



AGENDA

Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Thursday, June 25, 2020
Virtual Council Meeting Via Zoom

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11. RISE AND REPORT

12. BY-LAW CONFIRMING PROCEEDINGS

13. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES

Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Thursday, June 11, 2020
Virtual Meeting

The Council of the Brooke-Alvinston was called to order on Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 4:00 PM, in the Virtual Meeting, with the following members present:

Council Present: Mayor David Ferguson, Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek, Councillor Jeannette Douglas, Councillor Jamie Armstrong, and Councillor Wayne Deans

Staff Present: Clerk Administrator Janet Denkers, Treasurer Stephen Ikert, Public Works Manager Randy Hills, Fire Chief Jeff McArthur, and Administrative Assistant Darlene Paolucci

Regrets:

1 CALL TO ORDER

- a) Mayor Ferguson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

- a) Mayor Ferguson requested that any pecuniary interests be declared at the appropriate time.

3 MINUTES

- a) Regular Council Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2020

RESOLUTION-2020-162

Councillor Jamie Armstrong made a motion that the meeting minutes from the May 28, 2020 Council meeting be approved as presented. Councillor Jeannette Douglas seconded the motion.

Carried

4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5 DELEGATIONS & TIMED EVENTS

- a) There were no delegations scheduled

6 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Council Information

RESOLUTION-2020-163

Councillor Wayne Deans made a motion that the information correspondence items be received and filed. Councillor Jamie Armstrong seconded the motion.

Carried

- b) City of Brantford - Essential Workers Day

RESOLUTION-2020-164

Councillor Wayne Deans made a motion that the request from the City of Brantford be received and filed Councillor Jeannette Douglas seconded the motion.

Carried**7 STAFF REPORTS**

- a) Clerk Administrator's Report: Update on Municipal Operations

RESOLUTION-2020-165

Councillor Wayne Deans made a motion that this report be received and filed for information. Councillor Jeannette Douglas seconded the motion.

Carried

- b) Clerk Administrator's Report: Virtual Canada Day

The Clerk Administrator reviewed the options in her report for Canada Day. Councillor Deans and Mayor Ferguson both stated that they would like to see the fireworks display stay in Brooke-Alvinston and suggested later dates in hopes that COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

RESOLUTION-2020-166

Councillor Wayne Deans made a motion that the Canada Day grant monies be held pending the outcome of the decision of the Fair Board. Councillor Jeannette Douglas seconded the motion.

Carried

- c) Clerk Administrator's Report: Job Postings

The Clerk Administrator provided details to Council of the current job postings for the Part Time Fire Chief and the Parks & Recreation Supervisor.

Councillor Nemcek joined the meeting after experiencing technical difficulties.

RESOLUTION-2020-167

Councillor Wayne Deans made a motion that this report be received and filed as information Councillor Jeannette Douglas seconded the motion.

Carried

- d) Clerk Administrator's Report: Temporary Extension of Patio at Armor's Ale House

Councillor Armstrong declared a pecuniary interest as he is an owner of Armor's Ale House.

RESOLUTION-2020-168

Councillor Wayne Deans made a motion that Council approve the request for a temporary extension to the 3225 River Street existing patio in accordance with By-law 15 of 2019 and that the alley located at 3223 River Street (Plan 2 Pt. Lot 14) be temporarily closed during the term of the agreement . Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek seconded the motion.

Carried

- e) Drainage Superintendent Staff Report

RESOLUTION-2020-169

Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek made a motion that the following recommendations presented in the report be approved. Councillor Jeannette Douglas seconded the motion.

Carried

f) Public Works Manager's Report: Manure Spill

Mayor Ferguson and the Public Works Manager gave details about the recent manure spill into a municipal drain. Mayor Ferguson has requested a report to Council regarding the outcome of the Ministry of Environment's ongoing lab analysis.

RESOLUTION-2020-170

Councillor Wayne Deans made a motion that the report be received and filed for information. Councillor Jamie Armstrong seconded the motion.

Carried

g) Public Works Managers Report: 2020 Grader Tender Results

RESOLUTION-2020-171

Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek made a motion that the 2020 Grader Tender be accepted from Tormont Cat in the amount of \$ 363,524 (not including tax). Councillor Jamie Armstrong seconded the motion.

Carried

h) Public Works Manager's Report: BAICCC Budget Upgrades

RESOLUTION-2020-172

Councillor Jeannette Douglas made a motion that the Public Works Manager obtain pricing for insulation, drywall and decorative panels for the North and South walls of the auditorium at the B.A.I.C.C.C. Councillor Wayne Deans seconded the motion.

Carried

i) Fire Chief Monthly Report

RESOLUTION-2020-173

Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek made a motion that the monthly report prepared by the Fire Chief be received and filed. Councillor Jeannette Douglas seconded the motion.

Carried

j) Treasurer's Report: Accounts Payable Listing – May 2020

RESOLUTION-2020-174

Councillor Wayne Deans made a motion that Council receive and file the Accounts Payable Listing for May 2020. Councillor Jeannette Douglas seconded the motion.

Carried

k) Treasurer's Report: Approval of Regular Contributions/Sponsorship/Donations to Area Organizations

Mayor Ferguson asked to make an amendment to the motion, that the minimum donation be \$50.00. Councillor Nemcek agreed with the amendment.

RESOLUTION-2020-175

Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek made a motion that Council direct staff as approve regular requests once a year (with budget); and if new or larger requests come in, they would be brought before Council; and that the minimum donation be \$50. Councillor Jeannette Douglas seconded the motion.

Carried

l) Treasurer's Report: Inwood Wastewater Rate Analysis

RESOLUTION-2020-176

Councillor Wayne Deans made a motion that Council approve an annual 2% wastewater rate increase for Inwood property owners, commencing January 1, 2021; and that the annual 2% rate increase continue indefinitely unless the Inwood wastewater system financial results indicate that it should be changed. Councillor Jeannette Douglas seconded the motion.

Carried**8 BY-LAWS****9 NEW BUSINESS**

- a) The Treasurer informed Council that the County of Lambton and local school boards have given the option for municipalities to defer their quarterly payments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESOLUTION-2020-177

Councillor Jeannette Douglas made a motion that the quarterly payments to the County of Lambton and school boards be paid on the extension date. Deputy Mayor Frank Nemcek seconded the motion.

Carried

- b) Councillor Armstrong inquired about the planning for the Shiloh Road paving project.
- c) Councillor Armstrong stated the importance of being vigilant of property and possessions as his ATV was almost stolen from his property this past week.
- d) Councillor Armstrong stated how disappointed he was that Lambton County was excluded from the Stage 2 process of reopening Ontario.

10 CLOSED SESSION**11 RISE AND REPORT****12 BY-LAW CONFIRMING PROCEEDINGS**

- a) Confirming By-law

RESOLUTION-2020-178

Councillor Wayne Deans made a motion that By-law 22 of 2020 be read a first, second and third time and finally passed this 11th day of June, 2020. Councillor Jamie Armstrong seconded the motion.

Carried**13 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

 Clerk-Administrator

 Mayor



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160 Exmouth Street
Point Edward, ON N7T 7Z6

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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Province of Ontario Does Not Permit Lambton County to Reopen in Stage 2

Monday, June 8, 2020

Point Edward, ON - Lambton Public Health learned of the proposed plan from the Province today to regionalize the reopening of some services in communities as part of Stage 2, beginning Friday, June 12, 2020.

Lambton County has been identified by the province as a border region that will not progress to Stage 2 at this time.

Public health staff are currently reviewing the details of this announcement and are working to obtain a better understanding of the criteria used by provincial officials to determine requirements to move into Stage 2.

Lambton is currently performing well in key public health COVID-19 indicators such as lower rates of transmission, increased capacity in hospitals, and progress made in testing.

Visit LambtonPublicHealth.ca to access current COVID-19 pandemic reporting of cases, outbreaks and related surveillance information.

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Please contact:

Lambton Public Health
LPH-media-inquiries@county-lambton.on.ca

Media Briefing: 11 a.m., Tuesday, June 9

Access details will be provided to registered media. Request access if not currently subscribed.



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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Precautions for Gatherings during COVID-19 Pandemic

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Point Edward, ON - Lambton Public Health stands in support of racial equality.

With a Provincial Emergency Order still in place, gatherings of more than five individuals are still prohibited. Beginning June 12, gatherings of more than ten individuals will be prohibited.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, Lambton Public Health offers the following precautions for people who may be involved in an organized gathering:

- If you are sick, stay home.
- Monitor yourself for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Practice physical distancing - stay 2 metres apart from others.
- Keep to groups of ten or less.
- Wash your hands and carry hand sanitizer.
- Consider wearing a non-medical or cloth face mask if physical distancing becomes a challenge.
- Shouting may spread droplets - consider other instruments for making noise, and using signage to communicate messages.

Social media and virtual protests remain the safest way to share your voice, at this time.

Testing is available at various assessment centres in Lambton County for anyone with a symptom, or concern that they have been exposed to COVID-19, or are at increased at risk of exposure to COVID-19 through their employment.

Visit LambtonPublicHealth.ca for guidance on how to wear a face covering or mask and for information about physical distancing, COVID-19 symptoms, and testing.

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Please contact:

Lambton Public Health
LPH-media-inquiries@county-lambton.on.ca



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789 Broadway Street, Box 3000
Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0

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BY EMAIL

June 10, 2020

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier & Minister of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister,

Re: Lambton County and Stage 2 Re-Opening

On June 8, 2020, it was announced that Lambton County would not be moving to Stage 2 of the province's reopening framework related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Follow-up with the province suggested that the following categories of information were used to decide whether to maintain Lambton County in Stage 1:

- Local COVID-19 rates and case counts - 2 consecutive weeks of lower transmission rates and cases
- Effective reproduction number
- Health System Capacity
- Public Health System Capacity
- Geographic location
- Contiguous with a PHU region not eligible to proceed

Based on local data assembled by Lambton Public Health (LPH), Lambton County is in a strong position to move forward along with adjacent jurisdictions, for the following reasons:

- 1) Local COVID-19 rates and case counts - 2 consecutive weeks of lower transmission rates and cases

Lambton COVID-19 counts by week are as follows (LPH data):

May 17 - 23, 2020	25
May 24 - 30, 2020	17
May 31 - June 6, 2020	5

Lambton COVID-19 rate per 100,000 population (unadjusted) were (PHO data):

May 21 - 27, 2020	19.9
May 28 - June 3, 2020	3.8

2) Effective reproduction number

This number could not be estimated for the week of May 30 - June 5 due to low overall case counts (PHO data), which should support the notion that this number would likely be low.

3) Health System Capacity

Health system indicators demonstrate current capacity and are sufficient to allow the local acute care services to move ahead with scheduled procedures, as well as sufficient bed and PPE capacity to provide care. Information from June 9, 2020, suggests Bluewater Health had 11 COVID-19 positive patients admitted, with an overall occupancy rate for all inpatient beds of 80%, and no concerns identified related to capacity or supplies such as PPE.

There is one active institutional outbreak in Lambton, however it should be noted that many other regions which will be progressing to Stage 2 have ongoing institutional outbreaks as well. Lambton Public Health has not been made aware of any additional criteria that apply to this area of consideration.

4) Public Health System Capacity

Lambton Public Health has consistently exceeded the public health system targets with respect to case identification and contact management. Lambton Public Health's team of professional staff have been able to reach 100% of cases and contacts within 24 hours.

5) Geographic location

As a border community, local officials are cognizant of the connection between the US COVID-19 outbreak and travel across the border. To date, Lambton Public Health has not reported any COVID-19 cases that were associated with travel across the border since the border was closed. The number of people who reside in our community who are known to travel daily to the US for their occupation is also low. Also, other Ontario communities that also have land borders have been allowed to move to Stage 2, including those with connections to states that also have high rates of disease.

6) Contiguous with a PHU region not eligible to proceed

Lambton is not contiguous with any region that is not eligible to proceed. It should be noted that if Lambton is not allowed to proceed, and if Windsor is not allowed to proceed, then Chatham-Kent is contiguous to both areas and is currently allowed to proceed.

Given the information above, it is difficult to support the notion that the community-level risk in Lambton County is materially different from that of our adjacent jurisdictions. Given also that our residents could easily travel to these places to obtain services, we cannot find a public health justification for restricting the provision of goods and services within Lambton. If the Province has additional information that would help our community to understand your decision, we would review it gladly. In absence of any other factors being provided to the County of Lambton, please review the information we have provided in your consideration for Lambton County to move to Stage 2.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Warden Bill Weber

cc: The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Hon. Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, M.P.P. Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
The Hon. Bob Bailey, M.P.P. Sarnia-Lambton
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
The Hon. Lianne Rood, M.P. Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
The Hon. Marilyn Gladu, M.P. Sarnia-Lambton
Lambton County Councillors
Dr. Sudit Ranade, Lambton County Medical Officer of Health
Andrew Taylor, General Manager, Public Health Services, County of Lambton



**Homelessness Prevention & Children's Services
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Sarnia, ON N7T 8H3

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Toll-free: 1-800-387-2882
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Developing a Reopening Strategy for Childcare Centres

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Sarnia, ON - The Social Services division is working closely with Lambton Public Health and local childcare operators to review new Provincial guidelines and develop a reopening strategy for childcare centres in Lambton County.

On Tuesday, June 9, the Ontario Premier announced that all childcare centres could reopen as early as this Friday, June 12. This announcement applies to the entire province, including those regions that remain in Stage 1, like Lambton County.

There is no obligation for centres to reopen on June 12. A measured, careful and cautious approach to reopening is being taken as a community to ensure the process is completed safely. Childcare centres will only reopen when they are prepared to operate within the new guidelines, including having enhanced health and safety measures in place.

At this time, there is no confirmed date as to when licensed childcare centres in Lambton County will reopen.

As the reopening strategy is finalized, childcare operators will begin to reopen with restrictions in place. Capacity will be limited to 10 people per room and enhanced screening and cleaning protocols will be in place.

Emergency childcare will continue to be offered for the next two weeks. Wee Watch, the YMCA, and London Bridge Child Care Center are currently providing emergency childcare to essential service worker families and will continue to do so until June 26. At that time, families served through emergency childcare will transition back to previous childcare arrangements, or will be supported to find a space in licensed childcare.

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Please contact:

Melissa Fitzpatrick

Manager, Homelessness Prevention & Children's Services
County of Lambton
519-344-2057 ext. 2016
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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Preparation for COVID-19 Stage 2 in Lambton

Friday June 12, 2020

Point Edward, ON - While Lambton County is not yet designated to fully move into Stage 2 of the Provincial reopening framework, some provincial directives take effect throughout all regions on Friday, June 12.

Increased Gathering Limit to 10

The gathering limit increase from five people to 10 comes into effect June 12, 2020. This allows people to connect with more individuals while still maintaining a safe physical distance of at least 2 metres (6 feet) when those individuals are from outside your household.

Taking these precautions is an important next step to increase our interactions safely. Social distancing safety measures should continue in all situations:

- Stay home when sick
- Limit contact to only people in your household
- Use physical distancing for any interaction with people outside your household
- Reduce your risk - use good hand hygiene, cover your sneeze/cough, wear a face covering if physical distancing is a challenge
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces

Faith Communities May Open at 30% Capacity

Local places of worship are actively reviewing the restrictions and determining their readiness to open safely. These faith communities have options to continue virtual and drive-in services in order to support a capacity limit of 30% for an indoor service. Other restrictions include:

- Follow all social distancing safety measures (listed above)
- Increased cleaning and disinfection
- Active screening and attendance lists
- Avoid exchanges between people
- Limit children's gathering (e.g. Sunday School) to 10 people total

Individuals with chronic health concerns or in a higher risk category such as compromised immunity should consider their health before attending a service in-person.

Child Care Centres

Child care centres can reopen effective June 12 with strict safety and operational requirements in place.

