



# Town of Newmarket Council Information Package

## Index of Attachments

Date: December 15, 2023

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>General Correspondence Items</b>	
1. <b>Township of Brock Council - Resolution re: Bradford Bypass</b> The Corporation of the Township of Brock December 1, 2023	1
2. <b>Township of Puslinch Council Resolution No. 2023-382 Amendments to Income Tax Act</b> Township of Puslinch December 4, 2023	3
3. <b>Chatham-Kent motion re Ontario Works Rate</b> Municipality of Chatham-Kent December 7, 2023	7
4. <b>York Region Transit Service Changes: December 24, 2023, and January 7, 2024</b> The Regional Municipality of York December 8, 2023	9
5. <b>Resolution 2023-964 - Ontario Energy Board's Leave to Construct Process</b> The Municipality of Grey Highlands December 11, 2023	10
6. <b>Township of Clearview Council Resolution - Cemetery</b>	12

## Administration Management Support

Township of Clearview

December 12, 2023

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 7. | <b>City of Greater Sudbury Council Resolution CC2023-303<br/>Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the<br/>Definition of "Employer"</b> | 21 |
|    | City of Greater Sudbury  |    |
|    | December 14, 2023  |    |
| 8. | <b>City of Port Colborne Support Bonfield Township and Town of Gore<br/>Bay - Support Tax Credit Increase Volunteer Firefighters</b>                             | 23 |
|    | City of Port Colborne  |    |
|    | December 14, 2023  |    |
| 9. | <b>Town of Plympton-Wyoming Support for an Amendment to the<br/>Legislation Act, 2006 to Include Digital Publications as Acceptable<br/>means of Publication</b> | 26 |
|    | City of Port Colborne  |    |
|    | December 14, 2023  |    |

## Proclamation, Lighting Requests and Community Flag Raising

None.

## Information Reports

- INFO-2023-33: Mulock Property Sign
- INFO-2023-34: Ward Boundary Review Update



The Corporation of  
The Township of Brock  
1 Cameron St. E., P.O. Box 10  
Cannington, ON L0E 1E0  
705-432-2355

December 1, 2023

The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria  
Minister of Transportation  
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1Z8

Sent via email: [minister.mto@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mto@ontario.ca)

Re: Bradford Bypass

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Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Brock adopted the following resolution at their meeting held on November 27, 2023:

C-2023-269

“WHEREAS the Township of Brock has concerns about the streamlines Environmental Assessment process being used by the Ministry of Transportation Ontario for Bradford Bypass and future highway builds.

THEREFORE, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Township of Brock is requesting that the Ministry of Transportation Ontario publicly release the traffic studies, clearly indicating the points of origin and time savings to justify this project; and

THAT a value for money audit of this project comparing it to regional road and public transit alternatives occur. Should traffic studies and the evaluation of alternatives justify it, pay for regional road improvements; and

THAT a plan for sustainable transportation be created prioritizing getting the Lake Simcoe Watershed Area; and

THAT Go Stations are built in Innisfil Obit and Barrie Waterfront and will include all-day two-way electrification of the GO Line; and

THAT the following studies are completed: impacts to Lake Simcoe, Cumulative Climate Impacts, Cumulative Health Assessments and Cumulative Water Impacts; and

THAT a salt alternative will be used on the Bradford Bypass; and

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Transportation Ontario, Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, City of Barrie, City of Kawartha Lakes, City of Orillia, County of Simcoe, Regional Municipality of Durham, Regional Municipality of York, Town of Aurora, Town of Bradford, West Gwillimbury, Town of Georgina, Town of Innisfil, Town of Newmarket, Town of New Tecumseth, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Township of King, Township of Oro-Medonte, Township of Ramara, Township of Scugog and Township of Uxbridge.”

If this information is required in an accessible format,  
please contact the Township at 705-432-2355.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Clerks Department, Clerks@Brock.ca.

Yours truly,

THE TOWNSHIP OF BROCK



Fernando Lamanna  
Clerk/Deputy CAO

FL:dh

cc. Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition – RescueLakeSimcoeCoalition@gmail.com  
 City of Kawartha Lakes - clerks@kawarthalakes.ca  
 Township of Scugog - clerks@scugog.ca  
 Township of Uxbridge - info@uxbridge.ca  
 Town of Georgina - info@georgina.ca  
 Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville - clerks@townofws.ca  
 Town of Aurora - clerks@aurora.ca  
 Town of Newmarket - clerks@newmarket.ca  
 Town of East Gwillimbury - clerks@eastgwillimbury.ca  
 Township of King - clerks@king.ca  
 Town of New Tecumseth - clerk@newtecumseth.ca  
 Town of Bradford-West Gwillimbury -clerk@townofbwg.com  
 Town of Innisfil - clerksoffice@innisfil.ca  
 City of Barrie - CityClerks@barrie.ca  
 Township of Oro-Medonte - yaubichon@oro-medonte.ca  
 City of Orillia - clerks@orillia.ca  
 Township of Ramara - ramara@ramara.ca  
 Region of Durham – clerks@durham.ca  
 County of Simcoe – clerks@simcoe.ca  
 Regional Municipality of York – regional.clerk@york.ca



