i. The Right Hon. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada;
- ii. The Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada;
- iii. The Hon. Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Safety;
- iv. The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario;
- v. The Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario;
- vi. The Hon. Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario;
- vii. Member of Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Larry Brock;
- viii. Member of Provincial Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Will Bouma;
- ix. The Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
- x. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); and
- xi. All Ontario Municipalities for their information and support.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Chris Gauthier City Clerk,
cgauthier@brantford.ca

CC - The Honorable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada; - Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca

The Honorable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Safety
Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca

The Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; - premier@ontario.ca

The Honorable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario; -
Doug.Downey@ontario.ca

The Honorable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario
michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org

Member of Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Larry Brock; -
larry.brock@parl.gc.ca

Member of Provincial Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Will Bouma; -
will.bouma@pc.ola.org

The Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) amo@amo.on.ca

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) FCMInfo@fcm.ca

All Ontario Municipalities for their information and support



The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

Resolution No. CC- 179 - 2025

Date: December 18, 2025

Moved by

Tory Deschamps

Seconded by

Nancy Peckford

WHEREAS on May 1, 2025, Bill 9, Municipal Accountability Act, 2025, re-introduced legislation originally proposed under Bill 241; and

WHEREAS Bill 9, if passed, would enable the creation of a new, standardized municipal code of conduct, an integrity commissioner inquiry process that would be consistent throughout the province and mandatory code of conduct training for members of council and certain local boards; and

WHEREAS Bill 9, Municipal Accountability Act, 2025, was ordered for a third reading on October 20, 2025; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville deems it advisable for Bill 9 to be passed promptly.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville calls for Bill 9 to proceed to its third reading forthwith; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Steve Clark, MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried ☒ Defeated ☐ Deferred ☐

Corinna Smith-Gatcke
Corinna Smith-Gatcke, Warden



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

City of Brantford
58 Dalhousie St.,
Brantford, Ontario N3T 2J2

Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West,
Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2
clerk@cobourg.ca

Sent via email
clerks@brantford.ca

December 24, 2025

RE: Correspondence from David Miller regarding Elbows Up for Climate Action Letter

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on November 26, 2025, passed the following resolution:

THAT Council support the correspondence from C40 Centre for City Climate Policy and Economy regarding Elbows Up for Climate Action; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct Staff to send a copy of this resolution to all Ontario municipalities.

Sincerely,

Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

CC:

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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Elbows Up For Climate Action

An open letter from Canada's local leaders

Messrs. Blanchet, Carney, Pedneault, Poilievre, Singh, and Ms. May:

We are mayors and councillors from across Canada, where we represent and serve millions of residents of all political backgrounds. Like so many of you, we are already feeling the effects of U.S. trade attacks in our communities through lost jobs, uncertainty for businesses, and increased costs of daily living.

Increasingly, we are also guiding our communities through another kind of crisis: recurring wildfires, floods, storms and deadly climate events. **We believe this is the moment for Canada to fight back, by investing in national projects that will connect and protect our country from the dual threats of tariffs and climate change.**

Leading through a climate emergency changes you. You can't witness elderly neighbours overheating in low-income apartments during a heat wave, and not recognize the critical role of well-insulated, affordable housing. You can't comfort people who have lost everything in floods and fires, and not wonder how we will afford to rebuild. You can't watch your kids and loved ones choke on toxic wildfire smoke without **knowing the time to act boldly on climate change is right now – because later is too late.**

Over the past decade, we've watched wildfires rip through nearly every part of our country. Just like you, we were stunned when Lytton disappeared off the map. Then parts of Halifax went up in flames. Last year, wildfires engulfed the iconic and beloved Jasper. What's next? Who's next?

We can't keep watching our homes, towns and forests burn to a crisp, and pretend the status quo is working or safe. We can't adapt our way out of this problem.

It is time for us to get to work. We are proposing five bold and achievable ideas the next federal government can implement as soon as it is elected, to tariff-proof our economy and create a jobs boom in every community:

- **create a national East-West-North clean electric grid**, delivering affordable energy to urban, rural and Indigenous communities across the country;
- **build a national high-speed rail network**, and extend it with locally-made electric buses to reach every community in this country;
- **build at least two million non-market, energy-efficient homes**, creating more affordable, transit-linked communities;
- **make our homes and buildings warmer in winter, cooler in summer** with retrofits and heat pump installations across the country, that will cut energy bills and pollution;
- **.... and fund a national resilience, response and recovery strategy** so our communities can prepare for the climate disasters we know are coming, respond when they hit, and rebuild afterwards.

These projects would create hundreds of thousands of good local jobs in cities, rural and Indigenous communities, using Canadian steel, aluminum and lumber. They would bolster our economy and make daily life safer and more affordable for all of us. We *can* afford to pay for them now: by redirecting billions of dollars in fossil fuel subsidies, and strengthening the polluter pays principle, for example.

This is the kind of action that this moment calls for. That is why it has been so disappointing to hear voices following Donald Trump's lead and using this crisis to revive long-dead and unpopular pipeline projects. Let's be honest: new pipelines require massive public handouts, trample on Indigenous sovereignty, and mean more climate disasters hitting our cities and towns in years to come.

As local leaders, we know that whatever their political backgrounds, our constituents are worried about the same things: good jobs; a safe and affordable place to live; and confidence that their leaders have a plan for the next crisis we face, whether a climate disaster – or an economic sucker punch from our closest ally.

We are facing a growing climate threat, and an attack on our economic sovereignty. We can and must take them both on at once. This federal election, let's put our elbows up for climate action, and commit to truly national projects to protect and connect our country.