Child Care providers may choose to delay re-opening to ensure a safe start up. Protocols involve:

- Cohorting — groups of 10 or less in an area
- COVID-19 response plans in place
- Active daily screening including temperature checks
- Daily attendance records
- Extra cleaning
- Only essential visitors
- Drop-off and pick-up protocols

Businesses still waiting for provincial approval to reopen are encouraged to use this time to prepare and plan for a safe reopening. Lambton Public Health staff are available to answer questions, review protocols and advise business operators to ensure a safe start up. Information is organized on our web site by the following categories:

- Workplaces
- Municipalities
- Parents and caregivers
- Community Supports

Guidance documents, resources and contact details are provided at LambtonPublicHealth.ca. This information is updated frequently.

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Please contact:

Lambton Public Health

LPH-media-inquiries@county-lambton.on.ca



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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Lambton County Advancing to Stage 2

Monday, June 15, 2020

Wyoming, ON - This afternoon, the Provincial government announced the County of Lambton has been given approval to proceed to Stage 2. This change will come into effect Friday, June 19 at 12:01 a.m. Additional details about Stage 2 can be found on the [Province of Ontario website](#).

"We're pleased to be able to move forward, as a large portion of the province has done already," said Lambton County Warden Bill Weber. "Residents and businesses have been patiently waiting for this news, and we ask for continued patience as businesses work towards reopening safely."

Local businesses are encouraged to visit ontario.ca/covidsafety to review the provincial resources and guidelines for reopening.

While many businesses, services and public spaces are allowed to reopen as soon as this Friday, they are not obligated to do so until proper Public Health measures are in place to protect both employees and customers. Lambton Public Health will continue to work with local businesses and municipalities to provide support and resources to aid in a smooth reopening. Frequently asked questions, resources and a contact form can be found on the [Workplaces page](#) of the Lambton Public Health website.

Additionally, residents are reminded to continue following the advice of local health officials and all regulations in place at local businesses, services and public spaces. This includes maintaining proper physical distance, practicing proper hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette and staying home when sick.

For the most up to date information regarding COVID-19 and guidelines for how to protect yourself and others, please visit the [Lambton Public Health website](#).

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Please contact:

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Warden
County of Lambton
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Cultural Services Division
 Library Headquarters
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 Fax: 519-845-0700
www.lclibrary.ca

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Lambton County Library has successful first week with curbside pickup service Tuesday, June 16, 2020

Wyoming, ON - Lambton County Library has loaned 4,317 items to over 1,200 borrowers in the first week of offering its new contactless curbside pickup service, designed to meet the provincial requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Lambton County Library began offering curbside pickup service at 13 of its locations on Monday, June 8, 2020. After reserving materials at their desired location, library cardholders receive a call advising them that their reservation is ready for pick up. Strict health and safety guidelines including designated parking spaces, or standing spaces for pedestrians, and updated hygiene procedures for staff have been put in place to minimize the risk to patrons and employees.

"Since March, we have heard from many patrons that they miss their trips to their local library," said Darlene Coke, Manager, Library Services. "We are pleased to see a strong response to this new service in its first week and are encouraged by the public's continued interest in accessing library services."

Cardholders are reminded that all items, including any books or DVDs that were loaned before the provincial order to close in March, must now be returned to a drop box at any of the 25 Lambton County Library locations. Returned materials are quarantined for 72 hours after drop boxes are emptied and before they are marked as returned. As a result, items may remain on a cardholder's record for up to ten days. The accumulation of fines has been temporarily suspended during this period.

Libraries remain closed to the public. To reserve materials, cardholders can:

1. Use the library's catalogue at lclibrary.ca or the Iguana Library Mobile App;
2. Call one of the 13 participating locations if they have a particular title they would like to reserve; or
3. Use the Lambton County Library Readers' Advisory Service to have library employees choose items based on the cardholder's preferences. Cardholders can access this service by filling out the form found at www.lclibrary.ca/curbside-pickup or calling 519-337-3291 ext. 5909 or 1-866-324-6912 ext. 5909 from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

In addition to a positive response to its curbside pickup offering, the use of Lambton County Library's electronic resources has grown since the March facility closure.

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"In May, 3,318 users borrowed 20,751 eBooks and eAudiobooks online, and this is the most activity our online platform has experienced since we introduced the service a number of years ago," said Coke. "In addition to eBooks and eAudiobooks, over 210 people took online courses in May, and there was an increase of over 35,000 searches on Ancestry Library Edition, which remains free to access at home until June 30, 2020."

Libraries remain closed to the public at this time, but cardholders are encouraged to continue to use the contactless curbside pickup service and eResources. More information on both can be found at lclibrary.ca.

-30-

Please contact:

Darlene Coke
Manager, Library Services
County of Lambton
519-845-3324 ext. 5238
darlene.coke@county-lambton.on.ca



Cultural Services Division
 Oil Museum of Canada
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 Oil Springs, ON N0N 1P0

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 Fax: 519-834-2840
www.lambtonmuseums.ca

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Mini Models in Isolation

Friday, June 19, 2020

Oil Springs, ON - The Oil Museum of Canada challenges you to build a mini model and participate in the free, online event *Mini Models in Isolation*. The event is now accepting submissions and will be running until July 12, 2020.

Build a model of a spring pole three-pole derrick, a Canada Drilling Rig or jerker line system with pump jack(s) and submit a photo or video of your model for a chance to win a prize.

Get as creative or authentic as you would like when building your model, you can even use materials you find around the house. Models must be completed and submitted no later than Sunday, July 12, 2020. Our expert judges, including Charlie Fairbank of Fairbank Oil Fields, will be selecting our winning models.

If you are looking for inspiration before you get started, drive by the Oil Museum of Canada and the historic Fairbank Oil Fields to see the industrial technology that ushered in the early commercial oil industry in 1858, which is still in use today. The Museum remains closed to the public due to restrictions surrounding COVID-19, but you can complete the [Oil Heritage District Driving Tour](#) from the comfort of your own vehicle.

How to participate:

1. Complete your scale model of a spring pole three-pole derrick, Canada drilling rig, or jerker line with pump jack(s).
2. Email a photo of your submission to oil.museum@county-lambton.on.ca using the subject line "OMC Mini Model Submission" no later than July 12, 2020. If your mini model moves, submit a short video instead!
 Along with your photo or video, please include your email address, the name(s) and age(s) of the model creators, a description of the building process and the inspiration for your model.

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Winners will be notified by email. Prizes include a family membership to the Heritage Sarnia-Lambton museums (a \$60 value) and Oil Museum of Canada merchandise.

For more information, visit the *Mini Models in Isolation* Facebook event.

The Oil Museum of Canada, a National Historic Site, tells the story of Lambton County's important contributions to the development of the world's oil industry. Central to the Oil Heritage Conservation District, the museum benefits local residents and visitors by increasing their understanding and appreciation of this unique industrial heritage area.

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Please contact:

Erin Dee-Richard

Curator/Supervisor, Oil Museum of Canada

County of Lambton

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June 8, 2020

COVID-19 Update - Regional Approach to Stage 2, Emergency Orders Extended, and Short-Term Rentals

Regional Approach to Stage 2 Reopening

Today the Province announced that the government is easing restrictions in communities where it is safe to do so, based on trends of key public health indicators such as lower rates of transmission, increased capacity in hospitals, and progress made in testing.

Effective this coming Friday, June 12, 2020 at 12:01 a.m., the Province will increase the limit on social gatherings from five to 10 people across the province, regardless of whether a region has moved to Stage 2.

Additionally, all places of worship in Ontario will also be permitted to open with physical distancing in place and attendance limited to no more than 30% of the building capacity to ensure the safety of worshippers.

The public health units that are not allowed to move to Stage 2 yet, will provide weekly updates to the Province to determine when they can move past Stage 1. This list currently includes the GTHA, border communities of Windsor-Essex and Lambton County, and Haldimand County. For greater clarity, the public health unit regions allowed to move into Stage 2 on Friday, June 12 12:01 a.m. include:

- Algoma Public Health
- Brant County Health Unit
- Chatham-Kent Public Health
- Eastern Ontario Health Unit
- Grey Bruce Health Unit
- Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit
- Hastings Prince Edward Public Health
- Huron Perth Public Health
- Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health
- Leeds Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit
- Middlesex-London Health Unit

- North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
- Northwestern Health Unit
- Ottawa Public Health
- Peterborough Public Health
- Porcupine Health Unit
- Public Health Sudbury & Districts
- Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services
- Renfrew County and District Health Unit
- Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit
- Southwestern Public Health
- Thunder Bay District Health Unit
- Timiskaming Health Unit
- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health.

Businesses and services permitted to reopen with proper health and safety measures in place in regions entering Stage 2 include:

- water recreational facilities such as outdoor splash pads and wading pools, and **all** swimming pools;
- outdoor-only recreational facilities and training for outdoor team sports, with limits to enable physical distancing;
- outdoor dine-in services at restaurants, bars and other establishments, including patios, curbside, parking lots and adjacent properties;
- select personal and personal care services with the proper health and safety measures in place, including tattoo parlours, barber shops, hair salons, and beauty salons;
- shopping malls under existing restrictions, including food services reopening for take-out and outdoor dining only;
- tour and guide services, such as bike and walking, bus and boat tours, as well as tasting and tours for wineries, breweries, and distilleries;
- beach access and additional camping at Ontario Parks;
- drive-in and drive-through venues for theatres, concerts, animal attractions and cultural appreciation, such as art installations;
- film and television production activities, with limits to enable physical distancing; and
- weddings and funerals, with limits on social gatherings to 10 people.

We are expecting further provincial information soon on child care, summer camps, and public transit as people will need to rely on these services to be able to return to workplaces.

The government has created a [resource page](#) to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace to help those who are able to open. More details will be shared as they become available.

Municipal governments have asked the Province, during their planning, for adequate notice when orders are amended so that municipalities and their staff can prepare for a safe reopening of designated activities and services. In announcing this today, the Province has given us greater notice which is appreciated.

Emergency Orders Extended to June 19th

The Ontario government has extended all emergency orders currently in force under s.7.0.2 (4) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* until June 19, 2020. As well, the Province is extending the suspension of limitation periods and time periods in proceedings until September 11, 2020 under s.7.1 of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*. This will mean that people will not experience legal consequences if the original time requirements of their cases are not met while this order is in effect.

Short Term Rentals

As of June 5th, short-term rentals are now allowed to resume operations, following an amendment to an order under the Province of Ontario's *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* and are now considered an essential business. It should be noted that all short-term rentals must continue to comply with all municipal bylaws

AMO's COVID-19 Resources page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.



June 9, 2020

COVID-19 Update – Child Care and Patio Extensions

Child Care Reopening Plan

Today the Province announced a reopening plan for child care to support economic recovery. Up until now, only emergency child care has been available to essential front-line workers in select locations in communities throughout Ontario. This emergency care will end June 26th as child care centres are permitted to reopen at reduced capacity (i.e. fewer children). They will be subject to health and safety, and operational protocols and requirements. Mandatory training, reporting, and support will be provided by local Medical Officers of Health.

Patio Extensions during COVID-19

Yesterday the Province introduced new measures to support those who have liquor sales licenses to be able to temporarily extend their patios using public health measures once able to safely reopen for business. This was a measure to help local businesses that AMO and municipal leaders asked for in recent weeks and as of June 12th will be available to those regions who are able to reopen safely.

Regulation 719 under the *Liquor Licence Act* (LLA) has been amended to provide flexibility for liquor sales licensees (e.g. licensed bars and restaurants) to temporarily extend their physical premises beyond 14 days provided they have municipal approval and meet the criteria below.

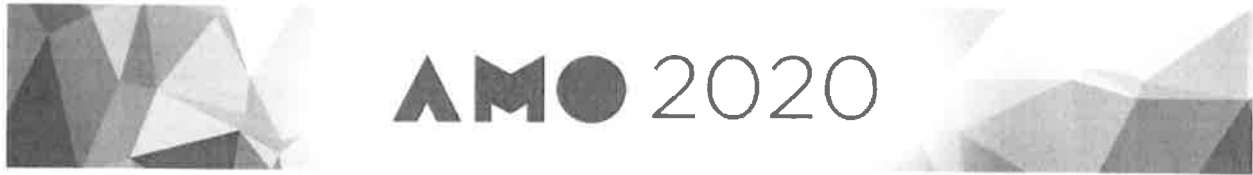
Once permitted to open again and until January 1, 2021 at 3:00 a.m., liquor sales licensees who wish to temporarily extend the physical size of their existing licensed patio or to temporarily add a new licensed patio within the approved period, are authorized to do so, if the following criteria are met:

- the physical extension of the premises is adjacent to the premises to which the license to sell liquor applies;
- the municipality in which the premises are situated has indicated it does not object to an extension;
- the licensee is able to demonstrate sufficient control over the physical extension of the premises;

- there is no condition on the liquor sales license prohibiting a patio; and,
- the capacity of any new patio, or extended patio space where the licensee has an existing licensed patio, does not exceed 1.11 square metres per person.

The Province has also minimized administrative burden for licensees under this amendment as they are not required to apply to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) or pay a fee to temporarily extend their patio or add a temporary new licensed patio. The AGCO has also worked to reduce administrative burden on this process.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.



June 10, 2020

AMO 2020 Conference: Program Update

What are some of the issues that matter most to you? If they include any of the following, you will be glad to know it's just a sample of the sessions we are working on for the AMO conference:

- COVID-19 Response: Lessons Learned
- Transforming Long-Term Care in Ontario
- The COVID-19 Recovery: Municipal Services and Local Economic Recovery
- Transition to Full Producer Responsibility
- Fighting Climate Change by Cutting Food Waste
- The Green Recovery: The Municipal Role in Climate Change
- The Future of 911
- Broadband Connectivity in a Pandemic World
- Building Strong Relationships with Indigenous Communities
- An Economic Perspective on Immigration and Youth Retention
- Data and Digital Governance

And all the usual elements, including speeches by the Premier, opposition leaders, and Ministers, along with a new twist on the Ministers' forum, an AGM, and Board elections.

We are also developing a panel on **Ontario's Path to Economic Recovery** and AMO's first **Women's Leadership Forum** - with details to be announced very soon.

"I look forward to hearing from municipal leaders during the AMO 2020 Conference to better understand how the Province can support municipalities during these unprecedented times and as we work together toward economic recovery from the COVID-19 outbreak."

Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Request a Delegation Meeting

Delegation meetings are a key feature of the AMO conference. That's not changing, it's just going virtual. The AMO conference provides an opportunity for delegates to meet with government ministers and officials. It also provides an opportunity for delegations with other parties. For information on requesting a delegation meeting as part of your AMO 2020 Conference experience, [click here](#). Note the deadline for government delegations is June 30th.

You need to be Registered to Participate

One way the virtual conference is identical to our past, in-person conferences is that you must be a registered delegate to participate in all conference activities, including voting for the AMO Board for 2020-2022. But instead of a badge, access to the conference's virtual environment is only by a unique username and password. If you are already registered, you don't need to do a thing. If not, [Register today](#).

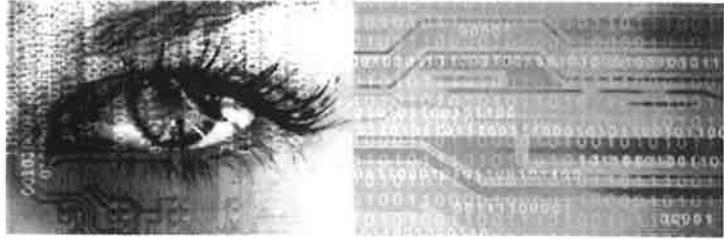
Thank You!

Thank you for your continued interest in the 2020 AMO Conference. Responding to COVID-19 and supporting our members through challenging times has been AMO's number one priority. A virtual conference in 2020 is an important part of AMO's commitment to serve our members. The AMO 2020 virtual conference will ensure AMO members have access to up-to-date information, lessons learned from COVID-19, and critically important networking opportunities that bring Ontario municipalities together in the service of our communities.