Municipality of Wawa  
40 Broadway Ave,  
Wawa Ontario,  
POS 1K0  
VIA EMAIL:  
[info@wawa.ca](mailto:info@wawa.ca)

Township of Puslinch  
7404 Wellington Road 34  
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0  
[www.puslinch.ca](http://www.puslinch.ca)

December 4, 2023

RE 6.13 Municipality of Wawa Resolution regarding Amendments to the Income Tax Act

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on November 29, 2023 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

**Resolution No. 2023-382:**

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and  
Seconded by Councillor Goyda

That the Consent Agenda item 6.13 listed for NOVEMBER 29, 2023 Council meeting be received; and

Whereas the Township of Puslinch Council supports the Municipality of Wawa Resolution Regarding Bill C-310, Amendments to Income Tax Act;

Therefore, that Council directs staff to send a support resolution accordingly.

**CARRIED**

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,



Justine Brotherston,  
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario,  
Algoma Mutual Aid Association,  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario,  
Ontario Municipalities



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Resolution # RC23265	Meeting Order: 10
Moved by: [REDACTED]	Seconded by: [REDACTED]

**WHEREAS** Canada has 90,000 volunteer firefighters who provide fire and all hazard emergency services to their communities; in addition, approximately 8,000 essential search and rescue volunteers respond to thousands of incidents every year; and

**WHEREAS** many of these individuals receive some form of pay on call, an honorarium, or are given some funding to cover expenses, but they do not draw a living wage from firefighting; and;

**WHEREAS** without volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers, thousands of communities in Canada would have no fire and emergency response coverage; and;

**WHEREAS** in 2013, the federal government initiated a tax credit recognizing these individuals, and calling on the federal government to increase this tax credit from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and;

**WHEREAS** volunteer firefighters account for 71% of Canada's total firefighting essential first responders;

- The tax code of Canada currently allows volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers to claim a \$3,000 tax credit if 200 hours of volunteer services were completed in a calendar year;
- This works out to a mere \$450 per year, which we allow these essential volunteers to keep of their own income from their regular jobs, \$2.25 an hour;
- If they volunteer more than 200 hours, which many do, this tax credit becomes even less;
- These essential volunteers not only put their lives on the line and give their time, training and efforts to Canadians, but they also allow cities and municipalities to keep property taxes lower than if paid services were required;

*p.2...*



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

- It would also help retain these volunteers in a time when volunteerism is decreasing.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06 (2) and 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and;

**FURTHERMORE THAT** a copy of the resolution be shared with the Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario, Algoma Mutual Aid Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield	
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED	Cathy Cannon	
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann	
<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato	

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

- Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

MAYOR - MELANIE PILON	CLERK - MAURY O'NEILL



December 7, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Via email: [Premier@ontario.ca](mailto:Premier@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Michael Parsa  
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services  
Via email: [MinisterMCCSS@ontario.ca](mailto:MinisterMCCSS@ontario.ca)

MPP Trevor Jones  
Chatham-Kent-Leamington  
Via email: [trevor.jones@pc.ola.org](mailto:trevor.jones@pc.ola.org)

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Parsa and MPP Jones:

**RE: Ontario Works Rates**

On November 6, 2023, after much discussion on increased homelessness in Chatham-Kent, Councillor Marjorie Crew made the following motion that was passed unanimously by the Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent:

*“That Council prepare a letter addressed to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, as well as local MPPs to strongly recommend that accommodation rates of social assistance payments increase to the Average Market Rent (for all types of rentals) for recipients of Ontario Works Assistance and the Ontario Disability Support Program. And that a copy of this letter be sent to AMO, ROMA, aIPHa and all Councils in Ontario”.*

In Chatham-Kent:

- 1) Total homelessness has been gradually increasing since November 2022.
  - (a) Pre-pandemic, it was decreasing through Employment and Social Services' 'Housing First' approach, coordinated access system and a 'By Name List'.
- 2) The percentage of individuals experiencing homelessness in our community have identified as staying outdoors doubled in 2023 from 2022.
- 3) The average housing move-ins has been steadily declining each month.
- 4) On average, the number of new individuals (never previously identified as experiencing homelessness) added to the By Name List each month has increased from 2022.
- 5) The average market rent is \$1,522 for a one-bedroom apartment and a single person on Ontario Works receives a maximum of \$390 toward accommodation costs.

Cont'd...

Homelessness is increasing in Chatham-Kent and the well-being of our residents is decreasing. Since 2018, the Ontario Works rates have been frozen and yet the caseload in Chatham-Kent has only increased. If the goal was to drive more people into the workforce it is not working, but instead driving more people into homelessness. Nearly 80% of people accessing emergency shelter have social assistance as their main source of income. We cannot build affordable housing fast enough and need upstream issues like social assistance rates to be resolved to stop our community members from slipping into homelessness. Homelessness has resulted in significant pressures and costs on many of our services including Police, Fire Services, Paramedics, Public Works, Parks and Social Services. Unhoused residents are suffering, and property taxpayers are seeing significant asks from the 2024-2027 budgets to mitigate the challenges of homelessness.