Signed

Councillor Neville Abbott, **Lions Bay**
Councillor Samantha Agtarap, **Port Moody**
Conseiller Francis Allaire, **Blainville**
Councillor Phil Allt, **Guelph**
Conseiller Pierre-Luc Arseneault, **Chandler**
Councillor Jordan Back, **North Vancouver**
Councillor Adam Baden-Clay, **Antigonish County**
Councillor Lori Baldwin-Sands, **St. Thomas**
Conseillère Anne Barabé, **Boucherville**
Former Mayor Lisa Barrett, **Bowen Island**
Councillor Dale Bass, **Kamloops**
Councillor Haley Bateman, **Niagara**
Councillor Jeff Bateman, **Sooke**
Mairesse Évelyne Beaudin, **Sherbrooke**
Councillor Scott Beaver, **St. Mary's**
Councillor Donna Bell, **Sechelt**
Councillor Nancy Bepple, **Kamloops**
Mayor Andrew Black, **Tantramar**
Mayor Merlin Blackwell, **Clearwater**
Conseiller Loïc Blancaquaert, **Saint-Lambert**
Councillor Gabrielle Blatz, **Wetaskiwin**
Conseiller Jacques Bouchard, **Saint-Jérôme**
Councillor Phil Brennan, **Severn**
Conseillère Gabrielle Brisebois, **Montmagny**
Councillor Riley Brockington, **Ottawa**
Mayor Alan Brown, **Butternut Valley**
Councillor Don Brown, **View Royal**
Councillor Matthew Brown, **Kaslo**
Mayor Vickey Brown, **Cumberland**
Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach, **Stratford**
Councillor Guy Burry, **Muskoka Lakes**
Councillor Sue Cairns, **Kimberley**
Councillor Ruby Campbell, **New Westminster**
Councillor Leanne Caron, **Guelph**
Deputy Mayor Marty Carr, **Ottawa**
Councillor Erin Caton, **Guelph**
Deputy Mayor Godwin Chan, **Richmond Hill**
Councillor Debbie Chapman, **Kitchener**
Mayor Scott Christian, **Region of Queens**
Councillor Karen Cilevitz, **Richmond Hill**

Former Mayor Charlie Clark, **Saskatoon**

Mayor Lucas Cleveland, **Cobourg**

Conseiller Jean Cloutier, **Deschambault-Grondines**

Councillor Will Cole-Hamilton, **Courtenay**

Mayor Spencer Coyne, **Princeton**

Conseillère Catherine Craig-St-Louis, **Gatineau**

Councillor David Croal, **Gibsons**

Conseiller Alvaro Cueto, **Longueuil**

Maire Martin Dampousse, **Varennes**

Councillor Tom Davis, **St. John's**

Councillor Tobin Day, **Georgian Bluffs**

Councillor Lisa Deacon, **Russell Township**

Conseiller Etienne Decelles, **Sainte-Angèle-de-Monnoir**

Councillor Matt Dell, **Victoria**

Councillor Kacy DeLong, **District of Lunenburg**

Conseillère Anik Des Marais, **Gatineau**

Conseillère Alicia Despins, **Québec**

Councillor Sean Devine, **Ottawa**

Mayor Corrie DiManno, **Banff**

Councillor Deborah Doherty, **Collingwood**

Mayor Rob Douglas, **North Cowichan**

Councillor Nadia Dubyk, **Grey Highlands**

Conseiller Étienne Dupuis, **Crabtree**

Councillor Hilary Eastmure, **Nanaimo**

Councillor Alison Evans, **Pitt Meadows**

Area Director Andrew Fall, **qathet Regional District**

Councillor Jay Fallis, **Orillia**

Councillor Jon Farmer, **Owen Sound**

Councillor and Islands Trustee Sue Ellen Fast, **Bowen Island**

Councillor Ryan Fequet, **Yellowknife**

Councillor David Ferreira, **London**

Councillor Jane Fogal, **Halton Hills**

Mayor Adrian Foster, **Clarington**

Deputy Mayor Sarah Fowler, **Tahsis**

Councillor Skylar Franke, **London**

Councillor Danielle Fraser, **Westville**

Councillor David Froh, **Regina**

Councillor Pete Fry, **Vancouver**

Area Director Justine Gabias, **Halfmoon Bay**

Councillor Nora Gambioli, **District of West Vancouver**

Councillor Chantal Garneau, **Halton Hills**

Councillor Amit Gaur, **Parksville**

Conseillère Mélodie Georget, **Mont-Saint-Hilaire**

Maire Paul Germain, **Prévost**

Councillor Ben Geselbracht, **Nanaimo**

Councillor Derek Giberson, **Oshawa**

Councillor Cindy Gilroy, **Winnipeg**

Conseillère Christine Gingras, **Plessisville**

Councillor Angela Girard, **North Vancouver**

Councillor Rodrigo Goller, **Guelph**

Councillor Robin Goodfellow-**Baikie, North West River**

Councillor Steve Gray, **Metchosin**

Councillor Lauren Greenlaw, **Squamish**

Councillor Alison Gu, **Burnaby**

Maire Pierre Guénard, **Chelsea**

Maire Marc-André Guertin, **Mont-Saint-Hilaire**

Councillor Wendy Hall, **Jasper**

Councillor Danika Hammond, **New Denver**

Mayor Jennifer Handley, **Nanton**

Councillor Colby Harder, **Langford**

Councillor Jimmy Hassan, **Kingston**

Former Mayor Lisa Helps, **Victoria**

Councillor Erin Hemmens, **Nanaimo**

Councillor Bonnie Henderson, **Stratford**

Former Mayor Brad Henderson, **Saint Andrews**

Councillor Tasha Henderson, **New Westminster**

Deputy Mayor Benjamin Hendriksen, **Yellowknife**

Mayor Greg Henley, **Oxford**

Councillor Linda Heshka, **Melville**

Councillor Doug Hillian, **Courtenay**

Councillor Claire Holloway Wadhwani, **Port Hope**

Councillor Jenn Houghtaling, **Cumberland County**

Conseiller David Huggins-Daines, **Sainte-Adèle**

Mayor Armand Hurford, **Squamish**

Mayor Michael Hurley, **Burnaby**

Mayor Richard Ireland, **Jasper**

Councillor Trina Isakson, **Powell River**

Councillor Chris Istace, **North Cowichan**

Former Mayor Don Iveson, **Edmonton**

Conseillère Rita Jain, **Chelsea**

Councillor Michael Janz, **Edmonton**

Councillor Laine Johnson, **Ottawa**

Mayor Patrick Johnstone, **New Westminster**

Councillor Evan Jolicoeur, **Courtenay**

Councillor Christopher Justice, **North Cowichan**

Mayor Todd Kasenberg, **North Perth**

Councillor Theresa Kavanagh, **Ottawa**

Councillor Jonathan Kerr, **Comox**

Councillor Susan Kim, **Victoria**

Mayor Peter Koetsier, **Township of Georgian Bay**

Mayor Sean Krausert, **Canmore**

Councillor Cameron Kroetsch, **Hamilton**

Mayor Dan Kutcher, **Summerside**

Councillor Johanna Kwakernaak, **Berwick**

Conseiller Dominic Labrie, **Chelsea**

Councillor Joy Lachica, **Peterborough**

Councillor Michel Lalonde, **Champlain**

Maire Guillaume Lamoureux, **La Pêche**

Conseiller Jérémy Laplante, **Paspébiac**

Conseillère Julie Lavoie, **Beloeil**

Councillor Casey Law, **New Denver**

Mayor Andrew LeBlanc, **Riverview**

Conseiller Joey Leckman, **Prévost**

Conseillère Line Légaré, **Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard**