Questions

If you have questions about the Virtual AMO 2020 Conference, you may find the answers at our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) section on the AMO conference webpage. If you have questions that are not answered there, please send them to events@amo.on.ca

AMO watchfile



June 11, 2020

In This Issue

- COVID-19 resources.
- 2020-2022 AMO Board of Directors - Call for Nominations.
- Resolutions on Blue Box Transition due by June 30.
- Submit request to meet with ministers and parliamentary assistants at AMO 2020.
- Update on AMO's groundbreaking Virtual Conference.
- AMO launches Virtual 2020 Exhibit Hall!
- Communications through COVID-19.
- Energy reporting deadline extended due to COVID-19.
- Improve productivity through better lighting!
- Energy Training during social distancing.
- Short Term Rental Toolkit survey.
- Webinar: Cramahe Township on achieving efficiencies for smaller organizations.
- Careers with MTO, Goderich, Ottawa, Simcoe, Wellington, and Cobourg.

COVID-19 Resources

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources page](#) is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

AMO Matters

Please be advised that in accordance with AMO's governing by-law, the Secretary-Treasurer is requesting nominations to the 2020 - 2022 AMO Board of Directors. A [completed nomination form and supporting material](#) must be received no later than 12:00 noon, Monday, June 22, 2020.

Municipal Councils that operate Blue Box programs have until June 30, 2020 to pass a resolution on transition. For more information contact [Dave Gordon](#), or check [our website](#).

Eye on Events

Delegation meetings remain a key feature of the AMO conference. That's not changing, it's just going virtual. Deadline to request delegation meetings at the AMO AGM and Annual Conference is June 30. Submit your requests using the online form in [English](#) or [French](#).

AMO is leading the way for municipal virtual conferences, providing you the opportunity to participate from almost anywhere. New program and conference

[information](#) is now available. [Register here](#).

AMO's 2020 Conference [virtual exhibit hall](#) offers an unparalleled opportunity for you to showcase your products and connect with delegates. Providing greater flexibility, extended trade show hours and multiple points of interaction and ways to highlight your products, AMO's conference is the place to network and connect.

The need to pivot and respond quickly is a part of our new reality. To help you communicate the right message during COVID-19, we are offering AMO's Social Media webinar series for a nominal fee through AMO's Municipal Education Portal. [Register now](#).

LAS

The Ministry of Energy has extended the 507/18 energy reporting deadline to October 1, 2020 due to COVID. They will run [webinars](#) on the reporting on June 16, 30; July 14, 28; September 8 or 22. Check out the Ministry's [reporting portal](#) for more information. Email BPSsupport@ontario.ca if you have questions.

Improve productivity and enhance customer experience in your municipal buildings by converting your old lights to LED. Participate in the [LAS Facility Lighting Service](#). IESO incentives are available for a limited time. Contact [Christian Tham](#) to get started!

Want to keep your mind sharp in an era of social distancing? LAS and Stephen Dixon (TdS Dixon) offer [online customized Energy Training workshops](#) including a virtual energy hunt! IESO incentives up to 75% are available. Book your workshop by contacting [Christian Tham](#).

Municipal Wire*

Generation Squeeze and FCM are working together to understand municipal government needs when considering short term rentals and are conducting a survey of local governments. Municipal governments interested in taking part in the survey can [access it here](#).

Since modernizing its meeting management process, Cramahe Township has unlocked cost savings using eSCRIBE Lite. Join Joanne Hyde, Township Clerk, and eSCRIBE, [AMO's digital meeting management partner](#), as they discuss how smaller municipalities can achieve efficiencies even during a pandemic. Sign up for the [June 18 or 24 webinar](#).

Careers

[Directors in Operations \(5\) - Ministry of Transportation \(MTO\)](#). Director of Operations: 4 Permanent (Locations: London, North Bay, Thunder Bay, Toronto). Director, Transportation User Services Branch: 1 Permanent (Location: This position currently resides in St. Catherines; however, the location is flexible.) Please apply online, only, by Wednesday, June 17, 2020, by visiting [Ontario Public Service Careers](#). Please follow the instructions to submit your application.



June 16, 2020

AMO COVID-19 Update – Readiness Toolkit, Resumption of Land Use Planning Timelines, and Masks (Clarification)

Workplace Readiness Toolkit

The Province today released a [workplace readiness guide](#) to help employers re-open safely as more people are getting prepared to return to their workplaces as Stage 2 re-openings begin.

This [new guide](#) is designed to help employers create a workplace safety plan with a downloadable template. It includes information on the use of face coverings, personal protective equipment, as well as applying appropriate controls in the workplace.

Resumption of Land Use Planning Timelines

As of June 22, the timelines under the *Planning Act* will resume as usual. The [Revised Regulation, \(O. Reg. 278/20\)](#), in effect undoes the suspension of timelines put in place by [O. Reg. 149/20](#). It appears that most municipal governments choose to continue with planning activities during the emergency. According to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH), those who needed to rely on the suspension of timelines have now been able to resume processing development applications.

Masks - Clarification

After some additional discussion and information provided since yesterday's update, we need to correct our statement on whether municipal governments can order the public's mandatory use of masks.

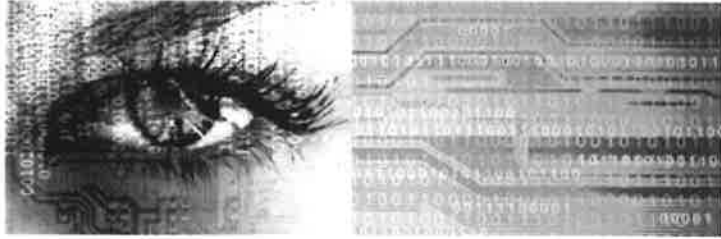
What we should have said was that at the local level there is greater certainty, or at least less potential for challenges, if it was the local Medical Officer of Health using their Section 22 powers under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* (HPPA) to mandate the use of masks than the creation of a municipal bylaw under the broad

municipal powers in the *Municipal Act* or under a local emergency plan under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA).

If desired, municipal governments can consider the development of a bylaw to mandate mask use under the *Municipal Act* or the EMCPA. The legislation doesn't say you can't do this, but it doesn't say you can. As always, it is prudent to seek legal advice in the development of such a bylaw.

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

AMO watchfile



June 18, 2020

In This Issue

- COVID-19 resources.
- 2020-2022 AMO Board of Directors - Call for Nominations.
- Resolutions on Blue Box Transition due by June 30.
- Temporary delay to Phase 1 - Excess Soil Regulation.
- New implementation date for Phase 2 of *Rowan's Law*.
- Funding available to improve accessibility.
- New interim Codes of Practice under *Fisheries Act*.
- Deadline to book delegations at AMO Conference is June 30, 2020.
- AMO's first ever Women's Leadership Forum at AMO 2020 Conference.
- AMO launches Virtual 2020 Exhibit Hall!
- Energy reporting deadline extended due to COVID-19.
- FCM funding available for LAS Road & Sidewalk Assessment.
- Webinar library for Municipal Group Buying Program.
- Webinar: Cramahe Township on achieving efficiencies using eSCRIBE Lite.
- City of Peterborough resolution concerning Conservation Authorities.
- Career with York Region.

COVID-19 Resources

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AMO Matters

Please be advised that in accordance with AMO's governing by-law, the Secretary-Treasurer is requesting nominations to the 2020 - 2022 AMO Board of Directors. A [completed nomination form and supporting material](#) must be received no later than 12:00 noon, Monday, June 22, 2020.

Municipal Councils that operate Blue Box programs have until June 30, 2020 to pass a resolution on transition. For more information contact [Dave Gordon](#), or check [our website](#).

Provincial Matters

MECP is [temporarily delaying](#) the implementation of the 1st phase of requirements under the new Excess Soil Regulation by six months, from July 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021 in recognition of municipal focus on COVID-19 response. O. Reg. 153/04 is amended to exempt temporary health or residential facilities, from needing a Record

of Site Condition before being established in response to an emergency.

Phase 2 of *Rowan's Law* will now take effect January 1, 2021. The requirements related to the protocols in legislation/regulation remain the same. We understand that the Province will engage further with stakeholders in the near future.

Federal Matters

Projects that improve the accessibility of persons with disabilities in facilities where they work are a priority for the [Enabling Accessibility Fund](#) - with a grant of up to \$100,000. To receive funding, your organization must be a: not-for-profit organization; business; small municipality; Indigenous organization (including band councils, tribal councils and self-government entities); territorial government. Applications accepted until July 13, 2020.

DFO released two interim [Codes of Practice](#) – end-of-pipe fish screens and routine maintenance dredging. Three more codes will be released by mid-July. Municipalities with questions navigating the Act should [contact DFO](#).

Eye on Events

Delegation meetings remain a key feature of the AMO conference. The deadline to request delegation meetings at the AMO AGM and Annual Conference is June 30. Submit your requests using the online form in [English](#) or [French](#).

AMO is headlining a Women's Leadership Panel. Featuring notable public policy and political leadership and hosted by CBC's Nora Young, this is an opportunity not to miss. New program and conference [information](#) is now available. [Register here](#).

AMO's 2020 Conference [virtual exhibit hall](#) offers an unparalleled opportunity for you to showcase your products and connect with municipal leaders and decision makers. Providing greater flexibility, extended trade show hours and multiple points of interaction and ways to highlight your products, AMO's conference is the place to network and connect. Space is still available. [Book now!](#)

LAS

The Ministry of Energy has extended the 507/18 energy reporting deadline to October 1, 2020 due to COVID. They will run [webinars](#) on the reporting on June 30; July 14, 28; September 8 or 22. Check out the Ministry's [reporting portal](#) for more information. Email BPSsupport@ontario.ca if you have questions.

The [LAS Road & Sidewalk Assessment](#) gives you the tools to save money while improving your surface assets, with FCM MAMP funding now available to cover 80-90% of project cost up to \$50,000. [Contact us](#) to learn more.

LAS recently hosted a series of eleven in-depth webinars on our new [Municipal Group Buying Program](#). Recordings of these webinars are [available on our website](#) for viewing at your convenience.

June 19, 2020

AMO Board Update: COVID-19, Three Months and Counting

It's been three months since the state of emergency was declared in Ontario. That's a full quarter of 2020. Yet, questions remain about how our communities, our province, and our country will move forward to sustain, transform, and fund services people rely on most, and to rebuild our economies.

Municipal governments have done an extraordinary job of keeping communities safe and conducting the business of government in tough and uncertain circumstances. The uncertainty is compounded by the economic and fiscal impacts of disruption, and the related fallout for the people and businesses in our communities.

AMO's Board met today. It recognizes that all orders of government have made important investments in keeping people safe and safeguarding the economic security of individuals. But as municipal operational costs skyrocket and revenues decline sharply, municipal governments are facing a financial crisis that will undermine any economic recovery, if Canada and Ontario do not provide immediate financial assistance. AMO is, again, calling on Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford to work together to invest in the communities that are the foundation of Ontario's and Canada's economy. Members are supporting our advocacy efforts through local communications, government relations and social media, and it is making a difference. Thank you for your efforts and your support.

Minister Steve Clark joined the Board meeting today. He acknowledged the need for a collaborative federal-provincial response, encouraged AMO to continue its advocacy, and expressed the Premier's support to bring the Government of Canada to the table in Ontario.

The Board's business today also included a wide range of municipal policy matters for discussion and direction. AMO remains focused on keeping communities safe during the pandemic, and on supporting economic recovery. AMO is preparing for the Province's upcoming Independent Commission into Long-Term Care, and outbreaks among migrant workers are a growing concern. The Board looked at elements of AMO's submission to the Standing Committee on Social Policy on Bill 184, *the Protecting Tenants and Strengthening Community Housing Act*. AMO continues to have grave concerns with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's approach

on below water table aggregate extraction, as elected municipal officials are personally liable for the protection of safe drinking water. The Board was also updated on AMO's ongoing climate change strategy, broadband and connectivity activities, and the status of the Blue Box steward obligation through which municipalities receive financial compensation for their Blue Box operations.

The Board also received an update on planning for the 2020 AMO Conference. There has never been a more important time to participate in the conference, with lessons learned from COVID-19, the future of municipal services, firsthand interaction with the Province, and the opportunity for delegation meetings to advocate directly on behalf of your community. The program will also feature new elements, including AMO's first Women's Leadership Forum and a panel of industry leaders charting Ontario's path to recovery. Registering for the conference is another way you can support AMO's important work.

Finally, the AMO Board expressed its thanks to members for the remarkable leadership of municipal councils and extraordinary municipal public administrators in responding to the COVID-19 emergency, keeping people safe, maintaining essential services and social cohesion, and building a foundation for economic recovery.

Thank you for supporting AMO and the work we do on your behalf.

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

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



234-2020-2382

June 12, 2020

Dear Heads of Council / Clerks and CAOs:

Nothing is more important than protecting the health and well-being of Ontarians. Since first learning of COVID-19, Ontario has taken decisive action to stop the spread of this deadly virus, and we thank you for your support in our efforts.

We appreciate that the current situation for municipalities is not “business as usual”, and that all municipalities have had to make adjustments to adapt to new priorities and shifting ways of doing business.

When municipalities requested our help, we listened and acted quickly to legislate changes to the Planning Act and make the necessary regulation to suspend decision-making timelines. These changes balanced the need to suspend the timelines that would allow a municipality to refocus time and resources on the COVID-19 outbreak, while allowing councils to continue to make decisions on planning matters as municipal capacity evolved.

As we move forward with our gradual approach that will allow Ontario to emerge from the COVID-19 outbreak, we know that getting shovels in the ground is key to moving forward on the path to economic recovery together. Many municipalities may be well on their way to a more normalized planning review process, and we want to ensure that the land use planning system is in step with a municipality’s expanding capacity during this time. As a result, we intend to end the temporary suspension of the Planning Act timelines as of June 22nd, 2020.

We understand that the safety of your constituents must remain a priority, and that there are certain provincial restrictions in place regarding public gatherings. Therefore, we encourage you to continue to use electronic and virtual channels, as appropriate, to engage and provide the public with an opportunity to make representations on planning matters, while following the advice of Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health.

.../2

-2-

It is vital for our economic recovery from this outbreak that we work together to help move the planning approvals process forward. We need to continue the important job of creating housing and keeping infrastructure projects moving while also ensuring we maintain public health. Development has always played a key role in supporting growth in our communities, and it will play an especially important role on our road to economic recovery from COVID-19.

Let me assure you that our government is working to support you, our municipal partners, and will continue to work collaboratively to keep all Ontarians safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Clark
Minister

c. Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Conservation Update

June 2020



SCRCA Field Trips Go Virtual

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers across the St. Clair Region have turned to online platforms to reach their students. To support local educators, the SCRCA conservation education team has launched a series of virtual field trips to the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area located just outside of Petrolia.

The virtual field trips are free-of-charge and cover a range of grade-specific, curriculum-connected concepts including biodiversity and wetland ecosystems. Some of the field trips are available in French to accommodate French speaking school boards.

During the school year, the SCRCA offers a variety of hands-on, outdoor and in-class programs to elementary and secondary schools. The Authority has also become an important certification provider for the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program – an Ontario-wide program offered to high school students that provide them with the opportunity to focus on skills related to a specific career path.

For more information on the SCRCA's Conservation Education programs and virtual field trips, contact Sharon Nethercott (snethercott@scrca.on.ca) or Melissa Levi (mlevi@scrca.on.ca) at (519) 882-2399 or visit the SCRCA webpage at www.scrca.on.ca.



Sharon Nethercott, Conservation Education Coordinator at the SCRCA, leads a group of students to the pond at the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area. In 2019, over 12,000 students participated in conservation education programming offered by the Authority.



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter
Check out our website at scrca.on.ca

20 Years of Stewardship – The Sydenham River Habitat Stewardship Program

It has been another successful year of implementing stewardship projects within the St. Clair Region watershed! Nearly 43 hectares (106 acres) of land was conserved, restored or enhanced to benefit water quality, connect wildlife habitat, and improve aquatic habitat in and along tributaries of the Sydenham River. Thanks to the dedication of private landowners, numerous projects were completed including the creation of wetlands and erosion control features, the installation of livestock fencing and the planting of riparian buffers and over 50,000 trees!