In recent years, housing was determined to be a human right by both the Federal and Provincial governments and thus income maintenance programs should have housing allowances that reflect actual expenses. Other income programs have increased, yet Ontario Works particularly has remained far below the poverty line with no increase since 2017. In 1995, social assistance rates were slashed by 21.6% and have only increased by 41%. At the same time \$1.00 in 1995 has the same buying power as \$1.81 today, so inflation over that period has been over 80% - however, the Ontario Works rate has increased by only about 41% (half of inflation rate) for a single person in the past 28 years (5,6). People who have had to find new housing in today's rental market, experience a higher rate of inflation as they are required to pay rents that have increased by approximately 133% in that time period.

For these reasons and the fact that Ontario social assistance rates are one of the lowest of provinces in Canada, we ask that the Province of Ontario raise social assistance rates, especially Ontario Works Assistance significantly using the Average Market Rent to determine accommodation limits. This will provide social assistance recipients the opportunity to stay housed and be well, potentially re-joining the workforce and reduce the burden on community programs and municipal services. Our downtowns and parks can return to what we all enjoyed in smaller cities like ours only a few years ago. An investment in our citizens who are vulnerable is expected to create savings in almost every other sector.

Sincerely,



Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO  
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

C: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)  
alPHa  
Ontario Councils

# Service update



EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 24, 2023

Post Until: January 20, 2024

## Holiday Service Calendar

DECEMBER 2023		JANUARY 2024	
<b>24</b> SUN	> Sunday / Holiday service > December service changes begins	<b>01</b> MON	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> > Saturday service
<b>25</b> MON	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> > Sunday / Holiday service	<b>02</b> TUE	> Weekday service
<b>26</b> TUE	<b>BOXING DAY</b> > Saturday service	<b>03</b> WED	> Weekday service
<b>27</b> WED	> Weekday service > High School Specials suspended ^	<b>04</b> THU	> Weekday service
<b>28</b> THU	> Weekday service	<b>05</b> FRI	> Weekday service
<b>29</b> FRI	> Weekday service	<b>06</b> SAT	> Saturday service
<b>30</b> SAT	> Saturday service	<b>07</b> SUN	> Sunday / Holiday service > January 2024 service changes begin
<b>31</b> SUN	> Sunday / Holiday service > Extended service on select routes > Customers travel free after 7 p.m.	<b>08</b> MON	> Weekday service > High School Specials resume^

**NOTES:**

- > ^High School Specials (400-series) suspended from December 27, 2023 resuming on January 8, 2024.
- > Route 760 - Vaughan Mills/Wonderland weekday service offered from December 27, 2023 to January 5, 2024.

**Ride for Free**  
on New Year's Eve after 7 p.m.

Visit [yrt.ca](http://yrt.ca) for complete holiday service information



### Revised service

**Effective: December 24, 2023**

- 50 – Queensway
- 90 – Leslie
- 99 – Yonge
- 720 – Highway 407 Terminal/ Wonderland
- 760 – Vaughan Mills / Wonderland
- TTC 68B – Warden

All High School Specials will be reinstated on Monday, January 8, 2024. Visit [yrt.ca/ServiceChanges](http://yrt.ca/ServiceChanges) for full details.

**Effective: January 7, 2024**

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Viva purple/purple A                   | TTC 129A – McCowan North          |
| Viva yellow                            | 300 – Business Express            |
| 2 – Milliken                           | 361 – Nashville Express           |
| 26 – Maple                             | 404 – Markville School Special    |
| 40 – Unionville Local                  | 417 – Bill Hogarth School Special |
| 50 – Queensway                         | 420 – Newmarket S.S. via Savage   |
| 87 – Autumn Hill                       | 424 – Keswick School Special      |
| 90 – Leslie                            | 437 – St. Maximilian Kolbe S.S.   |
| 91/A/B / E – Bayview / Bayview Limited | 462 – Maple School Special        |
| 98E – Yonge                            | 720 – Hwy 407 Terminal/Wonderland |
| 165/165F – Weston                      | 760 – Vaughan Mills/Wonderland    |
| TTC 17A – Birchmount                   | On-Request Keswick                |
| TTC 68B - Warden                       | On-Request Newmarket Local        |

1-866-MOVE-YRT (668-3978) | TTY: 711 | [yrt.ca](http://yrt.ca)





December 06, 2023

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
200 University Ave., Suite 801  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3C6

Sent via email: [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)

Attention: Colin Best, President

Dear Mr. Best

**Re: Grey Highlands Resolution #2023-964**

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed at the December 06, 2023 meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

**2023-964**

**Whereas the Enbridge Gas has shared with Grey Highlands key messages regarding the Ontario Energy Board's Leave to Construct (LTC) process, entitled "reducing red tape for more cost-effective, timely energy connections in Ontario"; and**