Councillor Jeff Leiper, **Ottawa**

Conseiller Martin Leprohon, **Saint-Basile-le-Grand**

Conseillère Laure Letarte-Lavoie, **Sherbrooke**

Councillor Rik Logtenberg, **Nelson**

Mayor Adam Lordon, **Miramichi**

Councillor Joel Loughhead, **Grey Highlands**

Councillor Gord Lovegrove, **Kelowna**

Councillor Amy Lubik, **Port Moody**

Area Director Patti MacAhonic, **Fraser Valley Regional District**

Conseillère Cecilia Macedo, **Laval**

Councillor Kate MacNaughton, **Prince Edward County**

Councillor Leah Main, **Silverton**

Councillor Lucy Maloney, **Vancouver**

Councillor Paul Manly, **Nanaimo**

Councillor John Manuel, **Golden**

Mairesse Maude Marquis-Bissonnette, **Gatineau**

Mairesse Marie-Andrée Mauger, **Verdun, Montréal**

Area Director Robyn Mawhinney, **Strathcona Regional District**

Councillor Brian Mayes, **Winnipeg**

Councillor Reid McAlpine, **Markham**

Mayor Dorothy McCabe, **Waterloo**

Councillor Melanie McCollum, **Courtenay**

Councillor Ian McGrath, **Truro**

Councillor Cat McGurk, **Yellowknife**

Councillor Jessica McIlroy, **North Vancouver**

Councillor Tom McLennan, **Yellowknife**

Area Director Donna McMahon, **Sunshine Coast Regional District**

Conseillère Robin McPherson, **St. Catharines**

Councillor Jennifer Meilleur, **Comox**

Councillor Shawn Menard, **Ottawa**

Conseillère Kim Méthot, **Saint-Basile-le-Grand**

Former Mayor, David Miller, **Toronto**

Mayor Nicole Minions, **Comox**

Councillor Cathy Moore-Coburn, **Georgian Bluffs**

Mayor Andy Morel, **Rossland**

Conseiller David Morin, **Mont-Saint-Hilaire**

Councillor Wendy Morin, **Courtenay**

Councillor Lenore Morris, **Whitehorse**

Trustee Deb Morrison, **Islands Trust**

Councillor Joy-Anne Murphy, **Camrose**

Area Director Alison Nicholson, **Cowichan Valley Regional District**

Councillor Katrina Nightingale, **Pemberton**

Councillor Troy Nixon, **Fernie**

Councillor Vincent Noël, **La Prairie**

Conseiller Jérôme Normand, **Montréal**

Councillor Lukas Oakley, **County of Brant**

Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary, **St. John's**

Councillor Sean Orr, **Vancouver**

Councillor Lisa Osanic, **Kingston**

Conseiller Keith Page, **Nelson**

Councillor Aaron Paquette, **Edmonton**

Councillor Jasmin Parker, **Saskatoon**

Conseillère Valérie Patreau, **Outremont, Montréal**

Local Trustee Laura Patrick, **Salt Spring Island / Islands Trust**

Conseillère Véronique Payette, **Crabtree**

Councillor Leslie Payne, **Nelson**

Councillor Elizabeth Peloza, **London**

Councillor Kourtney Penner, **Calgary**

Councillor Gord Perks, **Toronto**

Councillor Liz Petrie, **Goderich**

Councillor Chris Pettingill, **Squamish**

Councillor Teale Phelps Bondaroff, **Saanich**

Councillor Stéphanie Plante, **Ottawa**

Mairesse Valérie Plante, **Montréal**

Councillor Catherine Pope, **North Vancouver**

Maire Jacques Poulin, **Fossambault-sur-le-Lac**

Councillor Matt Rodrigues, **Waterloo**

Councillor Sherri Rollins, **Winnipeg**

Councillor Erin Rutherford, **Edmonton**

Councillor Bridget Ryan, **Erin**

Councillor Maita Santiago, **Burnaby**

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Councillor Ken Sentance, **Thorold**

Councillor Margo Sheppard, **Fredericton**

Conseillère Julie Simoneau, **La Prairie**

Councillor Anne Skipsey, **Qualicum Beach**

Councillor Alison Smith, **Lunenburg**

Councillor Evan Spencer, **Calgary**

Councillor Tony St-Pierre, **Sooke**

Mayor Michelle Staples, **Duncan**

Councillor Wendy Stephen, **Kingston**

Councillor Dan Stevens, **Chase**

Councillor Anne Stevenson, **Edmonton**

Former Mayor Kennedy Stewart, **Vancouver**

Councillor Jenna Stoner, **Squamish**

Councillor Stephanie Stretch, **Kitchener**

Councillor Jenny Tan, **Maple Ridge**

Councillor Keren Tang, **Edmonton**

Councillor Kyle Tapper, **Mackenzie**

Councillor Alvin Tedjo, **Mississauga**

Councillor Daniel Tetrault, **Burnaby**

Conseiller Jonathan Théorêt, **Chertsey**

Councillor Troy Therrien, **Cumberland**

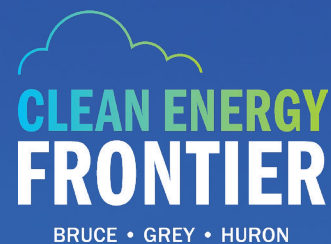
Conseillère Natacha Thibault, **Otterburn Park**

Conseillère Isabelle Thibeault, **Mont-Saint-Hilaire**

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Councillor Jeremy Thorne, **Riverview**,
Area Director Roger Tierney, **Regional District of Central Kootenay**
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Councillor Courtney Walcott, **Calgary**
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Conseiller Alexandre Warnet, **Laval**
Councillor Pat Warren, **Kawartha Lakes**
Mayor Bob Wells, **Courtenay**
Councillor Courtney Wentzell, **Region of Queens**
Mayor David West, **Richmond Hill**
Deputy Mayor Ghislaine Wheaton, **St. Stephens**
Councillor Laura White, **Halifax**
Councillor Howard Williams, **Wolfville**
Councillor Pam Wolf, **Region of Waterloo**
Councillor Michael Wolfe, **Richmond**
Councillor Sean Wood, **Parksville**
Councillor Theresa Wood, **District of Invermere**
Councillor Jesse Wright, **District of Mackenzie**
Councillor Julie Wright, **Waterloo**
Councillor Keith Yacucha, **Langford**
Councillor Shanon Zachidniak, **Regina**
Councillor Margaret Zwart, **Clarington**