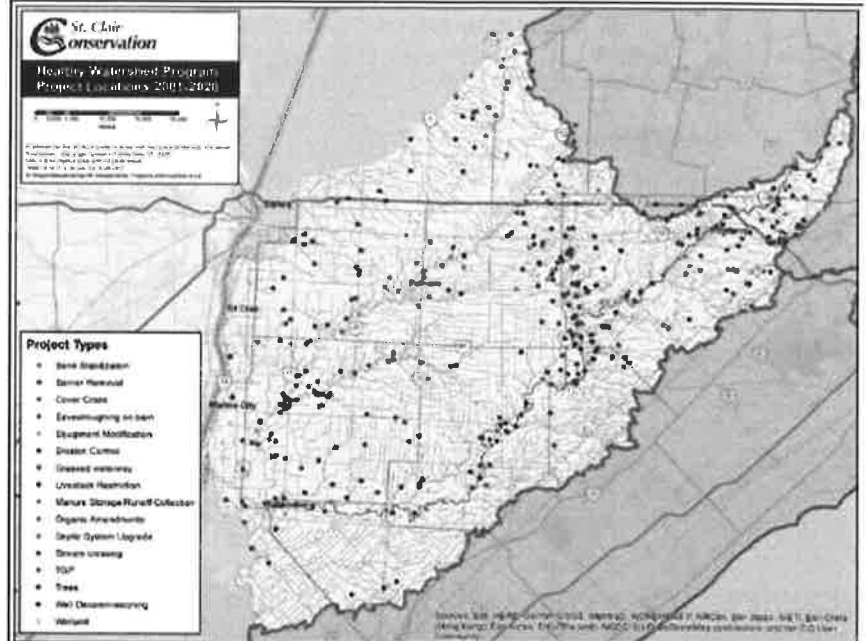
Every year, SCRCA staff seek out funding opportunities to offset project costs for local landowners. This past year saw support from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans

(through the Aquatic Habitat Stewardship Program and the Canadian Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk), Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network, Wildlife Habitat Canada, the 50 Million Tree Program and private businesses.

In the coming weeks and months, staff will be completing site visits (following social distancing protocols) with landowners who are interested in implementing habitat restoration projects on their land. If you are interested in having a project completed on your property, such as a wetland, block tree planting, or riparian buffer, please contact Jessica Van Zwol (jvanzwol@scrca.on.ca or 519-245-3710).

While we look forward to meeting landowners once again, the current break from the “day-to-day” has allowed us to look back at the success of our stewardship program through the years. Over the last 20 years, stewardship in the St. Clair Region has resulted in:

- Over 1,160 hectares (2,866 acres) of retired land converted into wetlands, trees and buffers;
- The creation or enhancement of over 105 wetlands;
- 315 tree planting projects;
- 72 nutrient management projects;
- 60 tallgrass prairie projects;
- 35 erosion control projects;
- The decommissioning of 15 wells;
- 7 clean water diversion projects; and
- The completion of 2 in-water habitat improvement projects.



Map of stewardship projects completed throughout the SCRCA watershed since 2001.



Phased-in Opening of the SCRCA 2020 Camping Season

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) has initiated a phased-in approach to opening the 2020 camping season at their three regional campgrounds. On Friday, June 5th, seasonal campers were permitted to access their sites for overnight stays at the A.W. Campbell, Lorne C. Henderson and Warwick Conservation Areas.

To ensure the health and safety of our guests and staff, all swimming pools will be closed for the duration of the 2020 season and recreational facilities will be reduced. In addition, washroom and shower facilities will remain closed until further notice. Campers are asked to use the washroom facilities in their trailers.

Non-seasonal, transient camping is cancelled through to June 28th. All reservations made prior to and including June 28th will be automatically refunded. SCRCA staff continue to follow provincial guidelines and will open campgrounds to transient camping when permitted and when all necessary safety precautions are in place. Campers are also reminded that opening dates are subject to change based on the status of the on-going pandemic and recommendations by local health authorities.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the SCRCA has encouraged visits to local conservation areas. Visitors are reminded that facilities including washrooms, play structures and picnic areas are closed and that they must comply with social distancing practices outlined by local health authorities and the provincial and federal governments.

The SCRCA thanks our camping community for their patience and understanding as we have navigated through the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Socially Distanced 2020 Spring Tree Planting Underway!

Spring tree planting is almost complete throughout the St. Clair Region watershed. In total, 50,000 seedlings and 50 large stock trees will be planted by SCRCA crews over the coming weeks. In addition, 6,000 seedlings and 600 large stock trees were supplied directly to local landowners.

Tree planting projects are supported through a number of provincial, federal and community grants to offset the cost of planting trees on local landowner properties. For the 2020 tree planting season, \$176,000 in support has been provided by Forests Ontario, Chatham-Kent ALUS Program, County of Lambton Tree Replacement Fund, Wildlife Habitat Canada, Enbridge Inc., and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (Canada Nature Fund and Habitat Stewardship Program).



Ron Schenk – 1961 -2020

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Board of Directors and staff were saddened to hear of the passing of Ron Schenk, Councillor at the Town of Plympton-Wyoming. Ron joined the SCRCA in 2019 and provided the board with a fresh and insightful perspective during his short time with the Authority. Our deepest condolences go out to Ron's family, friends, and community. The SCRCA will be planting a tree in his memory.

Next Conservation Authority Board Meeting

Thursday, June 18, 2020 10:00 am
(Virtual Meeting)

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority
205 Mill Pond Crescent Strathroy, ON N7G 3P9
p. 519-245-3710, f. 519-245-3348
stclair@scrca.on.ca
scrca.on.ca

member of





MEDIA RELEASE

June 18, 2020

For Immediate Release

UPDATE - St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Non-Seasonal, Transient Camping Opening with Restrictions June 29th

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCCA) is pleased to announce that non-seasonal, transient camping will be permitted with restrictions at the A.W. Campbell, Lorne C. Henderson and Warwick Conservation Areas beginning June 29th.

Based on the status of the current pandemic, and recommendations by local, provincial and federal health authorities, transient site availability will be limited to ensure social distancing. In addition, no Group Camping will be permitted for the 2020 season. Individuals who had reserved a site that is no longer available have been or will be contacted by Authority staff to change their reservation or be issued a refund.

Several restrictions have been put in place to promote social distancing and reduce mass gatherings at the campgrounds. Swimming pools, canoe and kayak rentals and pavilion reservations have been cancelled for the duration of the 2020 season. Additional restrictions include the cancellation of upcoming camper events and the closure of play structures and basketball/volleyball courts. SCCA staff will continually monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and will ease restrictions when it is deemed safe to do so based on the guidance from health officials.

Authority staff have also modified cleaning schedules to ensure enhanced sanitation of bathrooms and showers and other commonly touched surfaces. Campers are encouraged to use washroom facilities in their trailer to help decrease the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the SCCA has encouraged visits to local conservation areas. Visitors are reminded that they must comply with social distancing practices and other recommendations outlined by local health authorities and the provincial and federal governments.

Reservations for non-seasonal, transient camping can be made online by visiting the SCCA website or by calling the campgrounds directly.

A.W. Campbell Conservation Area – (519) 847-5357, campbell@scrca.on.ca

Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area – (519) 882-2280, henderson@scrca.on.ca

Warwick Conservation Area – (519) 849-6770, warwick@scrca.on.ca

For up-to-date information regarding the 2020 camping season and the SCRCA's response to COVID-19, visit www.scrca.on.ca.

About St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is located in southwestern Ontario and includes the Sydenham River watershed and smaller watersheds draining directly into southern Lake Huron, the St. Clair River and northeastern Lake St. Clair. The Conservation Authority implements programs to reduce the risk to life and property from flooding and erosion and promote water and land stewardship, forestry, wildlife habitat creation, conservation education, and outdoor recreation. For more information, visit our website at www.scrca.on.ca.

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For more information, contact:

Brian McDougall

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St. Clair Region Conservation Authority

(519) 245-3710

**Board of Directors Meeting Highlights
Held on June 18, 2020 at 8:30 AM
as a Virtual Meeting**



Serviced Municipalities with less than 5,000 Population, Public Spaces, and Schools at Risk

We heard a lot of concern around the current Ministry proposal: that after transition producers are not required to service municipalities with less than 5,000 population, public spaces, and schools.

For members that have not yet passed a Council resolution, we have updated the resolution. It now references one additional “whereas” clause:

WHEREAS the Municipality of X is concerned about a recent proposal by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks that could jeopardize over 135 small rural, remote, and Northern community Blue Box programs across the Province as well as servicing to schools and public spaces;

And one additional “therefore be it resolved” clause:

THAT the Municipality of X strongly advocates for language to be included in the regulation that ensures municipalities under 5,000 continue to receive Blue Box servicing as was agreed as part of the Provincial government’s Blue Box mediation as well as schools and public spaces.

For those who have already passed a resolution, thank you! For those who are looking to pass a separation resolution to flag concerns to the Province about this latest proposal, feel free to use/amend the above language as you see fit.

Looking for an Expanded Polystyrene Recycling Option?

Second Wind Recycling, launched last year out of St. Thomas, seeks to serve sustainability minded Municipalities in South-Western Ontario with affordable recycling of scrap EPS packaging (Styrofoam).

Partnered with the Continuous Improvement Fund in modelling an innovative mobile-densification approach, Second Wind Recycling is offering a preferred rate of service to Municipalities within the service territory, which the Bluewater Recycling Association falls within.

Below is a link to an article done with the CIF that illustrates the service in action:

<https://thecif.ca/cifs-mobile-eps-densification-collection-pilot-has-officially-launched/>

The program is currently operating in five local municipalities with public drop offs at depots and landfills. Participation and diversion have both been strong from the onset. Municipalities interested in greatly improving their sustainability for a small investment can contact Second Wind Recycling for a free assessment and quote while route capacity remains available.

www.secondwindrecycling.com info@secondwindrecycling.com Dane Rice, 519-494-4984

Recycling Operations During COVID-19

The arrival of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, caused many business sectors to act quickly—implementing new safety measures, making changes to operations and securing access to personal protective equipment (PPE). For the waste and recycling industry, which has been dubbed an essential service by the government, the pandemic brought a vast variety of new challenges, especially as waste industry employees continued to work on the frontlines to protect human health and the environment.

The Association has undergone a number of changes over the past few months, some of which will be temporary, and some of which will be permanent. From implementing more work from home options, to following social distancing measures, to ramping up cleaning efforts and access to PPE, to investing in advanced technologies and physical barriers, the Association continues to put into place best practices to keep both its employees and customers safe.

The shutdown took place across the Province—essentially occurring within a two-week period. This naturally resulted in significant confusion about numerous things including whether recycling was even considered essential. There was a lot of conflicting guidance early on relative to gloves, masks, how long the virus can last on surfaces, how the virus actually spreads, what was essential and what wasn't, what was being enforced ... and when you consider what our industry had to do in a very short period of time, we're proud of what we were able to accomplish.

We decided early on that we needed to manage risk, and we started with our people. We employed measures inside our physical assets to provide services within our communities, all while making sure we got materials picked up in a manner that wouldn't cause additional problems.

One of the biggest challenges of working during the pandemic is that the industry is very labour intensive, with employees often working in close proximity to each other. In an effort to maintain social distancing, the Association, staggered start times and breaks for workers, provided employees with additional PPE and more.

As the Province starts to reopen, The Association continues to follow these best practices in an effort to maintain safe working environments.

For the past few months, non-essential businesses have remained temporarily shuttered, and many shelter-in-place orders have been extended. These factors, along with others, have led to an uptick in residential waste and recycling volume, and a decrease in most commercial volume, in particular hospitality and office buildings. However, some commercial facilities experienced increased volumes including grocery stores and, as can be expected, multifamily homes.

Of this volume, the majority of materials are small cardboard from online purchases as well as aluminum, glass and polyethylene terephthalate due to some deposit systems being temporarily paused.

This increase in volume, however, has not been the easiest to manage, as 146 recycling programs were suspended due to COVID-19 concerns, worker safety, workforce limitations, hauler and facility decisions and prioritization of services. These suspensions impacted 3 million households, and approximately 6 percent of recycling tonnes.

As COVID-19 spread quickly during the start of 2020, consumers raced to stock up on disposable paper items like toilet paper, tissues, paper towels and wipes, even though the coronavirus isn't known to cause digestive issues. This "paper panic" has since slowed, as the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to decrease in many areas.

Other commodities the industry has kept its eye on are aluminum, plastics, old corrugated cardboard, residential papers and news and mixed paper, all of which have experienced changes due to the impact of COVID-19.

While all commodities fluctuate with the economy, single stream is one of the most volatile, previously registering at a 50 percent annual volatility. In comparison, other commodities such as gold registered at only 14 percent volatility, increasing with coking coal, platinum, aluminum, thermal coal, copper and iron ore until reaching the second highest volatile commodity, oil, at 43 percent. This is not new with the pandemic; however, COVID-19 drove volatility further.

Working Through An Unexpected Surge

The pulp-and-paper industry has experienced an unforeseen surge in demand this spring. In late April, the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), Washington, reported that U.S. tissue mills set record-high levels of tissue production this spring. U.S. tissue mills manufactured about 700,000 tons of tissue in March alone. In February and March, AF&PA reports that its member companies delivered more than 22,000 tons of parent roll tissue per day. These increases were likely spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Outbreak at recycling facility impacts Calgary's blue bin service

Recyclables in bins left for pickup will be taken to landfill until facility is sterilized

The Cascades Recovery+ recycling plant in southeast Calgary is about 100,000 square-feet in size, manages between 100 and 200 tonnes of recycling every two to three days, and runs continuously six days a week.

An outbreak at a facility that handles Calgary recycling means the contents of blue bins left out by residents will be taken to the landfill until the issue is resolved.

Calgary Emergency Management Agency chief Tom Sampson says the facility has had about 19 people test positive for COVID-19 and has had to shut down to sterilize.

Both he and Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi are asking Calgarians to store recyclables at home rather than putting out their bins.



Blue Box Program Transition Plan Consultations

Stewardship Ontario hosted three webinar consultations focused primarily on matters affecting specific stakeholder groups during the blue box transition:

The consultation webinars were an opportunity to review and comment on how Stewardship Ontario intends to implement the Minister's direction outlined in his August 15, 2019 letter, including:

- Demonstrating transparency and meaningful consultation;
- Supporting competition and preventing conflict of interest;
- Demonstrating fairness to stewards and protecting consumers; and
- Maintaining program performance.

Other matters of interest presented included:

- The proposed process and timelines for transition and related costs;
- The proposed approach to ensure continuity of funding for municipalities;
- Anticipated changes to the method Stewardship Ontario is proposing to determine steward fees during transition; and
- How reserve funds will be applied to offset transition costs and steward fees.

Coca-Cola and Carlsberg Will Switch to Plant-Based Bottles That Break Down Within a Year

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, scientists estimate that eight million metric tons of plastic—approximately the weight of 90 aircraft carriers—finds its way into the oceans every year. The Paper Bottle Company (Paboco) wants to help manufacturers and distributors reduce their single-use plastic waste by creating bottles made from degradable plant sugars rather than fossil fuels. BillerudKorsnäs, a paper packaging developer, first started this initiative in 2013, and has been joined by research companies and industry leaders like Avantium and ALPLA. The project proudly announced in October 2019 that Coca-Cola, L’Oreal, and Absolut had joined their efforts.

The historic brewery, Carlsberg, has been a long-time partner of the Paper Bottle Project and explained in a press release, “We are working on developing the world’s first ‘paper’ beer bottle made from sustainably-sourced wood fibers that is both 100% bio-based and fully recyclable.” Shortly after, the brewing company unveiled its first paper bottle for their Pilsner beer as proof of concept on their social media sites. These paper bottles, made out of a plant-based polymer called “PEF,” are



expected to be fully recyclable and to naturally degrade within a year, unlike their plastic counterparts. The sustainability company which creates these bottles hopes to have them ready for consumer use by 2023. These paper bottles could help mitigate the severe plastic pollution problem being faced by oceanic habitats, and mark a shift towards global industrial sustainability.

ISRI to develop product recyclability protocol

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industry (ISRI), Washington, says it is developing a recyclability protocol and certification system for paper-based packaging products entering into the recycling stream. Once developed, the protocol will be expanded to other products made from recyclables.