**Whereas Grey Highlands supports and wishes to endorse the recommendations put forward by Enbridge Gas in order to expedite the installation of natural gas to rural, remote or underserved communities such as Grey Highlands; now Therefore be it resolved that the Municipality of Grey Highlands petition the Ontario Government to expedite the implementation of the following recommendations:**

- i) THAT the Government of Ontario move to modernize the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) Leave to Construct (LTC) process for smaller pipeline projects in order to bring reliable, affordable energy options to communities, homes and businesses in a more cost-effective and timely manner.**
- ii) THAT the LTC cost threshold be updated from \$2M to \$10M for hydrocarbon lines (by amending Ontario Regulation O.Reg.328/03) while maintaining current requirements and expectations for Indigenous consultation and environmental review for projects greater than \$2M and less than \$10M.**
- iii) THAT these outdated regulations are causing the LTC to apply far more broadly than intended when it was established over 20 years ago due to**

**The Municipality of Grey Highlands**

206 Toronto Street South, Unit One - P.O. Box 409 Markdale, Ontario N0C 1H0  
519-986-2811 Toll-Free 1-888-342-4059 Fax 519-986-3643  
[www.greyhighlands.ca](http://www.greyhighlands.ca) [info@greyhighlands.ca](mailto:info@greyhighlands.ca)

increased regulatory and cost pressures, as well as inflation, virtually all gas pipeline projects are now greater than \$2M rendering the threshold meaningless.

iv) THAT roughly 0.5 KM pipe in urban settings now often exceeds the \$2M threshold.

v) THAT modernizing these outdated regulations would reduce delays and costs for economic development initiatives including transit projects, community expansion projects, housing developments, connections for low carbon fuel blending (e.g., renewable natural gas, hydrogen) as well as residential and business customer connections.

vi) THAT based on OEB's performance standards, this proposal would save approx. 5-7 months of regulatory process which is in addition to the time needed to undertake Indigenous consultation and environmental review and prepare an application to the OEB.

vii) THAT the cost of preparing and having a LTC application heard ranges from approx. ~\$50,000 to ~\$200,000, which is passed on to customers.

viii) THAT while no cost-based threshold exists for electricity lines, there are a range of exemptions ensuring that LTC is only required for significant electricity projects and the proposed changes would help ensure that, consistent with electricity projects, LTC for hydrocarbon lines would only be required for significant projects.

ix) THAT increasing the cost threshold to \$10M would closer align Ontario with other Canadian jurisdictions (e.g., in B.C., these thresholds are \$15M for electricity and \$20M for natural gas); and

That this resolution be circulated to the President of AMO, Colin Best, Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Energy, Todd Smith, The Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy and all regional municipalities requesting support of the proposed changes regarding reducing red tape for more cost-effective, timely energy connections in Ontario.

**CARRIED.**

If you require anything further, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

*Amanda Fines-Vanalstine*

Amanda Fines-VanAlstine  
Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy-Clerk  
Municipality of Grey Highlands

cc. Premier Doug Ford  
Minister of Energy Todd Smith,  
Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy  
All municipalities in Ontario

**The Municipality of Grey Highlands**

206 Toronto Street South, Unit One - P.O. Box 409 Markdale, Ontario N0C 1H0  
519-986-2811 Toll-Free 1-888-342-4059 Fax 519-986-3643  
www.greyhighlands.ca info@greyhighlands.ca



CLEARVIEW  
TOWNSHIP

**Clerk's Department**  
Township of Clearview  
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street  
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0  
[clerks@clearview.ca](mailto:clerks@clearview.ca) | [www.clearview.ca](http://www.clearview.ca)  
Phone: 705-428-6230

December 12, 2023

File: C00.2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy  
Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery  
777 Bay Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M5B 2H7

Sent by Email

**RE: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support**

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Please be advised that Council of the Township of Clearview, at its meeting held on December 11, 2023, passed a resolution regarding Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support as follows:

Moved by Councillor Walker, Seconded by Councillor Broderick, Whereas under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;

And Whereas over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.;

And Whereas municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within its jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers;

And Whereas cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable costs for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries;

And Whereas the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries; Page 6 of 7
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Brian Saunderson and all Ontario municipalities. Motion Carried.

For reference, please find attached the Staff Report LS-032-2023 that provides background for the above resolution. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Sasha HelmKay-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC  
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar  
MPP Simcoe Grey, Brian Saunderson  
Ontario Municipalities



# Staff Report

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**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Sasha Helmkey, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

**Date:** December 11, 2023

**Subject:** Report # LS-032-2023 – Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

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## Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby receives Report LS-032-2023 (Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support) dated December 11, 2023; and,

Whereas under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;

And Whereas over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.;

And Whereas municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within its jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers;

And Whereas cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable costs for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries;

And Whereas the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;



Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Brian Saunderson and all Ontario municipalities.

## **Background**

Under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed.