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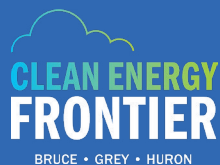
Clean Energy Frontier program: Year in review

DECEMBER 2025



The Nuclear Innovation Institute (NII) is a member-based not-for-profit organization with a vision of a Canadian landscape that celebrates an innovative nuclear industry as an integral part of the clean energy future. NII's role driving sector transformation, skill development and an innovative nuclear voice supports members and encourages collaborative engagement with communities, industries and governments.

nii.ca



The Clean Energy Frontier program, part of the Bruce Power Nexus Research Centre, is an advocacy, awareness-raising and economic development program operating within the Nuclear Innovation Institute. The program focuses on promoting the valuable contribution that Bruce, Grey and Huron bring to Ontario and Canada in the drive towards a net-zero future while building on the region's advantages in clean energy.

nii.ca/clean-energy-frontier



A Year in Review

It's hard to believe that 2025 has come and gone! The Clean Energy Frontier program is looking back on what was a busy year. Consider this our Spotify wrapped, Clean Energy Frontier edition.

CEF Awards

It was our second year of Clean Energy Frontier Awards – recognizing exceptional contributions to the local economy and clean energy sector. 2025 award recipients included:

Jeff Loney, Paulette Peirol Memorial Award

- Jeff was recognized for advancing clean energy economic development and fostering regional growth through strategic partnerships.

Bharath Nangia, Emerging Leader in Clean Energy and Innovation Award

- Bharath was recognized for driving innovation in the nuclear industry with AI and automation, while supporting STEM education and community empowerment.

Georgian College – Owen Sound Campus, Community Clean Energy Champion Award

- The Owen Sound campus was recognized for leadership in clean energy training, research and regional workforce development.

Willing to Listen, Community Clean Energy Champion Award

- Recognized for promoting informed community conversations, building understanding of the proposed deep geological repository.



The third annual Clean Energy Frontier awards program will take place in the Fall of 2026 at the Clean Energy Frontier Conference – more information to come!



Community Resiliency Project

The Clean Energy Frontier program was happy to have Cait Mackinnon join us to lead the Community Resiliency Project. The project has guided the sector in amplifying strategies and initiatives that address community challenges across the region. Through engagement with 28 organizations, the strategy identified opportunities to strengthen collaboration between the energy sector, municipalities and community partners, setting a coordinated path toward a more resilient future.



Key actions in 2025 included the Human Trafficking Awareness Town Hall Series, supporting lived-experience voices across Grey and Bruce, and the United Way for Perth-Huron Belonging Matters Workshop, which removed financial barriers for 70 youth to participate in community-building activities. The final project will be launched in early Q1 2026.

The project was supported by a sub-committee of the regional steering committee. We extend our sincere appreciation for their guidance and support throughout the project development.

April Marshall

Economic Development Manager,
Town of Hanover

John Vanbastelaar

Delegate of Bruce Power
Pensioners Association

Tim Simmonds

City Manager,
City of Owen Sound

John Peevers

Senior Advisor, Corporate Affairs,
Bruce Power

Mayor Glen McNeil

Township of
Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh

Tina Metcalfe

Director of Human Services,
Bruce County

Mayor Trevor Bazinet

Town of Goderich



NII & OCC

The Nuclear Innovation Institute, through the Clean Energy Frontier program and in partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, advanced an independent economic impact assessment of the proposed Bruce C project. In 2025, the OCC presented early interim findings at the Clean Energy Frontier Conference and later hosted a regional roundtable with key stakeholders.



The interim report examined projected economic impacts across construction and operations over an 80-year lifespan, including GDP, employment, labour income and tax revenues at the provincial and federal levels.

The final report is expected in Q1 2026 and will incorporate research of the economic, environmental and social benefits of nuclear energy, along with insights from stakeholder engagement.



Plain Language Toolkit Update

Ahead of AMO, the Clean Energy Frontier Program updated the Plain Language Toolkit to support clear and consistent messaging when talking about clean energy in our region. Additional updates will be released after the OCC finalizes its project in Q1 of 2026.





Annual CEF Conference and workshop report

More than 150 leaders from the nuclear industry, municipal government, education, business and community sectors came together for the second-annual Clean Energy Frontier Conference at the NII Advance Technology Campus on October 21-22. Over two days, participants explored how regional clean energy projects are driving economic growth, workforce opportunities and innovation.

Insights from the conference workshop roundtable have been compiled into a summary report, highlighting key strengths, challenges and opportunities to support ongoing conversations within organizations and communities.





Community Readiness Project

In Q4 2024, NII's Board of Directors approved the Community Readiness Project to explore how rural communities can better prepare for large-scale infrastructure projects and ensure risks are mitigated while benefits are maximized.

The research examined challenges, best practices and lessons learned across themes including community engagement, Indigenous engagement, community impact agreements, housing, infrastructure, workforce and government support.



In November 2025, a workshop with community leaders and decision-makers from the Clean Energy Frontier region discussed the research findings and identified opportunities for local implementation.

As 2025 wraps up, we're excited to carry the momentum into the new year. Here's to more collaboration, innovation and clean energy impact across the Frontier (and beyond) in 2026!



Clean Energy Frontier Regional Steering Committee

CO-CHAIRS

John Peevers
Bruce Power

Warden Luke Charbonneau
Bruce County

Stellina Williams
Nuclear Innovation Institute

MEMBERS

Emily Dance
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Alex Thompson
Town of Saugeen Shores