The protocol and certification will be phased in over the next year, ISRI says. Working with Moore & Associates, Atlanta, as a third-party consultant, ISRI is undergoing a thorough review of existing certifications and standards to aid in the integration of the protocol with applicable programs. This will be followed by a survey of material recovery facilities (MRFs) nationwide to gain an inventory of packaging that is recycled from the standpoint of materials and shape and size as well as regional variances in technology and capacity. With the data, the certification protocol, including testing methodologies and procedures, and the application process for obtaining certification will be developed, ISRI says. The process for obtaining certification by brands will be fully documented and transparent, the association adds.

“Under the current system, there is no standard to determine a product’s recyclability from beginning to end, which is an obstacle for increasing packaging recycling rates,” says ISRI President Robin Wiener. “Products are labeled recyclable that are not, consumers are confused and the residential recycling stream is weakened by excessive amounts of products and materials that do not belong. Having one, universal determination for recyclability created by the recyclers that collect and process the material, in coordination with the mills that consume it, will be an enormous step forward in the evolution of recycling.”

She adds, “Once in place, the recyclability protocol will assist packaging manufacturers in understanding what is and what is not recyclable, especially in the design stage. This will lead to a revolution in design innovation as more brands seek ways to not only use recyclable content in production but meet consumer demands for easy-to-recycle goods. As more products are developed with recycling in mind, consumers will rediscover recycling and the vast benefits it provides.”

Among the many things that will be taken into consideration are industry expertise on material supply, processing and demand challenges and needs; ISRI's Design for Recycling initiative, which encourages manufactures to factor in a product’s recyclability in the design stage; and the role of the ISRI specifications, which are used globally to buy and sell recyclables.

ISRI says it will consult with the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), the Foodservice Packaging Institute, The Recycling Partnership and other stakeholders during the development of the protocol and certification.

“This protocol is just the start of an effort that has the potential to really change the world,” Wiener says. “Additional customizable protocols can be developed for packaging made from other materials, including aluminum and other metals. When put together, we can expand the benefits of recycling and see further reduction in greenhouse gases, improved environmental conservation and an economic boost. We encourage all paper and packaging brands to join in these efforts to make it easier for all to recycle.”

Tough recycling decision for RDCK coming up

For the past few years the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) has been attempting to turn its rural residential recycling over to Recycle BC, the agency that runs and pays for rural recycling programs in most of the province including the City of Nelson.

This would theoretically mean a big cost saving for residents of the RDCK because under the current system they are taxed about \$1 million per year for recycling collection.

Under an agreement with Recycle BC, the manufacturers of the recycled material, not RDCK residents, would pay for Recycle BC's collection and transport of rural recycled materials, as is the case now in the City of Nelson.

But how much this would reduce the RDCK's costs is an open question, according to the RDCK's Uli Wolf, because Recycle BC is unwilling to cover the entire cost of providing a full service, and the regional government would have to take up the slack.

Over the past year, the RDCK and Recycle BC have negotiated a plan, not signed yet, that would see 12 fenced and staffed depots — fencing and staffing are requirements of Recycle BC — throughout the regional district, funded by Recycle BC, with an as-yet-undetermined number of satellite depots funded and run by the RDCK, which would deliver collected material from its satellites to the 12 main depots.

Recycle BC recently announced that it will not accept any material in its new depots if it comes from industrial, commercial or institutional (ICI) sources.

This has been their rule all along: the agency is not mandated to take waste from big waste-emitters like Walmart or Celgar, who hire private contractors to take away their recycling.

The RDCK has always allowed small businesses to deposit their paper and packaging in its bins. Most notably, businesses in Nelson often deposit their recycling at the Lakeside depot and at the Grohman depot. But because Recycle BC is going to crack down on ICI, any material in the recycling that appears to be from a commercial source could be rejected and the RDCK penalized with a fine.

So the RDCK would have to set up and pay for a separate recycling stream for ICI materials, cutting further into any tax saving for residents. Considering all this, would it be financially worthwhile to sign a contract with Recycle BC at all?

Meanwhile the RDCK has voted to take a two-part resolution to the annual conference of the Union of BC Municipalities in September.

The first part asks the provincial government to include ICI materials in the Recycle BC mandate across the province. In other words, users of paper and packaging in industry, commerce, and institutions would pay Recycle BC to pick up and process their material rather than hiring their own contractors.

In the second part of the resolution, the RDCK board will ask the provincial government to require that certain products such as writing paper, toilet paper, facial tissue, paper towels, and packaging be made of recycled material. This is needed, the RDCK resolution says, because markets for recycled materials are drying up worldwide and this would create a new market for recycled packaging. The resolution goes further to ask that the province eliminate “subsidies on virgin materials such as oil to create a more level playing field, reduce the carbon footprint and revitalize the already consumed cardboard and packaging waste.”

Regulations may boost less sustainable plastic alternatives

Plastics have become the public face of the waste pollution crisis, prompting an unprecedented consumer and regulatory backlash. Industry is responding by switching to other materials without considering their environmental impact.



Over the past couple of years plastics have become the public face of the waste pollution crisis, prompting an unprecedented consumer and regulatory backlash that shows no sign of stopping.

Industry is responding by switching to other materials without considering their environmental impact relative to plastics, or whether sufficient local waste collection systems are in place. This is the finding of a recent report, *Plastic Promises*, by independent UK-based think tank the Green Alliance.

Although its findings will come as little surprise to those involved in recycled plastics markets, and are mirrored across Europe, it once again highlights the gap in consumer understanding of the relative environmental impact of non-plastic alternatives and the unintended consequences this is having across the recycling industries.

For example, non-plastic food-packaging alternatives, on average, increase energy use by 2.2 times, carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 2.7 percent, and weight by 3.6 times, according to a UK parliamentary select committee report released late in 2019.

Indeed, the shift in packaging for products like bottled drinks from glass to materials such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET) that took place across recent decades was in part driven by its lower carbon usage and weight.

Coupled with this, food-contact paper and cardboard packaging typically needs to be treated with a plastic barrier, making it more difficult to recycle thus doing little to counterbalance the problem of micro-plastic ocean leakage.

For consumers, plastic is a homogenized entity rather than a series of different materials with different degrees of sustainability, recyclability or local collection rates.

PET, for example, has post-consumer collection rates of plastic bottles across Europe at 63 percent according to the ICIS 2018 study – the latest year for which data is available – but country by country collection varies from as low as 21 percent in Bulgaria, to as high as 96.2 percent in Germany.

These facts have done little to stem the tide of announcements of switches to non-plastic packaging from retailers and consumer brands, because public perception is these alternative materials are always more sustainable, leading to rising pressure to abandon single-use plastics. The same consumer pressure is not being felt to the same extent on other packaging types, despite plastics accounting for less than a quarter of packaging waste generated in Europe.

Plastics account for 19 percent of packaging waste generated in Europe, compared with cardboard and paper at 41 percent and glass at 19 percent, according to Eurostat figures collected in 2016 – the latest year for which data is available.

Because of the public focus on single-use plastics, regulatory efforts are being disproportionately focused there. This has led to a raft of upcoming regulation specifically targeted at the plastics industry, the latest of which is a plastic tax due to be introduced in Italy on July 1, 2020. This will tax plastic at €0.45/kg with the exemption of recycled plastic and bio-based plastic.

The law is clearly targeted at encouraging recycling. In recent years, a two-tier market has opened up across European recycling markets between companies that are driven by sustainability targets – typically from the packaging sector and bowing to public pressure – willing to pay above virgin values to secure material, and those purchasing for cost-saving reasons. Southern Europe has typically seen a higher percentage of cost-based packaging purchasing of recycling than other regions.

This is on top of EU legislation mandating minimum average recycled content of 25 percent in PET bottles by 2025 – on a country-by-country basis – and 30 percent across all beverage bottles by 2030.

Effectively allowing prices of recycled material to trade significantly above virgin values before cost-saving kicks in through taxation will no doubt increase buying interest in recycling from companies that had previously shown little interest, as will minimum average recycled content mandates.

Nevertheless, while these measures are targeted specifically at the plastics industry and not across environmentally harmful packaging as a whole, the regulatory framework runs the risk of giving other packaging materials an unfair competitive advantage.

Rather than helping solve the problem of packaging waste and encouraging recycling, this could drive firms to move to alternative materials that are equally, or even more, damaging to the environment – shifting the problem rather than tackling it.

The risk is doubled by ongoing consumer pressure and lack of detailed knowledge on the impact of different materials. It's further compounded by the inability of waste collection rates to meet sustainability targets.

Waste collection in Europe is predominantly controlled by municipalities. Under-funding in the wake of the global recession of 2008 has meant that collection systems have not kept pace with packaging growth or complexity.

Shortages of material for in-demand grades of recycled material – typically transparent material most attractive to the packaging industry – led natural recycled polyethylene (R-PE) pellet and natural recycled polypropylene (R-PP) pellets to trade above virgin grades for the first time in 2019, while the spread between virgin PET and recycled R-PET food-grade pellets reached a record high.

Faced with shortages of suitable recycled material, a growing consumer backlash and a hostile regulatory environment that is not mirrored in non-plastic packaging, it is no wonder that some companies are deciding to shift away from plastics.

Further encouraging this shift towards material choices that do little to improve end-of-life environmental impact would be the worst possible outcome for the planet. Regulation that encourages recycling or responsible waste disposal can only be a good thing, but narrowly focused laws that shift the problem to other sectors could intensify the damage, or at a minimum leave it unchecked.

All the while, the major challenge of increasing collection rates and infrastructure remains unsolved. If lawmakers were determined to help the recycling industry, this is where their efforts would be concentrated.

Carton manufacturers invested big in attaining 'recyclable' status, but can they sustain it?

By funding education, technology and end markets, the Carton Council earned highly-sought federal recyclability status. Yet some MRFs and governments question if this packaging is worth the effort.



From dishing out lunchroom milks to stocking shelves with snacks and alternative dairy products, cartons have come a long way as part of daily life. In recent years, the product barely edged its way into a new category of maturity: Recyclability.

The achievement can be attributed in large part to the Carton Council, a nonprofit industry group founded in 2009 to fund and help organize higher carton recycling rates. At the time, only one mill accepted polycoated cartons. By 2012, eight more locations around the world did. Household access to carton recycling soared from 6% in 2009 to 61% as of 2019, 1% above the domestic accessibility levels required to legally call a product "recyclable" under federal guidelines.

But as new international trade policies shook recycling programs in the United States in recent years, some states and municipalities started dropping cartons from recycling lists.

This holds true for these aseptic containers, which make up a small percentage of the waste stream and can often accumulate in MRFs for months before facilities have enough for a shipment. While all recycling procedures are now further disrupted by the coronavirus, and the paper portions of cartons could help resolve changing supply chain needs, it might be too soon to tell how the pandemic will affect what does or doesn't get recycled.

Despite these changes, the council continues to fund new collection efforts, MRF processing abilities and domestic markets for cartons. The group's interventions resemble what some in the packaging sector might consider a voluntary and more appealing version of extended producer responsibility (EPR). But for carton recycling to continue growing, some solutions — like widespread adoption of an alternative roofing material or a viable use for the plastic and aluminum carton components — will have to kick in before more municipalities potentially abandon the material as a whole.

Some of the reasons why the material is no longer considered widely recyclable. If a MRF collects cartons, it has to find the space to set them aside until a large enough quantity accumulates for resale. Cartons make up 0.2% of what comes in. Part of the council's technique to ramp up national carton collection and processing is to help MRFs mitigate any obstacles that stand in the way of collecting and selling cartons. So far, the council has given millions of dollars in grants to MRFs to make this happen.

After MRF sorting comes purchasing and reuse — a final step the Carton Council bolsters as well. Right now, five paper mills in North America accept cartons for processing. One, the Quebec location of Sustana Fiber, announced the facility would be accepting cartons earlier this month. All facilities extract the fiber and turn them into paper products, but throw away the plastic or aluminum components. The Carton Council funds research into solutions for the byproduct in the U.S..

If recycled cartons don't go to these mills, then they go to a Continuous Materials location in Des Moines, Iowa. The startup turns post-consumer paper and plastic into low-slope roof coverboard for commercial buildings. Called Everboard, the sustainable replacement for traditional building supplies sits atop a Pennsylvania theater, an Atlanta office building and even a Taco Bell in Texas. Continuous produces the material in part because the company acquired ReWall, the Iowa-based start-up that pioneered an early version of this coverboard and was long supported by the Carton Council.



Whether or not the material is pervasive (or valuable) enough for all MRFs to justify accepting the carton, it's considered likely that more of this packaging will appear in coming years. Cartons hold serious appeal for manufacturers. Their linear dimensions allow for space-efficient shipping, and some versions make perishable items surprisingly shelf-stable.

As that growth happens, the suite of Carton Council actions — like funding robotic sorting and future uses of their product — could be viewed as useful steps toward complying with future EPR or product stewardship policies. This concept, which has cropped up more often in discussions about recycling, puts manufacturers physically or financially in control of how their products are handled after consumer use.

At the same time, a voluntary program also means municipalities are free to drop carton collection if they want to. New Orleans, Greensboro, North Carolina and parts of Washington state dropped the material from recycling services within the past year.

It's possible that new mills tapping into this paper source could help cartons keep their hard-won designation that only came after nearly a decade of work. Keeping that status might take even more voluntary investment from the Carton Council than the organization has already spent in the past decade.

Michigan Moves to Overhaul its Waste Industry to Favor Recycling Over Landfills

Sending waste to landfills is more expensive than it seems, a recycling advocate told Michigan lawmakers Tuesday. It costs money to store and manage trash. It also takes valuable material like plastic and aluminum out of the supply chain and away from manufacturers who could reuse it, Michigan Recycling Coalition Executive Director Kerrin O'Brien said. "Currently, Michiganders spend over \$1 billion to landfill nearly \$600 million worth of materials every year," she said, figures shown in a 2017 state recycling council report. "That's a lot of money."

A package of bills recently introduced in the state House aims to flip that equation by rewriting Michigan's solid waste law to emphasize recycling and composting material over sending it to landfills. O'Brien, lawmakers and waste industry representatives testified Monday in front of the House Natural Resources Committee about those bills, which aim to increase the state's recycling rate, provide curbside or drop-off recycling for almost every Michigander and strengthen oversight of landfill and composting facilities.

The proposed overhaul has been years in the making, starting in 2012 as an initiative to improve Michigan's recycling rate — which hovers around 15% — under former Republican Gov. Rick Snyder. Specifically, the five-bill waste overhaul package aims to:

- Increase the recycling rate to 30% by 2025 and ultimately to 45%.
- Expand residential recycling services.
- Increase state oversight of landfills, recycling and composting facilities.
- Use some of the money in the Solid Waste Management Fund, supported by fees levied on landfills, composting and waste processing facilities, to develop the Michigan recycling market.
- Require counties to rewrite their waste management plans, with state funding help, to increase recycling and composting in their communities. Those plans would have to be approved by the state.

World's Biggest Jewelry Firm Moves to Recycled Gold, Silver

Pandora A/S, which makes more pieces of jewelry than any other company in the world, will stop relying on newly mined gold and silver and instead use only recycled precious metals. The new policy, which takes effect in 2025, will help the Copenhagen-based company beef up its climate credentials and make it a more appealing target for investors eager to fill their portfolios with assets that meet environmental, social and governance goals.

Pandora says its shift to recycled precious metals will cut carbon emissions by two thirds for silver and more than 99% for gold. One of the key benefits to the environment is the considerable reduction in water use as a result of less mining, it said.

Annual emissions from the global gold market are equivalent to around 126 million tons of CO₂, with more than a third of that coming directly from mining and smelting, according to the World Gold Council.

One of the industry's most significant emissions is cyanide, which can lead to groundwater contamination, among other threats to the environment. Concerns over the risks associated with managing mines and their waste have also mounted following a fatal disaster at a Vale SA iron ore operation in Brazil, in which a dam collapsed.

Pandora says it currently uses 71% recycled gold and silver in its production, with roughly 15% of the world's silver coming from recycled sources.

Petroleum commentary: Irving just may have woken us all up

It's been said by people much smarter than me that "for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction".