Over the last decade there appears to be a trend where cemeteries in Ontario are being transferred, whether through abandonment or a mutually agreed upon transfer, to the care and control of municipalities. This is often seen when there is a breakdown in existing cemetery boards and/or when churches cease operations. For many existing private cemetery boards their board members and volunteers are aging and are unable to assist with the operations and maintenance of the cemetery any longer. Finding new members proves to be difficult for these boards to continue. In addition to aging board members, there are other issues that are contributing to the increase in cemetery transfers:

- high maintenance costs
- inaccuracy of records
- lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery

- increased regulatory processes that require ongoing training for selling of interment rights, and the financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.

### Township Owned Cemeteries

The Township of Clearview currently owns and operates nine (9) cemeteries within its geographic boundaries. Out of these nine cemeteries, four (4) are considered active meaning that there are still interment rights to be sold, or burials to take place. Below is a chart outlining these cemeteries and their status:

Cemetery Name	Address	Status
Batteau Hill Cemetery	2670 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Bethel Union Cemetery	2249 Creemore Avenue, New Lowell	Inactive
Dunedin Union Cemetery	9 Turkeyroost Lane, Dunedin	Active
Duntroon Pioneer Cemetery	2870 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Lavender Cemetery	827103 Mulmur/Nottawasaga Townline, Creemore	Active
Old Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	6130 Highway 26, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive
Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery	2279 County Road 42, Stayner	Active
Stayner Union Cemetery	7661 Highway 26, Stayner	Active
Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	12358 County Road 10, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive

For the Dunedin and Stayner Union Cemetery, the Township looks after the maintenance and burials through a third-party contractor. The maintenance and burials for the Lavender Cemetery are conducted through the Board. For the Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery all the interment rights have been sold, but there remains one burial to be completed. The cost to maintain an active cemetery is expensive. Although burial costs and the installation of markers, etc. are cost recovery through the purchaser, grounds maintenance is not.

Inactive cemeteries still require consistent grounds maintenance, which includes any monument restoration for health and safety, and record searches for the public register.

## Comments and Analysis

When analyzing the number of cemeteries that Clearview Township currently owns and operates, maintenance and administration is a large undertaking. To add any additional cemeteries by way of transfer or abandonment will only compound the issues the Township is already facing. In the past year, the Township has been approached by two separate entities regarding possible cemetery transfers. When a board or cemetery transfers ownership to the municipality, the issues are transferred with it. Municipalities are not immune to the same concerns. It becomes a strain on municipal resources, financially, administratively, and operationally.

### Administrative Impact

From an administrative perspective the management of four active cemeteries is both time consuming and complex. No interment is the same, and providing good customer service takes time especially for those making arrangements while also dealing with grief. Administrative tasks include but are not limited to: interment right sales and mapping, burial contracts and scheduling, monument placement, historical record searches, plot and monument staking, fees and charges review, family transfers of interment rights and annual reporting to the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO).

- **Incomplete records**

Often the records accepted by the Township from a dissolved cemetery board or church are incomplete and disorganized. This is no fault of the previous board members, as they are also often operating with limited resources. However, it does make it difficult to manage the cemetery post-transfer when records are sparse. Understanding which plots are occupied and by who is critical to the sound management of a cemetery. Unfortunately, this is not made possible in all cases because of incomplete records. In addition, records received during a transfer usually are maintained under different records management standards and are often organized and named inconsistently. Adaptation to Township records keeping practices takes time.

- **Lack of human resources**

Cemetery management is a highly regulated professional field, with the responsibility of which is often placed on public sector employees who may have limited knowledge of cemeteries in general. With reduced resources within municipalities especially rural ones, the management of cemeteries often becomes a secondary responsibility to another position. There is also a lack of affordable training available for municipal employees who are required to abide by regulations set out by the FBCSA and the BAO.

- **Increased regulatory processes**

Annual reporting requirements of the BAO can be extensive and complex. This includes monitoring the number of interments, the transfers to the Care and Maintenance Fund (C&M), and how the C&M fund can be used. There are also regulations pertaining to maintaining a public register, how sales are to be conducted and strict guidelines on Cemetery By-law approvals, and expansions including the erection of columbaria structures.

- **Inconsistent cemetery regulations**

Cemeteries can have many different regulations related to plot size, number of burials allowed in a given plot, monument size, what types of flowers/shrubs are allowed to be installed near a headstone etc. The transfer of different cemeteries having inconsistent regulations can make it difficult to adapt management practices in order to maintain original cemetery operational standards.

### **Operational Impact**

Similarly, from an operational perspective the grounds maintenance of cemeteries, whether active or inactive, is both time consuming and complex. A key issue when analyzing the maintenance component of cemetery management is the lack of financial resources to support the operation. Cemetery maintenance includes, but is not limited to: grass cutting (whipper snipping around monuments), tree and shrub maintenance, monument and corner stone maintenance, water pipe and washroom monitoring, and general upkeep of cemetery grounds (removal of debris, etc.).