Steve Furness
Grey County

Mayor Steve Hammell
Municipality of Arran-Elderslie

Councillor Justin Duhaime
Town of Saugeen Shores

Mayor Glen McNeil
Huron County

Sonya Watson
Municipality of Brockton

Leanne Martin
Municipality of South Bruce

Mayor Jim Ginn
Huron County

Christine Brandt
Municipality of Brockton

Councillor Mike Niesen
Municipality of South Bruce

Meighan Wark
Huron County

Christine MacDonald
Bruce County

Bill Jones
Town of South Bruce Peninsula

Vicki Lass
Huron County

Sean Morphy
Bruce County

Mayor Jay Kirkland
Town of South Bruce Peninsula

Chris Watson
Huron County

Mayor Don Murray
Township of Huron-Kinloss

Maggie Tieman
Bruce Power

Warden Jamie Heffer
Huron County

Steve Travale
Township of Huron-Kinloss

Mustafa Mundh
Bruce Power

Mayor Trevor Bazinet
Town of Goderich

Kim Wingrove
Municipality of Kincardine

Jeff Loney
Bruce County

Tim Simmonds
City of Owen Sound

Mayor Ken Craig
Municipality of Kincardine

Claire Dodds
Bruce County

Barb Fisher
Bruce Community Futures
Development

Deputy Mayor Rod Anderson
Municipality of Northern
Bruce Peninsula

Savanna Myers
Grey County

April Marshall
Town of Hanover

Peggy Van Mierlo West
Municipality of Northern
Bruce Peninsula

Warden Andrea Matrosovs
Grey County

Steve Furness
Grey County

Doug Mullaly
Bruce Power Pensioners
Association

**OPEN LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND ALL WHO CARE
ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OWEN SOUND****Sunday December 14th, 2025**

To:

Owen Sound City Council
The Community Foundation Grey Bruce
The University Women's Club of Owen Sound
United Way of Bruce Grey
Grey Bruce Poverty Task Force
Brightshores Health System
McLean Engineering
Bruce Power
Owen Sound Police Service (OSPS)
Safe N' Sound
River District Board of Management
Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce
Owen Sound Downtown Business Association
Saugeen Ojibway Nation

Downtown and local businesses, employers, and innovators, including:

Milk Maid
Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)
Frog Pond
Riverside Yards
Becker's Shoes
Barry's Construction
The Rocking Horse
Grey Gallery
GB Arts
The Artists' Co-op
Troy Manufacturing
Makwa-Cahill
The Glassworks
Habitat for Humanity and Habitat residents
Heritage Place Mall businesses
Von Dolders
ANDPET Realty

Community services, education, arts, culture, heritage and faith partners, including:

Lutheran Church and other faith communities
The Harmony Centre
The Royal Canadian Legion
Tom Thomson Art Gallery (the TOM)
The Carnegie Library and Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library

The Owen Sound Emancipation Festival
Grey Roots Museum & Archives
The Black History Museum and Trail
Harrison Park
Hibou Conservation Area
Hobart (TC Transcontinental / TC Paper)
Georgian College
Owen Sound District Secondary School
St. Mary's High School
Bluewater District School Board
Long-term care and retirement homes in Owen Sound and area

MP Alex Ruff
MPP Rick Vickers

And everyone who wants to fight for democracy, fairness, innovation, and civic pride in Owen Sound

I am writing because a national narrative is being attached to Owen Sound that does not reflect who we are—or who we could be. A recent National Post/Postmedia feature, reprinted in the Owen Sound Sun Times, paints small-town downtowns as unsafe, unsound, and overwhelmed. When our own local newspaper amplifies this framing without offering balance or context, it does more than report on a problem—it helps to entrench a distorted and damaging identity for our community.

What concerns me most is that Owen Sound's leadership and planning decisions have allowed this narrative to take hold. The solutions that residents and community partners have repeatedly offered—evidence-informed approaches that work in other communities—have been filtered out, minimized, or ignored. These are not speculative ideas; they are proven strategies that make downtowns safer, healthier, and more vibrant:

- Coordinated wrap-around housing, health, mental-health and vulnerable-person supports
- Basic dignity infrastructure such as accessible public washrooms
- Tourism strategies built on experiential assets: waterways, escarpment, farmlands, beaches
- Indigenous-led partnerships and heritage recognition, especially Owen Sound's history as the northern terminus of the Underground Railroad
- Practical, compassionate approaches that reduce visible homelessness and help people stabilize rather than simply be displaced

We know what works. Residents have said what they want. Many community groups—including several of you receiving this letter—have spent years building solutions and hope.

Yet our Official Plan, as currently drafted, does not reflect that collective effort. Instead, it reflects the work of a small number of senior staff and outside consultants whose approach protects a status quo that is no longer sustainable. The Vision 2050 process, in contrast, reflects the aspirations, energy, and priorities of thousands of residents. When the Omnibus Motion was presented to council in October 2025—a motion offering a path to realign the Plan with the community’s stated values—not one councillor chose to move it forward.

At the same time, there is a persistent message from City Hall that “these problems are everywhere in Canada,” as though local leadership has no role in changing outcomes. That is not true. Policy decisions shape cities. Owen Sound has been designed into the very picture now used by national media to tell a story of decline. But that story is not inevitable.

We have lived the opposite before. Many of us remember the years when Mayor Ovid Jackson led Owen Sound with energy, innovation, and a genuine openness to equity and growth. His legacy—locally and nationally—showed what a community can achieve when it trusts itself and invests in the right ideas. The Community Foundation movement he helped amplify across Canada is itself proof of what strong local leadership can spark.

As we look ahead, we face two pivotal opportunities:

1. The 2026 Municipal Election

We have one full year to identify and support leaders who bring knowledge, experience, integrity, and a commitment to evidence-based planning. Democracy works when communities choose people prepared to serve the public interest—not nostalgia, not convenience, and not fear.

2. The Official Plan Now Before Council

This Plan will guide our next 20–30 years. It must reflect the Vision 2050 values expressed by residents and incorporate best practices for housing, community safety, economic vitality, heritage, and inclusion. There is still time for council to correct course—or, if necessary, for provincial oversight to ensure that the Plan meets both regulatory requirements and the needs of our community.

Owen Sound is not unsafe, unsound, or beyond repair. We are a community that has repeatedly shown resilience, generosity, creativity, and determination. What we need now is leadership that matches the strength of the people who live here—and media that reflects a full picture of our reality, not a sensationalized fragment of it.

I ask each of you receiving this letter to consider your role:

- **City Council:** Align the Official Plan with Vision 2050. Engage with genuine public input. Reject fear-based narratives.