I bubble-thought that for a moment or two, and I suggest we switch that around a bit to say that, "for every inaction there is a reaction". Inaction is a result of not reacting to something that is wrong. I call that dormancy.

Sort of like ignoring a sleeping giant.

Sleeping is the apt description for the energy sector today, which is under assault from both the demand and supply sides of the teeter totter. With less than two weeks until the start of the driving season, gasoline demand is down 39% while jet fuel is at negative 67%. This, while on the supply side combined petroleum product inventories including crude are up 10%.

These numbers are astonishing and unheard of for this time of year.

But this has been a wake-up call for one of our own sleeping giants, Irving Oil, the owner and operator of the 320,000-bpd refinery in Saint John, N.B., and the largest in the country.

In what appears to be, at first squint, an offering of an altruistic lifeline to oilsands producers in the west, Irving has requested permission from our Ottawan leadership to use foreign flagged tankers to ship western crude from B.C. to Saint John via the Panama Canal, a distance of a staggering 11,770 km away.

This is an example of action or the awakening of one giant in reaction to the inaction of another — the Canadian government and its collection of provincial siblings.

Irving has made its decision, I believe, based on the observation that through their economic crystal ball the price of Western Canadian Select (WCS) will remain well below the costs of both West Texas Intermediate (WTI) and Brent. This is especially attractive since their refinery uses the higher priced and globally benchmarked Brent as their feedstock not WTI. On the totem pole of crude oil pricing WCS sits at ground level.

Continuing with the same metaphor, it seems that Irving has decided that the pipeline game is not being played on level ground and the rules of the game are constantly changing.

Shipping by actual ship through the wide-open Panama Canal avoids the environmental confines and hazards prevalent in the political ponds in this country.

When the tankers begin to unload low-ball priced WCS in Saint John, this will not be lost on Suncor and Valero that will be observing all of this with a combined capacity in Quebec of 420,000 bpd. But to bring in WCS by tanker would mean shipping through the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

But hold on! Quebec won't allow that Western Canadian crude that originates from the oilsands to cross the Quebec border despite the fact that Saudi crude merrily unloads in Montreal without any hassles.

If Quebec won't allow WCS to unload in Quebec City or Montreal, then the financial futures of refineries in that province will be in serious doubt.

This is not the time to press the political alarm to snooze because Irving just may have woken us all up.

Good morning Ottawa!

Daimler, Volvo venture a breakthrough for hydrogen trucks

A significant corner has been turned in the quest to bring hydrogen to the highway in heavy trucks. The deep pockets and vast engineering capabilities of Daimler Trucks AG and the Volvo Group have indeed come together, however unlikely that may seem. The two companies announced in late April a 50/50 joint venture to develop, produce, and commercialize fuel cell systems for heavy-duty vehicle applications and other uses like stationary power. Daimler will consolidate all its current fuel cell activities in the joint venture, while the Volvo Group will acquire 50% of it for about US\$650 million.



The deal is subject to regulatory approval, though that would seem to be a foregone conclusion given Europe's intense effort to create a sustainable and carbon-neutral transport system by 2050. The two companies intend to meet their Paris Agreement obligations, which include the end of internal combustion engine production by that year.

And that in itself is big news. There have been other collaborations between OEMs in the recent past as car and truck makers struggle to meet the challenge of new technologies and environmental demands on their own, then realizing that there's strength in numbers. But I can't think of a coming together on the same scale as this one between two such fierce competitors. Once again, pragmatism wins.

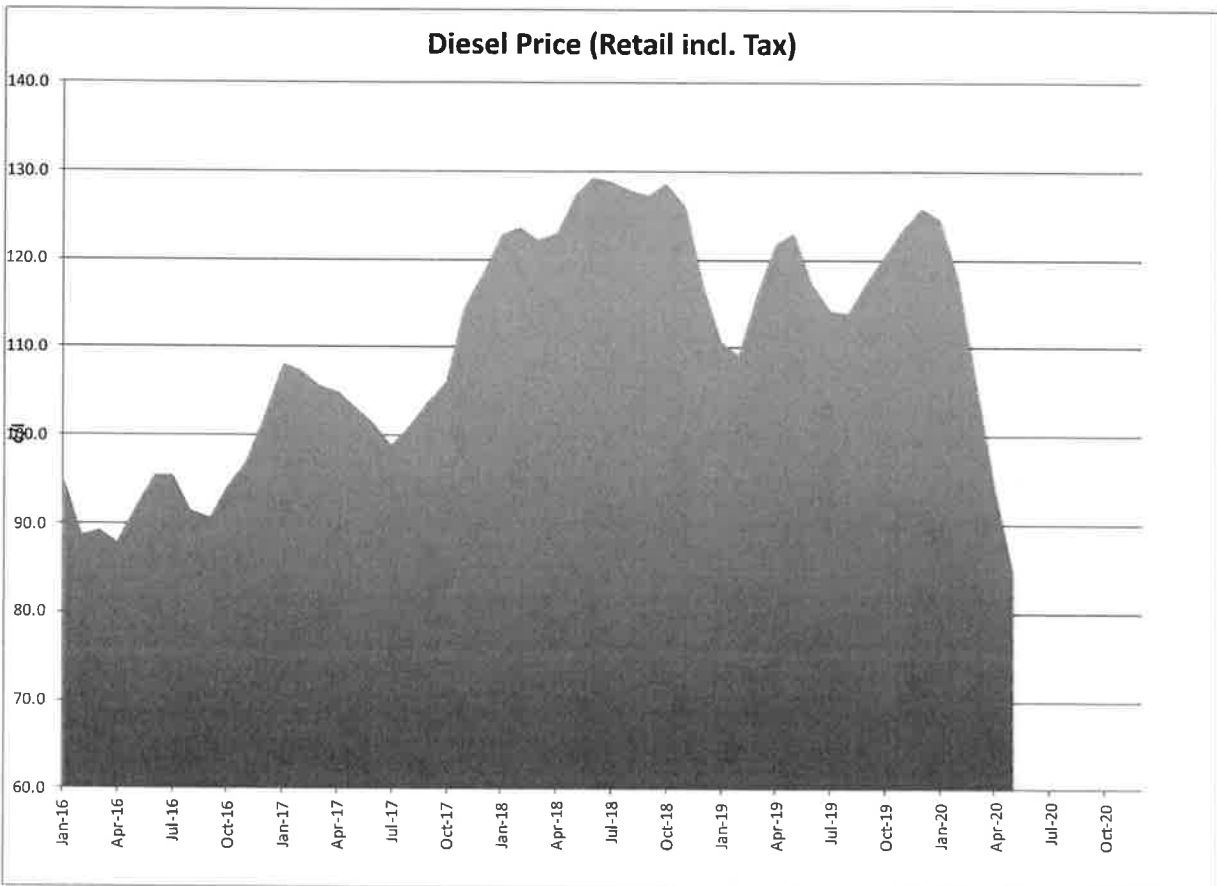
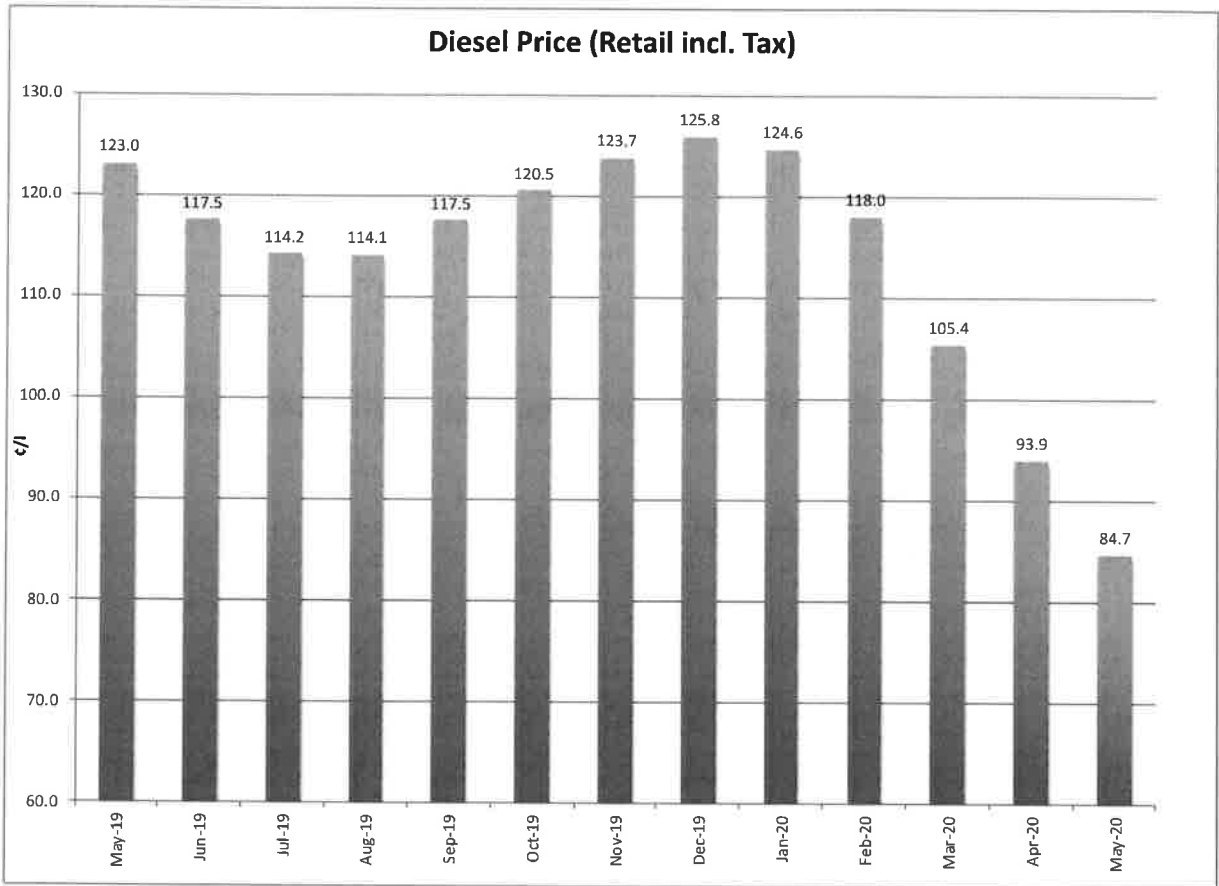
The German outfit has built up significant expertise through its Mercedes-Benz fuel cell unit over the last two decades and is now consolidating all those group-wide activities in a new Daimler Truck fuel cell enterprise – with Canadian content. It will be based in Nabern, Germany, with production facilities elsewhere in that country and in Vancouver. The JV will operate as an independent and autonomous entity, the companies said, the goal being to move fuel cell production to high volumes by the mid-2020s, and full-scale production about 10 years later.

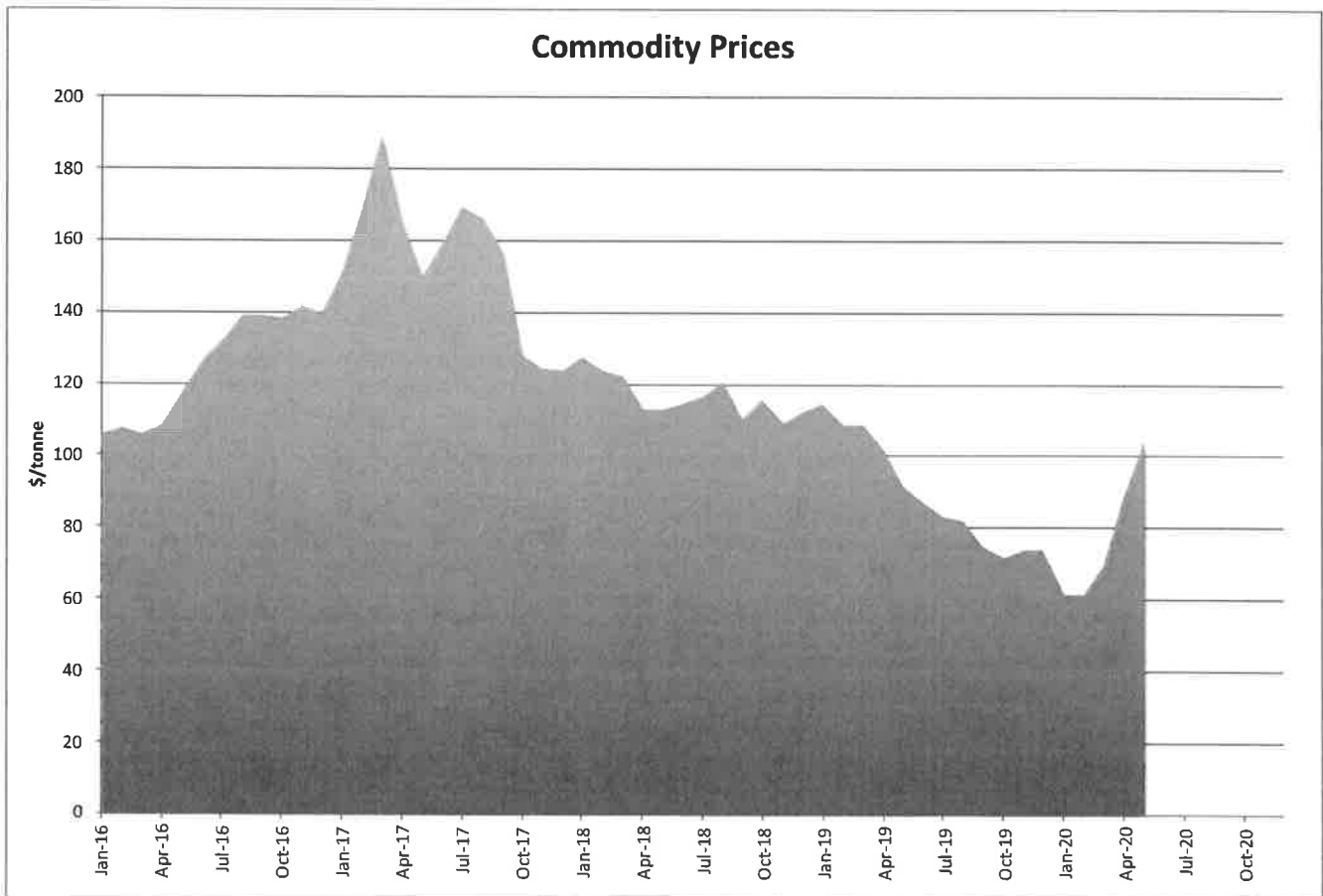
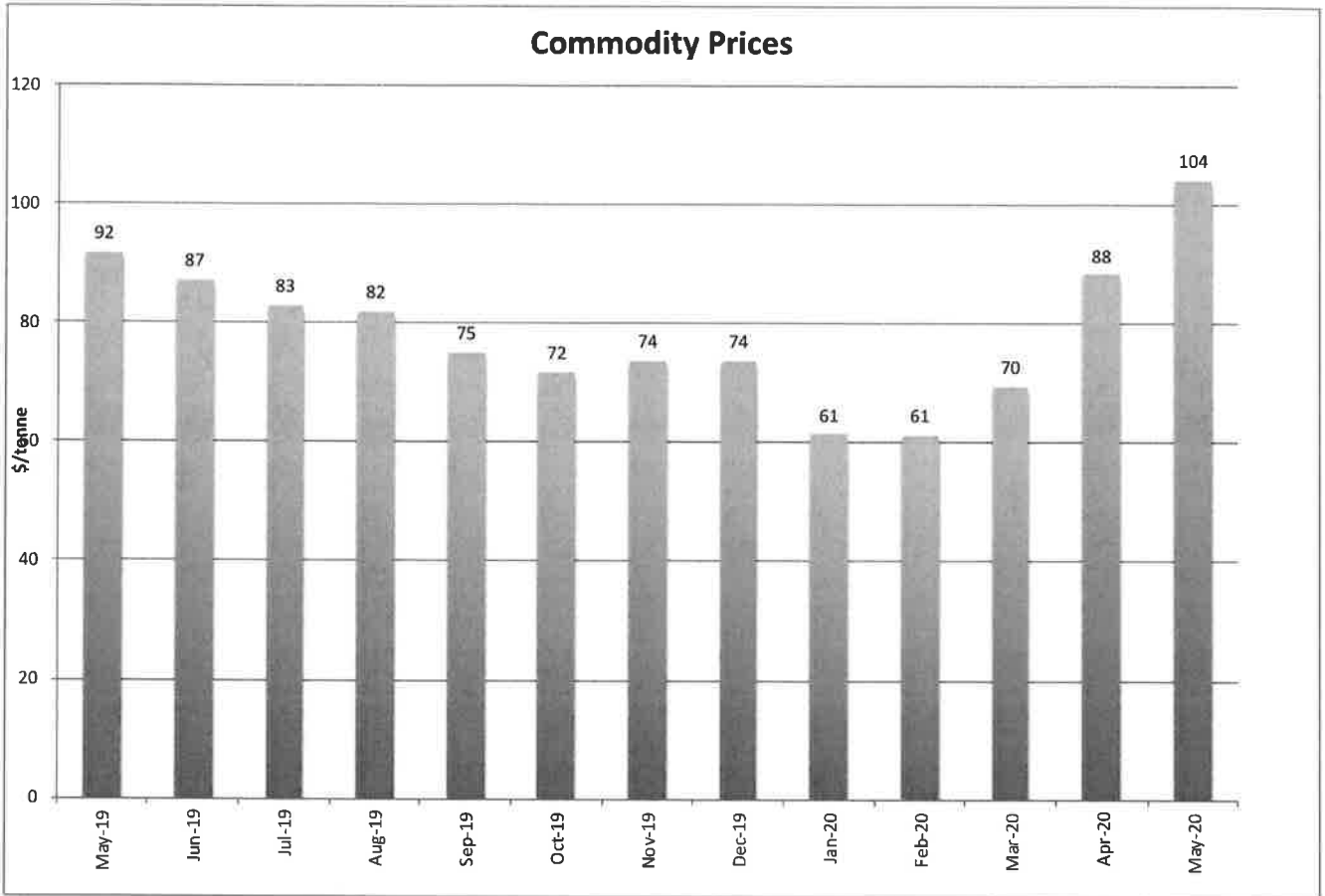
Nikola, on the other hand, says it will produce its fuel cell trucks starting in 2022, with some 14,000 orders already in the can. It plans to develop fuelling stations – essentially truckstops with stores and restaurants — along the routes served by its early-adopter customers. It's aiming to begin in the western U.S. before migrating eastward with the market, saying its Norwegian partner NEL will build about 700 stations starting in 2022.