- **High maintenance costs**

As with many services, there are rising costs to contend with. Municipalities have adopted different models to address the maintenance of such, with third party contractors being commonly used or it becomes the responsibility of an internal department such as Parks & Recreation. Regardless the model, the costs have increased significantly over the last decade with equipment purchases/upgrades, insurance requirements for third-party contractors, and the time it takes to cut the grass and whipper snip around monuments. To put it into perspective, the Stayner Union Cemetery with the expansion is 25 acres with monuments to manoeuvre around during ground care. Other considerations for maintenance includes monument restoration and ensuring that they are not deteriorated to the point where they are unsafe. This is important for older cemeteries where restoration hasn't been provided in the past and there are many deteriorating monuments.

- **Cost of cemetery management software**

Cemetery Management Software can help municipalities manage cemetery records, including plot sale contracts, interment rights certificates, and regulatory reporting.

However, these software solutions are often expensive and require a large amount of staff time to implement especially with incomplete data and records. These software solutions range in price from \$5,000 to \$100,000 with annual maintenance costs. This investment in software can be a large budget request and one that would need to be supported from taxation with the limited funds in cemetery general accounts.

- **Inadequate Care and Maintenance funds**

When the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA) was enacted, it stipulated that a care and maintenance fund for a cemetery shall be established. A cemetery operator is required to make contributions to the fund from the sale of in-ground graves, crypts, tombs, niches, scattering rights and monument installation. The contribution is prescribed under the FBCSA and differs dependant on the interment type. The idea is that the fund (income earned from the fund - interest) pays for maintenance costs after a cemetery has stopped making sales. In reality, this concept does not produce enough funds to maintain a cemetery. Looking at the Stayner Union Cemetery as an example, for the very basics (grass cutting and whipper snipping) the interest from the care and maintenance fund does not provide enough monies to maintain the cemetery for the 7 months it's required. In addition, the care and maintenance fund is also to be utilized for the stabilization, maintenance and security of markers. Cemeteries are not self funding, and maintenance of such is becoming a larger budget concern.

### **Support Request**

Cemetery transfers and abandonments have been an ongoing concern for Clearview Township for many years. When you look at the large geography of the Township there are many cemeteries within the boundaries that have the potential to be transferred. To gauge the concern of other municipalities on this issue, staff addressed it at a Simcoe County Clerks group discussion. Many neighbouring municipalities expressed that they were dealing with the same issues and have also been approached by different external entities on possible transfers.

As result of the discussion, it was agreed that to assist with the real concerns with transfers and abandonments of cemeteries, it's vital that the Province provide assistance to adequately support this infrastructure. Support can be provided in many different forms, with staff making the following recommendations for the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the BAO:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;

- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

There is not one solution to solve all the issues, but at the very least it's important to identify the concerns and have open and real discussions at the provincial level on what support can be provided.

### **Clearview's Strategic Plan**

The above initiative supports the following strategic pillars:

- Governance

### **Financial Implications**

It is difficult to identify an exact dollar amount that can be attributed to a cemetery transfer/abandonment to the municipality. Every transfer is different and depends on a multitude of factors beginning with the cemetery status (active/inactive), acreage, care and maintenance fund (if any), maintenance of records, etc. What is being recommended by staff by way of support from the province is not meant to erase the costs entirely, but rather, to alleviate the financial burden in some capacity.

### **Report Appendices**

Not applicable.

### **Approvals**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Sasha HelmKay, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Krista Pascoe, Deputy Clerk
<b>Financial Implications Reviewed by:</b>	Kelly McDonald, Treasurer
<b>Approved by:</b>	John Ferguson, CAO



December 12, 2023

**\*Sent Via Email\***

Municipalities of Ontario

Re: Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of "Employer"

The following resolution was passed by Council of the City of Greater Sudbury on December 5, 2023:

*CC2023-303: WHEREAS in 2015 the City of Greater Sudbury (the "City") entered into a contract with a contractor experienced in road construction projects to complete a project on Elgin Street in the City's downtown core;*

*AND WHEREAS the contract provided that the contractor would be the constructor for the project as that term is defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the "Act");*

*AND WHEREAS an employee of the constructor operating a grader on the project struck and killed a pedestrian;*

*AND WHEREAS the City was charged with offences under the Act as the constructor and the employer;*

*AND WHEREAS after being acquitted at trial and on appeal, the Ontario Court of Appeal, in a decision issued on April 23, 2021, found the City to be liable for contraventions of the Construction Regulations as an employer as it employed quality control inspectors to monitor the quality of work on the project from time-to-time;*

*AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada, in a decision issued on November 10, 2023, was evenly divided 4-4 on the issue resulting in dismissal of the City's appeal;*

*AND WHEREAS the consequence of this decision is that municipalities in Ontario, as well as all other owners of property in the province, who wish to undertake construction, are subject to being charged and convicted as an employer for offences in relation to project sites for which they have no control and have, in accordance with the Act, contracted with an entity to assume plenary oversight and authority over the work on such site as the constructor; AND WHEREAS the potential of an owner being charged as an employer as that term is defined in the Act in circumstances where it has engaged a constructor disregards and renders meaningless the owner-constructor provisions contained in the Act and presents an unacceptable level of increased risk and confusion for owners and contractors throughout the province;*