- **Community Foundation, United Way, Poverty Task Force, Safe N' Sound, and social service partners:** Continue fostering civic leadership and supporting initiatives that build dignity, connection, and belonging.
- **Business, employers and institutions—Brightshores, McLean Engineering, Bruce Power, Troy Manufacturing, Makwa-Cahill, Glassworks, Habitat, River District, Chamber, Downtown Business Association, retailers, hospitality and tourism operators, small businesses like Milk Maid, Frog Pond, Riverside Yards, The Rocking Horse, Grey Gallery, GB Arts, the Artists' Co-op, Von Dolders, ANDPET Realty, Heritage Place Mall tenants, and many others:** Use your influence, investments, workplaces and partnerships to support a downtown and a city that are safe, welcoming, and inclusive.
- **Saugeen Ojibway Nation and Indigenous partners:** Continue to lead and guide in shaping a future that honours history, land, treaty relationships, and rights.
- **Arts, culture, heritage and faith organizations—the Harmony Centre, the TOM, Carnegie and the public library, Grey Roots, Emancipation Festival, Black History Museum and Trail, the Legion, Harrison Park and conservation areas, churches and faith communities:** Keep strengthening the cultural, spiritual, historical and social fabric that makes Owen Sound unique.
- **Schools, Georgian College, and long-term care and seniors' homes:** Help connect generations, grow civic literacy and leadership, and make sure older adults and youth are at the heart of our planning, not at the margins.
- **MP Ruff and MPP Vickers:** Champion Owen Sound's needs at provincial and federal levels, and support integrated housing, mental-health, and community-safety strategies that work.
- **Residents and community organizations, including the University Women's Club and many others:** Demand accountability. Believe in our capacity to change. Refuse to let others write our story for us.

We have done great things before. We can do them again. But we need to reclaim our narrative, our brand, and our future—and it starts by telling the truth about where we are, and insisting on the kind of community we choose to become.

Rebound Owen Sound and Owen Sound Attack are calls to action for everyone because this city is worth the fight.

We're not done yet.

Its time – All hands on deck

Respectfully,
Pat Kelly

Dec. 15 City Council Meeting — After Action Review

The night The s++t hit the Plan

[Savvy Search](#)

Dec 16, 2025

You can watch the full [December 15, 2025 Owen Sound City Council meeting on the City's website](#). What follows is a plain-spoken after-action review of **what Council chose to say, what it chose not to say, and what those choices signal**—especially in the wake of national coverage portraying downtown Owen Sound as unsafe.

This isn't speculation. It's the public record.

The moment

- A National Post / Postmedia article naming Owen Sound circulated nationally.
- The piece drew **hundreds of comments within 24 hours**.
- A detailed Open Letter responding to that coverage was shared with Council the morning of the meeting.
- This was **the final Council meeting of the year**, days before Christmas.

The context was unavoidable.

What Council did

1. Opened with optimism and momentum

The Mayor delivered a long, polished year-end narrative: Vision 2050, construction values, population estimates, capital investments, grants, facilities, programs, partnerships, policing initiatives. The tone was steady, confident, managerial.

The message: *things are going well*.

2. Kept downtown framed as operations, not reputation

Downtown surfaced only through routine items—foot patrol hours, bike patrols, pilot programs, River District updates. No reframing. No acknowledgement that the downtown conversation had shifted beyond local reporting into national scrutiny.

3. Stayed firmly inside governance mechanics

The bulk of the meeting focused on committee structures, capital planning, staff workload, procedural refinement, and future process. Important work—but inward-looking.



What Council did not do

- No reference to the National Post or Postmedia article.
- No acknowledgement of national coverage or reputational impact.
- No mention of downtown safety narratives circulating beyond the region.
- No public reference to the Open Letter.

- No correspondence items raised at the point in the agenda where correspondence is normally noted.

That silence wasn't accidental. It was a choice.

What the public raised

Residents used the public forum to speak about:

- participation versus presentation,
- staff-driven agendas,
- limited influence once decisions feel set,
- the need for real dialogue, not just process.

These concerns map directly onto the issues raised in the national coverage: **who is heard, when they are heard, and whether public input meaningfully shapes outcomes.**

Council thanked speakers and moved on. Also a choice.

What this meeting signals

The City appears to have opted for a familiar strategy:

- **Don't amplify.**
- Lead with good news.
- Keep discussion procedural.
- Let the news cycle burn itself out—especially heading into the holidays.

That approach can reduce short-term disruption. It also leaves the external narrative untouched.

Silence isn't neutral. It cedes ground.

Why this matters

National stories fade.

Council records don't.

When issues tied to safety, downtown vitality, homelessness, planning, and public trust are not named on the record—especially when they are already being named elsewhere—that absence becomes part of the story.

Communities don't lose confidence because leaders acknowledge hard moments.

They lose confidence when leaders appear to manage *around* them.

The takeaway

December 15 wasn't really about one article.

It was about whether Owen Sound would **own its story** or **wait it out**.

On this night, Council chose to wait.

You can watch the full meeting on the City's website and decide for yourself.

From: Chiara M [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 9:30 AM
To: Briana Bloomfield <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>
Subject: Stop Arm Cameras on School Buses

Hello, as per our discussion this morning on the phone I am writing to request assistance with an ongoing issue at my children's bus stop. I would like this issue brought to council. We live on Hwy 26 just east of Owen Sound. My children go to school in Owen Sound at St. Dominique Savio. Regularly vehicles run the stop sign on the bus at speed on the highway when my kids are getting on and off the bus. Just this morning I counted five vehicles running the stop sign before someone finally stopped. I have previously tried to get photos of license plates and on one occasion was able to get a clear enough photo to have someone charged, but this is challenging as vehicles are usually travelling at speed and my phone camera is not good enough. The charge for passing a stop sign on a school bus is serious, including a large fine and demerit points.

I have been in contact with Paul Vickers, the Municipality of Meaford and my school bus consortium (Ginette Vincelette from Francobus) about the possibility of enacting existing legislation (See Highway Traffic Act, ONTARIO REGULATION 424/20, SCHOOL BUS CAMERAS) regarding stop arm cameras on school buses. The result of my inquiries seems to lead to the conclusion that local municipalities need to enact a bylaw that would enforce the use of Stop Arm Cameras. I am hoping to work with the Municipality of Meaford and/or the City of Owen Sound to encourage the adoption of school bus arm cameras in the region.

The school bus stop arm legislation has been enacted into bylaw in Ottawa. See links below to new reports, including this quote from the CTV article "The City says, during the final two months of the pilot project in 2016, the camera caught an average of five vehicles passing the stopped school bus every day." It has also been enacted in the city of Kawartha Lakes. I have included below links to several news articles outlining serious school buses offences in the region in the last two years.