Daimler and Volvo acknowledge that such infrastructure is obviously essential and that it will need other companies to join the effort. A comprehensive fuelling network doesn't yet exist in Europe, so I'll bet that NEL plays a role there, too. Its leadership in that realm is clear.

What remains to be seen is whether Nikola's infrastructure, which should be firmly in place long before Daimler/Volvo fuel cell trucks start plying North American highways, facilitates quick adoption of its new competitors' machines. Will we see another partnership? This is going to get interesting.

By the way, in case you're thinking hydrogen isn't up to the truck task, consider that it has nearly three times the energy content of gasoline – 120 megajoules per kilogram for hydrogen versus 44 MJ/kg for gasoline." Diesel fuel has 45 MJ/kg, while natural gas compressed to 3000 psi has 55 MJ/kg.





Service Proposal:
South-Western Ontario Municipalities
Expanded Polystyrene Recycling Service

Delivered by:



June, 2020

Background

Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), commonly referred to as Styrofoam, is abundantly used in packaging and food service products. The petroleum based material is composed of 95% air and is not biodegradable. Due to its fragility and low weight, it is a common pollutant in the natural environment. The material has become even more prevalent with the advent of e-commerce and bulk shipping.

Though both high in the public conscience of environmentally damaging waste, and industrial demand for recycled product, EPS still has a very low recycling rate in Canada, especially from post-consumer generation. Landfill avoidance is a goal of many municipalities, but the common tonnage metric used for diversion efforts fails to recognize the nature of light weight, high volume EPS packaging. Additionally, most recycling companies are focussed on more lucrative and less problematic recycling materials. To be received by recyclers, EPS must be densified and meet minimum quantities and tight composition specifications. As a result, a large contributor to landfill volumes is left unaddressed by most regions.

Second Wind Recycling Vision

Second Wind Recycling is founded on the road to a circular economy and a zero-waste society. Recent legislation proposes to inspire less and more eco-friendly packaging materials by shifting end-life responsibility entirely to the producer association of Stewardship Ontario. This will be a long road to meaningful reductions in packaging waste, as materials, particularly EPS, remain inexpensive to produce. Recovery will therefore continue to be the major avenue of diversion efforts for a long foreseeable future, regardless of who the responsibility falls to. With a lean and targeted business model, Second Wind Recycling strives to recover and commoditize challenging materials that are commonly treated as waste, with a primary target being EPS.

Throughout most of Ontario, EPS recycling has been a low municipal priority compared to other recyclables that have less barriers to effective recovery. Second Wind Recycling's specialization and mobile densification process allows it to serve multiple municipalities and private generators, achieving the volumes required for feasibility and offering a price point that makes recycling both environmentally and economically attractive. Partnering with the Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF), Second Wind is currently servicing four South-Western Ontario municipalities in one year pilot projects to model the viability of this approach to post-consumer, depot-drop, EPS retrieval.

Barriers to recycling post-consumer EPS & Second Wind Recycling Solutions:

Barrier:

It is not cost effective to transport loose scrap EPS, and most recycling plants will not receive it in this form.

Solution:

Utilizing the mobile densification unit, a truckload of loose EPS can be compressed to one pallet-sized load. Second Wind Recycling's service is both material removal and the pre-processing required to access the recycling market.

Barrier:

A large volume of EPS collection is required to justify investments in densification equipment. Most municipalities and private companies won't reach this volume of EPS in isolation.

Solution:

Second Wind Recycling will service multiple Municipalities and Industrial, Commercial & Institutional clients, collecting the critical volume required for feasibility, and minimizing downtime of the required equipment.

Barrier:

Recycling markets for collected EPS have traditionally been unreliable. Compared to other recyclables, the return for collected material is low. Traditional receivers China and India, have banned imports of post-consumer plastics. Several Ontario municipalities who once collected EPS have ceased to do so.

Solution:

Second Wind Recycling has connected with multiple receivers and brokers, both domestic and international, who are paying a modest return for product meeting specification. Risk for a reliable outlet is transferred out of the municipality.

Barrier:

Due to its fragility, EPS is prone to breaking up and contaminating other recyclables when included in blue box programs. Sorting from other materials is also labour and capital intensive.

Solution:

Drop-off collection boxes will receive EPS at the environmental depot. Capitalizing on the public awareness of the problematic material, collection will only be done separate from other recyclables.

Barrier:

The voluminous, lightweight material, consumes a large storage footprint. EPS needs to be kept clean and dry to maintain a marketable recycling value.

Solution:

A shipping container (at least 20 feet long), located at the municipal drop off depot will house the EPS collection boxes. Second Wind Recycling will empty the boxes as required.

Barrier:

Failure to meet recyclers specifications can result in entire truck loads of densified EPS being rejected by recyclers. Food or moisture, coloured foam, or other materials like tape and stickers can spoil entire loads and force it to be land filled.

Solution:

White packaging foam makes up the large majority of EPS by volume and meets receivers specifications. The dedicated drop-off bin, city website and other marketing material will stress the required specifications of what is acceptable for drop-off. The covered drop bin will prevent exposure of the material to moisture and sunlight. Second Wind Recycling will sort out any material not meeting specifications at the time of collection.

Barrier:

Proposed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation will shift recycling responsibilities entirely to Stewardship Ontario. Uncertainty about how and when this transition will occur can make municipalities reluctant to adopt new practices or make new investments.

Solution:

By contracting the service to Second Wind Recycling, the municipality does not incur any capital costs up front or ongoing operational costs. A large volume of EPS can be diverted from landfill on a yearly basis, and there is no certainty of when and how responsibility will be shifted (particularly for EPS). Second Wind Recycling's densification equipment will have roll-over potential for serving EPS scrap sources, how and when the new responsibility model is transitioned.

Barrier:

Due to its low weight, EPS diversion will not have a noticeable impact in terms of tonnage.

Solution:

Volume fills landfills, not tonnage. When recycling costs are examined with volume as the metric, this approach to EPS recovery is economical when compared to the average cost of collecting and processing other recyclables. When the value of landfill capacity is factored in, recovering EPS is even more practical.

Pilot Project Proposal

Process Overview

Second Wind Recycling provides the municipality with a densifying and removal service of all post-consumer packaging EPS delivered to the recycling depot, and ensures it is recycled by a registered recycler. A one year pilot project will allow both parties to assess the cost-benefit balance and identify best practices, with a goal of long-term implementation.

The pilot is part of a Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) project in which the multi-municipality, mobile densification, approach to EPS reclamation is being modelled.

Municipal Responsibilities

- Provide space in a covered structure at a depot or waste transfer station for collection boxes to be placed and accessed by the public.
 - Space does not need to be heated, but dry and unexposed to direct sunlight.
 - The space will have a footprint of at least 300 square feet, to hold at least 16 (48"x40" footprint) collection boxes.
 - A 40' C-Can shipping container is ideal and is available for \$2,700 plus delivery.
- Purchase 16 - 2 yard capacity collection boxes per site at \$25 each.
- Purchase one exterior promotional sign and one interior specification sign per site at \$100 each.
- Promote public awareness of the project.
- Retain any materials found in collections boxes that do not meet the defined specifications (see appendix A)
- Sign off on documentation of volumes of EPS removed from each site.
- Pay Second Wind Recycling the agreed price per yard for all material placed in the collection boxes.

Second Wind Recycling Responsibilities

- Empty full collection boxes on a schedule to be determined based on volume.
- Densify EPS at the depot, within a self-powered trailer unit.
- Deliver collection boxes.
- Deliver and install promotional and specification signage.
- Be responsible for all collected EPS meeting specifications regardless of available recyclers and market price.
- Provide quarterly diversion volume reports.

Diversion Potential and Cost Estimate Example

	Households	Estimated EPS kgs produced annually(2kg/household)(2)	Collected EPS kgs annually	Collected EPS cubic yards annually(3)	Collected 53' ft trailers annually(4)	Collected cubic yards/week	EPS Diversion rate	Price per yard	Annual Cost
Second Wind Serviced Example Municipality POP. 25,000	10,000	20,000	2,000	440	3.1	8	10%	\$7.00	\$3,080

1. City of London Roadmap 2.0, The Road to Increased Resource Recovery and Zero Waste, 2013

2. HGC, CPIA, CIF, 2013, (1 Cubic Yard EPS= 10lbs, 1 kg = 0.22 cubic yards).

3. 53' trailer capacity of 140 cubic yards

Other Factors to Consider

- Half of operational costs can be funded by Blue Box Ontario.
- If a transfer station is part of the residential waste process, diverting EPS has the potential to reduce the hauling costs to landfill by reducing the number of truckloads required.
- "Not only does diversion extend landfill life, there is considerable financial incentive for a landfill operator because the required space for EPS can be used for 3 times the amount of garbage and associated tip fees". (CIF Project #130)
- Recycling 1 tonne of EPS a year represents an energy savings equivalent to that used by 1.25 homes.

Pricing

Municipal partners within Second Wind Recycling's service territory are offered this preferred rate (with annual CPI inflation adjustment) until December 2022:

- **\$7 per cubic yard**

(For municipalities further than 120km from St. Thomas ON., the same price per yard rate is offered, but a mileage surcharge will be applied).

Pricing Rational

IC&I Equivalent: \$7 per cubic yard

Post-consumer sources produce 20% of EPS scrap, with IC&I producing 80%. To reach the critical mass of material required for operational feasibility, the IC&I market must be served along with municipalities. To encourage IC&I clients to recycle EPS, the price must be comparable to regular waste disposal. The cost of IC&I waste tip services is \$7 per yard for high volume producers, higher for smaller producers, and much higher for commercial recycling services. The lowest IC&I rate is therefore the best market price that can be offered to post-consumer municipal clients.

Other Recyclable Materials Comparison: \$8.99 per cubic yard

Commingled recyclables, without paper (Plastic bottles, Aluminum cans, Steel cans, Glass bottles) have an approximate weight of 67 lbs per cubic yard or 0.0304 tonnes per cubic yard(1). The Ontario average for the cost of recycling per tonne is \$295.62(2). Therefore based on that average, the approximate cost of recycling commingled recyclables without paper, is \$8.99 per yard.

1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, April 2016).

2. RPRA Data Call, 2017

Appendix A: EPS Depot Specifications

Accepted

Expanded Polystyrene Packaging commonly from:

- Computers
- Electronics (*cameras, TVs, DVD players, etc.*)
- Appliances (*toasters, blenders, coffee makers, etc.*)

Not Accepted

- Take-out containers
- Meat trays
- Coffee cups
- Disposable dishware
- Packing peanuts / popcorn
- Construction insulation, blue and pink
- Polyethylene and Polypropylene packaging
- Foam bags & wrapping
- Hot tub cover inserts
- Pool noodles

Requirements

- Remove all tape, plastic, stickers, cardboard and other contaminants attached to foam.
- Ensure material is clean and dry.



Owner: Dane Rice

St. Thomas ON.

519-494-4984

info@secondwindrecycling.com

www.secondwindrecycling.com

Good afternoon,

Orangeville Council at its June 8, 2020 meeting passed the following resolution:

“WHEREAS The Town of Orangeville recognizes there have been questions in the public related to both diversity training and use of force training and protocols for Police Services, including in Ontario;

WHEREAS the Town recognizes that police officers join this profession out of a desire to do good, to serve and to protect the communities they serve;

AND WHEREAS an understanding of community diversity can foster authentic inclusion;

AND WHEREAS empathy training, and de-escalation training, can support understanding other people’s perspectives;

AND WHEREAS the Town recognizes that policing can be a dangerous profession, and officer as well as community safety are critical considerations in law enforcement;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Provincial Police have indicated they have a comprehensive diversity training program, however there may not be the same resources available across the entire province for smaller Police Services;

AND WHEREAS there is concern in the public about the boundaries of use of force, such as neck restraints, and oversight;

AND WHEREAS there isn't clarity on a common bar on diversity and empathy training or on use of force and oversight;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor write to the Solicitor General to encourage common training requirements for all members of Police Services in Ontario as it relates to diversity, empathy and use of force;

AND THAT the Solicitor General provide clarity on police oversight going forward given the anticipated changes to legislation to ensure effective accountability continues;

AND THAT annual updates or refresher courses be mandatory to ensure our Police Services have the best and current information available to them;

AND THAT THE TOWN request that the use of force protocols be reviewed to ensure they are safe and would meet current standards, and then shared across the province;

AND THAT THE TOWN circulate this resolution to all Ontario municipalities seeking their support.”

Regards,

Tracy Macdonald | Assistant Clerk | Corporate Services
Town of Orangeville | 87 Broadway | Orangeville ON L9W 1K1
 519-941-0440 Ext. 2256 | Toll Free 1-866-941-0440 Ext. 2256
tmacdonald@orangeville.ca | www.orangeville.ca



Council Staff Report

To: Mayor Ferguson and Members of Council
Subject: Municipal Modernization Grant
Meeting: Council - 25 Jun 2020
Department: Administration
Staff Contact: Janet Denkers, Clerk Administrator

Recommendation:

That a special meeting be arranged to discuss the report and provide direction to staff and Brooke Fire Rescue.

Background:

The Municipality received funding from the Municipal Modernization Program for an Efficiency Review of Brooke-Alvinston's Municipal Fire Service. The completed report is intended to provide to Council a document to consider in delivering an efficient, effective, modern services that meets the evolving needs of the community.

Comments:

The attached document is only a portion of the final report. The entire report is expected to be received mid July.

Financial Considerations:

The study is funded through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Relationship to Strategic Plan:

Sustainability -Practice Inclusive Fiscal Responsibility

ATTACHMENTS:

[BA interim 1.2 file](#)

[Appendix 1](#)

[Appendix 2](#)

[Appendix 3](#)

**Brooke-Alvinston
Modernization and Efficiency Study
Interim Report
June 15, 2020**

Purpose

This report is submitted to provide an interim update on the Modernization and Efficiency Study currently being conducted by FIREHOUSE 33 CONSULTING. The purpose of this report is to specifically provide comments in respect to the establishment of a fire station in the community of Inwood.