PO BOX 5000 STN A  
200 BRADY STREET  
SUDBURY ON P3A 5P3

CP 5000 SUCC A  
200, RUE BRADY  
SUDBURY ON P3A 5P3

705.671.2489

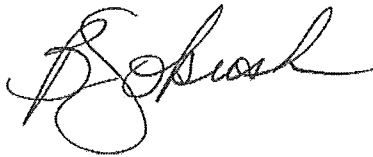
[www.greatersudbury.ca](http://www.greatersudbury.ca)  
[www.grandsudbury.ca](http://www.grandsudbury.ca)

*AND WHEREAS the City believes that the safety of workers is paramount however the safety of workers on construction projects in Ontario is not increased by placing liability on parties that do not have control of and are not responsible for the conduct of the work on such sites;*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the City of Greater Sudbury requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;*

*AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, France Gelin, MPP for Nickel Belt, Jamie West, MPP for Sudbury, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and all Ontario municipalities.*

Yours truly,



Brigitte Sobush  
Manager of Clerk's Services/Deputy City Clerk

- c. Members of City Council  
Eric Labelle, City Solicitor and Clerk





## PORT COLBORNE

Legislative Services

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E [saima.tufail@portcolborne.ca](mailto:saima.tufail@portcolborne.ca)

December 12, 2023

Bonfield Township  
Office of the Deputy Clerk – via email to: [deputyclerk@bonfieldtownship.com](mailto:deputyclerk@bonfieldtownship.com)  
365 Highway 531  
Bonfield ON  
P0H 1E0

Town of Gore Bay  
Office of the City Clerk – via email to: [scarr@gorebay.ca](mailto:scarr@gorebay.ca)  
15 Water Street  
Gore Bay, ON  
P0P 1H0

Dear Sir or Madam:

**Re: Bonfield Township and Town of Gore Bay - Support Tax Credit Increase Volunteer Firefighters**

Please be advised that, at its meeting of November 28, 2023 the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

That the correspondence from Bonfield Township and Town of Gore Bay regarding Support Tax Credit Increase Volunteer Firefighters, be supported.

A copy of the above noted resolution is enclosed for your reference.

Sincerely,

*S. Tufail*

Saima Tufail  
Acting City Clerk

cc. Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario  
Nipissing Mutual Aid Association  
Manitoulin Fire Mutual Aid Association  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario



**BONFIELD TOWNSHIP**  
**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CLERK**

365 HIGHWAY 531

BONFIELD ON P0H 1E0

Telephone: 705-776-2641 Fax: 705-776-1154

Website: <http://www.bonfieldtownship.com>

Email: [deputyclerk@bonfieldtownship.com](mailto:deputyclerk@bonfieldtownship.com)

RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

No. 15

Moved by Councillor Clark

Seconded by Councillor Featherstone

WHEREAS Canada has 90,000 volunteer firefighters who provide fire and all hazard emergency services to their communities; in addition, approximately 8,000 essential search and rescue volunteers respond to thousands of incidents every year; and WHEREAS many of these individuals receive some form of pay on call, an honorarium, or are given some funding to cover expenses, but they do not draw a living wage from firefighting; and; WHEREAS without volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers, thousands of communities in Canada would have no fire and emergency response coverage; and; WHEREAS in 2013, the federal government initiated a tax credit recognizing these individuals, and calling on the federal government to increase this tax credit from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and; WHEREAS volunteer firefighters account for 71 % of Canada's total firefighting essential first responders;

- The tax code of Canada currently allows volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers to claim a \$3,000 tax credit if 200 hours of volunteer services were completed in a calendar year;
- This works out to a mere \$450 per year, which we allow these essential volunteers to keep of their own income from their regular jobs, \$2.25 an hour;
- If they volunteer more than 200 hours, which many do, this tax credit becomes even less;
- These essential volunteers not only put their lives on the line and give their time, training and efforts to Canadians, but they also allow cities and municipalities to keep property taxes lower than if paid services were required;
- It would also help retain these volunteers in a time when volunteerism is decreasing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Bonfield call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06 (2) and 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and FURTHERMORE THAT a copy of the resolution be shared with the Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario, Nipissing Mutual Aid Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried Jason Corbett

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of Resolution No. 15 of the Township of Bonfield's Regular Council Meeting of November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and which Resolution is in full force and effect.