Chiara Meneguzzi
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Serious Crash Involving School Bus Shuts Down Highway 10 in Chatsworth (Dec 8, 2025)

<https://www.owensoundcurrent.com/p/serious-crash-involving-school-bus>

Driver Charges After Crashing into School Bus in Meaford (Nov 20, 2024)

<https://www.owensoundcurrent.com/p/driver-charged-after-crashing-into>

Delivery Driver Charged After Failing to Stop for School Bus in Owen Sound (Jun 15, 2024)

<https://www.owensoundcurrent.com/p/delivery-driver-charged-after-failing>

Truck Rear-Ends School Bus Turning Into East Ridge School; No Injuries Reported (Nov 4, 2024)

<https://www.owensoundcurrent.com/p/truck-rear-ends-school-bus-turning>

Toronto Driver Charged After Failing to Stop for School Bus & Striking 13-Year-Old

<https://www.owensoundcurrent.com/p/driver-charged-bus-stop-youth-struck>

Ottawa enactment of stop arm cameras

Blasting past a stopped school bus? Smile, you may be on camera (Mar 23, 2019)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/ottawa-school-bus-cameras-1.5146396>

City officially unveils new school bus stop-arm camera project (May 22, 2019)

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/ottawa/article/city-officially-unveils-new-school-bus-stop-arm-camera-project/>

Kawartha Lakes enactment of stop arm cameras

School Bus Stop Arm Camera program launches just in time for back to school (Aug 27, 2024)

<https://www.kawarthalakes.ca/news-and-notice/posts/school-bus-stop-arm-camera-program-launches-just-in-time-for-back-to-school/>



Minutes

Community Services Committee

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

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Marion Koepke
Vice Chair Travis Dodd (via video)
Member Aly Bousfield-Bastedo
Councillor Jon Farmer
Member Morgan Kemick
Councillor Suneet Kukreja
Member Lance Thurston

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Member Lloyd Lewis

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Simmonds, City Manager
Pam Coulter, Director of Community Services
Aidan Ware, Director and Chief Curator - Art Gallery, Culture, Tourism
Ryan Gowan, Manager of Arena Operations
Kevin Linthorne, Chief Building Official
Jennifer Wright, Events and Activation Coordinator
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on November 19, 2025

CS-251217-001

Moved by Member Thurston

"THAT the Community Services Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on November 19, 2025."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 5.a Presentation from Mariam Fares of the Owen Sound Chamber of Commerce Re: Owen Sound Tourism Development Fund (MAT Committee) Update

No discussion occurred on the topic as the Owen Sound Chamber of Commerce postponed their presentation until the January 21, 2026, Community Services Committee meeting.

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 CM-25-037 from the City Manager Re: Ryerson Park Renaming - Working Group Overview and Recommendation

The City Manager provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that a future report to Committee will lay out the process for engaging with the community to determine possible names for the park, adding that this is the first time staff have used this policy for a renaming.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that names previously submitted throughout the process will be included in the report, as well as the communication and engagement strategy for the next step of the process.

CS-251217-002

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CM-25-037 respecting the Ryerson Park Renaming Working Group overview and

recommendation, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Ratify the Working Group's recommendation to rename Ryerson Park;**
- 2. Direct the process to name the Park proceed in accordance with Policy No. CS-087;**
- 3. Initiate the next phase in the process by February 2026;**
- 4. Direct staff to prioritize a name with a locational reference;**
- 5. Direct staff to install a plaque/marker at the park to educate visitors about its history and previous names, ensuring transparency and public awareness; and**
- 6. Dissolve the Working Group having successfully completed its mandate as set out in Policy No. CS-087."**

Carried.

The Committee discussed item 8.c.1 at this time.

8.c.1 Report CS-25-119 from the Facilities Booking Coordinator Re: Sports Equipment Sanitizer Vending Opportunity

The Manager of Arena Operations provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Gowan noted that there would be cost of living increases to the fee each year of the lease.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Gowan noted that additional details, such as the cost per use for customers, would be outlined in the agreement.

In response to a question from Committee, Mr. Gowan noted that users could line up to use the machine and added that the unit takes a maximum of 8 minutes to run a cleaning cycle.

CS-251217-003

Moved by Member Kemick

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-119 respecting a sports equipment sanitizer vending opportunity, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement for the non-exclusive use of space at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre for a sanitizing vending machine for three years as outlined in the report."

Carried.

The Manager of Arena Operations left the meeting.

8.a.2 Report CS-25-124 from the Director of Community Services Re: Request for Commemorative Tree at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre

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

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that this Oak tree would be a stand-alone tree in the proposed location.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that trees under the new Commemorative Forest program will not have a plaque, so requests outside of the program will come through Committee. She added that the possibility of adding a QR code on this plaque could be brought to the requester.

CS-251217-004

Moved by Member Kemick

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-124 respecting Request for a Commemorative Tree - Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council approve:

- 1. The planting of a suitable shade tree outside of the City's Commemorative Forest Program generally in the location as outlined in the report; and**
- 2. The cost of the tree and plaque being covered by the requester."**

Carried.

8.b Tourism, Culture and Events

8.b.1 Report CS-25-129 from the Events and Activation Coordinator Re: 2025 End of Year Events Update

The Events and Activation Coordinator provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Wright noted that this year's attendance for Mid-Week Music was higher than in 2024, averaging approximately 75 to 100 people per night. She added that hydro and washroom accessibility are limiting factors when deciding on locations for certain artists.

The City Manager left the meeting.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Wright noted that there are currently no formal sponsorship arrangements in place with businesses located adjacent to event venues.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that staff recommend relocating the lifeboat in consultation with the Community Waterfront Heritage Centre.

CS-251217-005

Moved by Vice Chair Dodd

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-129 respecting the 2025 Events Wrap-Up, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Direct staff to move any year-end event surplus to the Events Reserve; and**
- 2. Approve an allocation of up to \$5,000 in the events reserve to move the lifeboat at the rail museum and \$3,500 for the purchase of event supplies (tents, tables etc.)."**

Carried.

The Events and Activation Coordinator and Director/Chief Curator left the meeting.

8.c Arena Operations

- 8.c.1 Report CS-25-119 from the Facilities Booking Coordinator Re: Sports Equipment Sanitizer Vending Opportunity

Committee discussed item 8.c.1 after item 8.a.1.

- 8.c.2 Report CS-25-125 from the Director of Community Services Re: Options Regarding Concession at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre

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

CS-251217-006

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-125 respecting concession options at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Direct staff to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a concession operator at the Julie McArthur Regional Recreation Centre;**
- 2. Direct staff to include additional points for non-profits, collections of non-profits, and social enterprises into the assessment of the RFP; and**

3. Direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement with the successful proponent."

Carried.