Andrée Gagné  
 Deputy Clerk-Treasurer



15650

*Moved by Dan Osborne*

*Seconded by Ken Blodgett*

***BE IT RESOLVED THAT Gore Bay Council supports the Municipality of Wawa regarding requesting the Government of Canada to amend subsections 118.06 (2) and 118.07 of the Income Tax Act to increase the amount of tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000;***

***FURTHER, this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario, Manitoulin Fire Mutual Aid Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Ontario municipalities.***

*Carried*



**PORT COLBORNE**

Legislative Services

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December 12, 2023

Hon. Doug Downey  
Attorney General  
McMurtry-Scott Bldg 11<sup>th</sup> Flr, 720 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Sent via e-mail: [doug.downey@ontario.ca](mailto:doug.downey@ontario.ca)

Dear Honourable Doug Downey:

**Re: Town of Plympton-Wyoming – Support for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006 to Include Digital Publications as Acceptable means of Publication**

Please be advised that, at its meeting of November 14, 2023 the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

That the correspondence from Town of Plympton-Wyoming in Support of the Township of McKellar regarding Call for an Amendment to the *Legislation Act, 2006* to Include Digital Publications as Acceptable means of Publication, be supported.

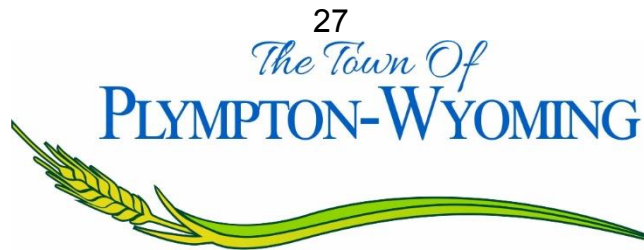
A copy of the above noted resolution is enclosed for your reference.

Sincerely,

*S. Tufail*

Saima Tufail  
Acting City Clerk

cc. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing  
Graydon Smith, Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP  
Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)  
Neil Oliver, CEO and President of Metroland Media Group  
All Ontario Municipalities



Hon. Doug Downey  
Attorney General  
McMurtry-Scott Bldg 11<sup>th</sup> Flr, 720 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

October 26<sup>th</sup> 2023

Sent via e-mail: [doug.downey@ontario.ca](mailto:doug.downey@ontario.ca)

**Re: Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006**

Dear Mr. Downey,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> 2023, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council passed the following motion, supporting the attached resolution from the Township of McKellar regarding a Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006.

***Motion 10***

*Moved by Councillor Kristen Rodrigues*

*Seconded by Councillor John van Klaveren*

*That Council support item 'L' of correspondence from the Township of McKellar regarding a Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006.*

***Carried.***

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at [ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca](mailto:ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca).

Sincerely,

Erin Kwarciak

Clerk

Town of Plympton-Wyoming

cc: Sent via e-mail  
Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Bob Bailey, MPP Sarnia-Lambton  
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)  
Neil Oliver, CEO & President, Metroland Media Group  
All Ontario Municipalities



## **Township of McKellar**

701 Hwy #124, P.O. Box 69, McKellar, Ontario POG 1C0  
 Phone: (705) 389-2842  
 Fax: (705) 389-1244

October 19, 2023

Hon. Doug Downey  
 Attorney General  
 McMurtry-Scott Bldg 11th Flr, 720 Bay St.  
 Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Sent via email: [Doug.Downey@ontario.ca](mailto:Doug.Downey@ontario.ca)

**RE: Call for an Amendment to the *Legislation Act, 2006***

Dear Mr. Downey,

At the Regular Meeting of Council held on October 17, 2023, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar carried the following resolution:

**Resolution No. 23-671**

Moved by: Councillor Kekkonen

Seconded by: Councillor Zulak

**WHEREAS** Metroland Media Group has sought bankruptcy protection and will cease the print publication of its weekly community newspapers across Ontario, moving to an online-only model; and

**WHEREAS** Neil Oliver, Chief Executive Officer and President of Metroland Media Group, said the 71 Metroland community publications will be digital only going forward; and

**WHEREAS** the *Legislation Act, 2006* provides a definition of “newspaper” which applies to every Ontario Act and Regulation, as in a provision requiring publication, means a document that, (a) **is printed in sheet form**, published at regular intervals of a week or less and circulated to the general public, and (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest; (“journal”); and

**WHEREAS** Ontario Municipalities are required to follow publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations; and



**WHEREAS** communities such as the West Parry Sound Area cannot comply with publication requirements in Provincial Acts and Regulations as the Parry Sound North Star news publication is no longer being printed in sheet form and there are no other local news publications fitting the definition of “newspaper”; and

**WHEREAS** some small, rural, Ontario Municipalities may not have the means to bring an application to the Court to ask for directions and approval of an alternate manner of providing notice;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar does hereby request the Provincial government to make an amendment to the *Legislation Act, 2006* to include digital publications as an acceptable means of publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations; and

**FURTHER** request the support of all Ontario Municipalities; and

**FURTHER THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP, Graydon Smith; The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO); CEO and President of Metroland Media Group, Neil Oliver and all Ontario Municipalities.

**Carried**

Regards,



Karlee Britton  
Deputy Clerk  
Township of McKellar  
[deputyclerk@mckellar.ca](mailto:deputyclerk@mckellar.ca)  
(705) 389-2842 x5

cc:

Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka  
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)  
Neil Oliver, CEO & President, Metroland Media Group  
All Ontario Municipalities