8.c.3 Report CS-25-126 from the Director of Community Services Re: Proposal for a Turf Floor Partnership - Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre

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

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the location of the storage container has not been finalized and would be outlined in the agreement.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Coulter noted that the lacrosse group will also be fundraising for their portion of the turf.

CS-251217-007

Moved by Councillor Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report CS-25-126 respecting a proposal for a turf floor partnership with Junior and Minor Lacrosse at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Direct staff to include the lacrosse turf project on the City's Canada Helps page and issue communications respecting the ability for public donations towards the project; and**
- 2. Direct staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement, generally as outlined in the report, subject to the approval of the updated 2026-2030 Multi-Year Capital Plan."**

Carried.

8.d Building

None.

8.e Community and Business Development

None.

8.f Facility Bookings and Community Programs

None.

8.g Planning and Heritage

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 Correspondence from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Re: Changes to Provincial Bill 17

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

The Chief Building Official provided an overview of the November 2025 Development Update, highlighting permits issued and building permit revenue.

CS-251217-008

Moved by Councillor Kukreja

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the December 17, 2025 Community Services Committee agenda, the Community Services Committee recommends that City Council receive Items 11.a and 11.b 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 6:22 p.m.



Minutes

Operations Committee

December 18, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Scott Greig
Vice Chair Carol Merton
Member Arlene Blue Indoe
Member Mike Crone
Member Robert Droine
Councillor Brock Hamley
Member Michele Hawkins
Councillor Suneet Kukreja (via video)

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Member Donald Anderson

STAFF PRESENT: Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Mason Bellamy, Manager of Public Works and Engineering
Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on November 20, 2025

OP-251218-001

Moved by Councillor Hamley

"THAT the Operations Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on November 20, 2025."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 5.a Deputation from Jake Bousfield-Bastedo Re: Pedestrian Infrastructure

Mr. Bousfield-Bastedo provided a presentation regarding opportunities to improve pedestrian infrastructure in the City, highlighting the importance of walkability and the positive impact of increased foot traffic on local businesses.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that the intent is to include pedestrian infrastructure as part of a transportation master plan as a multi-modal study. She added that City traffic signals are currently inconsistent and of different standards as they have been added and replaced over time.

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 Engineering

- 8.a.1 Report OP-25-041 from the Engineering Technologist Re: Traffic By-law Amendments

The Director of Public Works and Engineering provided an overview of the report.

OP-251218-002

Moved by Member Hawkins

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-041 respecting Traffic By-law amendments for on-street parking, intersection stop control and yield right of way regulations, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to bring forward a by-law to amend Traffic By-law No. 2009-075 to include:

- 1. The following on-street parking prohibitions:**

- a. 28th Avenue East from 17th Street East to 18th Street East;
 - b. 18th Street East from 27th Avenue East to 28th Avenue East;
 - c. 17th Street East from 27th Avenue East to 28th Avenue East;
 - d. 27th Avenue East from 17th Street East to 18th Street East;
 - e. The Cul-de-Sac on 18th Street East as outlined in the report;
2. The following STOP control regulations:
- a. The intersection of 18th Street East and 28th Avenue East;
 - b. The intersection of 18th Street East and 27th Avenue East;
 - c. The intersection of 17th Street East and 28th Avenue East;
3. The implementation of 'Yield Right of Way' regulations at 1st Street East, as outlined in the report; and
4. Amendments to Schedule 25 - Yield Right of Way, as outlined in the report."

Carried.

8.b Transit

8.b.1 Report OP-25-044 from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Minor Changes to timing for Owen Sound Transit

The Supervisor of Environmental Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen clarified that this change is in response to current delays as an effort to keep timing on schedule.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen noted that signage will be updated to reflect the changes on the buses and on the mobile app.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen noted that the mobile app works well for live schedule updates as long as there is not a spare bus in use, as there are GPS tracking devices in the regular buses.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Jennen noted that actual bus timing data was collected to inform this decision and will be collected again during the trial period to monitor effectiveness.

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-044 respecting minor timing changes for Owen Sound Transit, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

8.c Water and Wastewater

8.c.1 Report OP-25-043 from the Director of Public Works and Engineering Re: Flat Rate Water Charge and Water-Related Fee Amendments

The Director of Public Works and Engineering provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that approximately 150 property owners have either refused or not responded to communications, while others have cited access or infrastructure issues.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield clarified that registered letters will be sent to get confirmation of refusal from property owners before administration fees are applied.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that alternate options considered included water shutoffs or water flow restrictions, however the proposed fees are the recommended course of action.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that the transition from quarterly billing to monthly billing cycles will be impacted by these properties if they do not transition to new meters. She added that a quote has been requested from the service provider to investigate costs for manual monthly reads of these properties.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that reasons for refusal have included health related impacts and liability concerns of having a third-party contractor in their home.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that a future report to the committee could include response data collected from the registered letters.

In response to a question from Committee, Ms. Widdifield noted that unpaid water arrears, including the proposed fees, can be transferred to the property tax roll. She added that tenants can provide permission for

the work if they are the ones paying the water bill and that these instances have been dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

OP-251218-004

Moved by Councillor Hamley

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-25-027 respecting a Flat Rate Water Charge and Water-Related Fee By-law Amendments, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council:

- 1. Direct staff to bring forward amendments to the Fees and Charges By-law to:**
 - a. Add a billing rate for outstanding manual-meter accounts based on the prior year's average monthly consumption;**
 - b. Add an administration fee of \$150 per billing cycle (\$50 per month) for accounts that have refused meter installation;**
 - c. Add information that all water accounts that have not yet been converted to the new automated water meters will be billed based on historical actual water consumption; and**
 - d. Add information for property owners who previously refused water meter installation that, effective July 1, 2026, if they later elect to convert they will cover the full cost of installation;**
- 2. Direct staff to provide notice of amendments to the Fees and Charges By-law as required by the Notice By-law;**
- 3. Direct staff to issue registered letters to confirm refusal status for accounts currently identified as refusals;**
- 4. Approve the application of the administration fee beginning with cycles with billing dates after March 1, 2026, for confirmed refusal accounts;**
- 5. Direct staff to bring forward a by-law to amend the Water Management By-law No. 2025-090 to prohibit the creation of new water accounts without the installation of a new meter or the existing meter being inspected and approved by staff; and**
- 6. Direct staff to bring forward an additional report to Committee on the updated number of outstanding meter replacements and refusals in late 2026."**

Carried.

8.d Environment

None.

8.e Public Works

None.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

There were no motions for which notice was previously given.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

There were no correspondence items presented for information.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

There was no additional business.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Greig adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.