Background

The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston engaged FIREHOUSE 33 CONSULTING to conduct an analysis of Brooke Fire Rescue as part of the ongoing Modernization and Efficiency Study. The study is to include fire station locations and condition.

When the municipality amalgamated their two previous fire departments into the new Brooke Fire Rescue, a majority of the firefighters in the Inwood community terminated their roles in the fire department. Uniquely, the Inwood Firefighters Association (IFA) owned the building and property where the fire department worked from. The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston entered into a short term lease agreement with IFA for a small portion of the building to house fire apparatus owned by the municipality. The agreement expired at the end of December 2019 and the apparatus has been moved to a temporary location. Council has noted that they believe a presence is required in the community and have allocated 2020 budget funds for a possible structure. Information provided through this study will assist Council in making a determination on whether to move forward or explore other alternatives.

Legislative Requirements

In Ontario, the Fire Protection and Prevention Act is the guiding legislation under which a municipal government determines the services which they wish to provide. Specifically under Part II, Municipal responsibilities, 2(1), *Every municipality shall, (a) establish a program in the municipality which must include public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention; and (b) provide such other fire protection services as it determines may be necessary in accordance with its needs and circumstances.*

To fulfill their obligations the FFPA states, (2) *In discharging its responsibilities under subsection (1), a municipality shall, (a) appoint a community fire safety officer or a community fire safety team; or (b) establish a fire department.*

The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston has a fire department as described in 2,(2)(b) therefore they have met their legislative requirements.



Analysis

While meeting the legislative requirements of having a fire department, there is no requirement as to how many fire stations are required in a community or where they are located. That type of decision is determined through a variety of methods. Primary to the decision making is a community assessment to determine the critical factors of a community and its needs. This includes geography, demographics, emergency response statistics and other factors as determined. To further assist in this important decision, an examination of the needs and circumstances of the entire municipality is considered. Additionally, reference material from industry experts and organizations such as the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) are utilized. Prior to amalgamation, the two fire departments acted somewhat independently in the municipality. Record keeping was subject to the direction of the fire chief for each department and while reports were made to the OFMEM, they were limited in information. To conduct this review the response information from 2015 to the end of 2019 was reviewed. It should be noted that prior to the implementation of the fire department reporting software in 2019, the area records were separated. For 2019 they are combined.

To evaluate the reporting for clarity, four criteria were used. These were, Fire, Medical, Motor Vehicle Collisions and Other. Fire responses included structure, vehicle, grass and field and alarms other than carbon monoxide.

The following is the breakdown for the period of 2015 to 2018;

YEAR	TYPE	INWOOD	ALVINSTON	TOTAL
2015	Fire	2	11	13
	Medical	2	5	7
	MVC	5	6	11
	Other	3	3	6
Total		12	25	37
2016	Fire	3	14	27
	Medical	3	9	12
	MVC	4	8	12
	Other	0	2	2
Total		10	33	43
2017	Fire	2	10	12
	Medical	2	10	12
	MVC	2	8	3
	Other	0	3	3
Total		6	31	37



2018	Fire	6	20	26
	Medical		13	13
	MVC	4	6	10
	Other	1	6	7
Total		11	45	56
2019	Fire		18	18
	Medical		11	11
	MVC		16	16
	Other		3	3
Total			48	48

As illustrated by the above and as well the maps included as Appendix 1 and 2 of this report, by far a majority of calls for assistance are in the Alvinston area. This is indicative of the nature of the communities as Alvinston has a majority of the residential and commercial properties. The former Inwood station during the four year period averaged 9 calls per year while the Alvinston station averaged 33. Information provided illustrates that Inwood responded to a total of 13 fire responses during that time or 4.25 per year while Alvinston responded to 55 or 13.75 annually. Those numbers appear to be consistent through the 2019 report.

Discussion

There is an old adage within the fire service and that is *100 years of tradition unimpeded by progress*. That statement suggests the fire service is either unwilling to change, or a proud statement of traditional values and commitment to service. It may further suggest that despite what is happening in the world, the fire service hasn't kept up. In some ways there is truth to the statement and that is that most firefighters look to the tradition as service for the benefit of their community. They are proud of what they do and often display their commitment in various methods. Regrettably, like most service clubs, organizations and groups, age, commitment and the time to dedicate has significantly diminished the numbers of people willing to make a commitment. In the case of the volunteer firefighter, there have been compelling changes made to the fire service over the last 25 or so years. Training for the safety of the firefighter and those they are rescuing has had a dramatic increase adding more time to their commitment. Fire responses have declined in large numbers due to changes in building and fire code regulations. Further to that one of the more critical components to all of this is the manner in which a fire service now is required to operate. In days past the fire service and firefighter, in order of importance, responded to and put out fires, did some fire prevention and public education and if they had the willingness, did enforcement. The modern fire service has evolved and recognized that public education along with fire prevention is the key to saving lives and reducing the number of devastating fires a community suffers. If they cannot educate the public then they should enforce the laws as a tool to educate when cooperation isn't an option. Fires will still occur through mechanical failure, accident and nature therefore there is a continued need to provide fire suppression service.



When a majority of the firefighters from the former Inwood Fire Department resigned the disappearance of a local fire department may have seemed to occur. The local residents established a fire department in 1949 and sixty years later it ceased to exist. While it may have occurred visually, the result is that the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston now has a stronger and ready to respond fire department with Brooke Fire Rescue. A review of calls in 2019 which provides more detail than previous reports has illustrated that there is a firm commitment by the members of the fire department to respond to all areas in the municipality. In 2019 the lowest number of firefighters responding to an emergency call in the area formerly covered by Inwood was 10 and the highest was 26. This clearly demonstrates that the members of the Brooke Fire Rescue are community members and are willing to attend at emergencies anywhere in the municipality. There can be a discussion about what may be perceived as a longer response time in travelling from Alvinston to the Inwood area. Appendix 3 of this report reveals that within 14 travel minutes or less at the posted speed limit firefighters can be within a majority of the former Inwood station area from Alvinston. This timeframe is within industry standards for a rural community which best describes the Inwood area. It must be remembered that the former Inwood Fire Department members while responding directly to emergencies did so without the benefit of their personal protective gear or all required apparatus and needed equipment. Firefighters now responding from the Alvinston station are doing so in full protective gear, with the apparatus and equipment required and ready to commit to action.

It should also be remembered that by far the firefighters respond to more emergencies annually than fire. Over the years fire conditions in homes have exponentially increased in severity. Due to the increased fuel load in a home manufactured from products derived from a petroleum base, a fire which took up to 15 minutes in the past to become fully involved can now occur in as little as 3 minutes. As a result teaching the public about fire escape planning, ensuring smoke alarms are working and installed, meeting with the public and reinforcement of fire rules and legislation are key components in reducing fire injuries and death.

Options

The key to preventing fires is public education and fire prevention inspections. It is not conceivable to build and staff a fire station every 3 minutes away from residential areas and have firefighters that are available to respond at all times. The demographics of the community show a decrease in population and an increase in age. Currently there are several members in the Brooke Fire Rescue who reside in the Inwood area. Discussions have indicated that it is the desire to engage more people from the area to join the fire department and have up to perhaps 12 fire department members in the next 5 years.

Several fundamental factors required when deciding the route to take must be considered. First and foremost is that the municipality has met the requirements of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act as they have a fire department. Second is that the municipality determines the level of service it wishes to provide to its residents and communicates it to them. Third and perhaps pivotal in this decision is that the legislation requires the municipality to deliver Public Education. As discussed earlier, public education combined with enforcement, when required,



saves lives. Residents must not depend on the fire service to rescue them, they must have their own plan on how to escape from fire conditions and how to mitigate a fire from starting. There is a strong inclination to have a fire department presence in the Inwood area and that desire cannot not be diminished. There has been a fire department for 60 years and once gone, it is difficult to resurrect. The issue is how to maintain that presence in a manner that serves the area residents and is both cost effective and efficient.

It is recommended that the Council of the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston along with the senior officers of Brooke Fire Rescue give due consideration to the following;

1. That an enhanced Public Education plan and program be developed and delivered throughout the entire Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston with an emphasis on fire escape planning and smoke alarms. The appointment of a Public Education team is critical to the success and must be considered. The initial program delivery to be in the Inwood area.
2. That an Emergency Medical Responder Team consisting of regular and auxiliary members of the Brooke Fire Rescue be established in the Inwood area. Properly trained and outfitted, the members will through fire department Operational Policies and Guidelines, respond to medical emergencies, motor vehicle collisions along with other emergencies as determined and provide support to the level for which they are trained for. Establishing a team of Emergency Medical Responders will provide an initial emergency response capability which can stabilize an occurrence.
3. That Brooke Fire Rescue implement a recruiting program with a focus on the Inwood area. The program should emphasize that skills of all types are welcome and that auxiliary members will perform various functions such as Public Education or Emergency Medical Response for which they may be suited to.
4. That the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston relocate any Public Access Automated External Defibrillators that they have to an outdoor location so that the public can access them 24/7/365. Technology now permits such actions to occur in cabinetry suitable for outdoor locations. To support this endeavor, a public awareness program along with free training should be completed.
5. That the Municipality annually place funds into a Capital Reserve for a future fire station and equipment if and when development and growth occur to substantiate a fire station. The construction of a fire station takes considerable planning and research. A fire station must according to the Ontario Building Code, be built to post disaster requirements. It must as well contain the necessary amenities such as showers and washrooms to ensure that cross contamination does not occur, storage facilities for bunker gear, engineered exhaust systems, automatic garage doors and at minimum a small office space. The position of the fire station on the property must be established so that there is sufficient space for the largest fire apparatus to be parked safely outdoors and to ensure that it may cautiously exit



onto the roadway. The property should also contain sufficient parking for firefighters responding.

6. That Brooke-Fire remove reference to the names Alvinston and Inwood on all fire apparatus and buildings. If and when a second or third fire station is constructed, numbering of the stations can be considered. While this may seem radical and unnecessary, as long as the names of the former fire departments are referenced, there will be a lack of unity within the department. Brooke Fire Rescue is new and should be built from the ground up and breakdown previously established barriers.
7. That recommendations 1 through 4 be commenced immediately with a report to Council no later than the end of September 2020 on their progress.

Financial Impact and Benefit

Budget deliberations have been concluded for 2020 and the budget established. The recommendations come with minimal impact over what has been established. The largest purchase may be in the form of equipment for the Emergency Medical Response Team. They will require an enhanced first aid kit with oxygen therapy and Automated External Defibrillators as well as communication equipment. The Public Education program derives more benefit than cost with life saving and reduction in property damage consideration. A significant portion of the money allocated to a possible new fire station can be moved to reserves for a future fire station if and when it is proven to be required.

The Inwood area has received a consistent level of service for the past 18 months with no detriment perceived. Following the recommendations will enhance community fire and medical response for the benefit of not only the Inwood area but all of the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston.

Conclusion

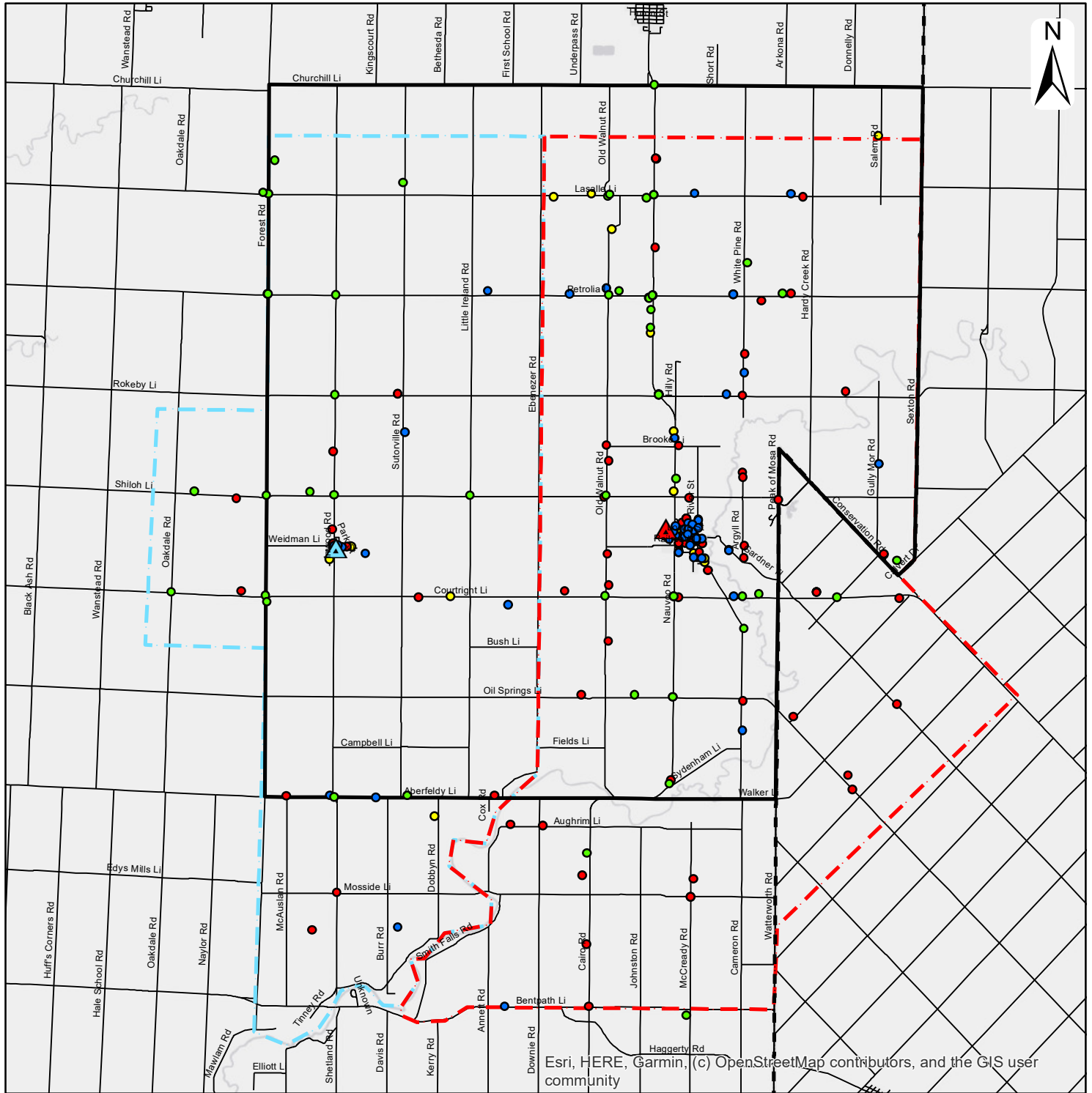
This report is submitted to assist the members of the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston council and senior staff to continue their discussions and deliberations on delivery of fire service to the Inwood region of the municipality. Certainly it is recognized that this is not an easy decision and that residents must be treated equally and fairly across the municipality. All recommendations in this interim report have been thoroughly thought out and substantiated. In the coming months a report will be forwarded with additional recommendations on the Modernization and Efficiency of the fire service in Brooke-Alvinston.

Attachments:

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| Appendix 1 | All Emergency Calls 2015 - 2019 |
| Appendix 2 | Fire Calls Only 2015 - 2019 |
| Appendix 3 | Drive Time Map base from Alvinston |

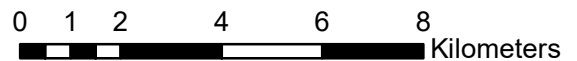


Emergency Calls (2015-2019) in Brooke-Alvinston



Legend

- Proposed Fire Station
- Existing Fire Station
- MVC Emergency Response
- Medical Emergency
- Fire Emergency
- Other Emergency
- Brooke-Alvinston Boundary
- Lambton County Boundary
- Alvinston Fire Station Coverage
- Inwood Fire Station Coverage
- Road Network



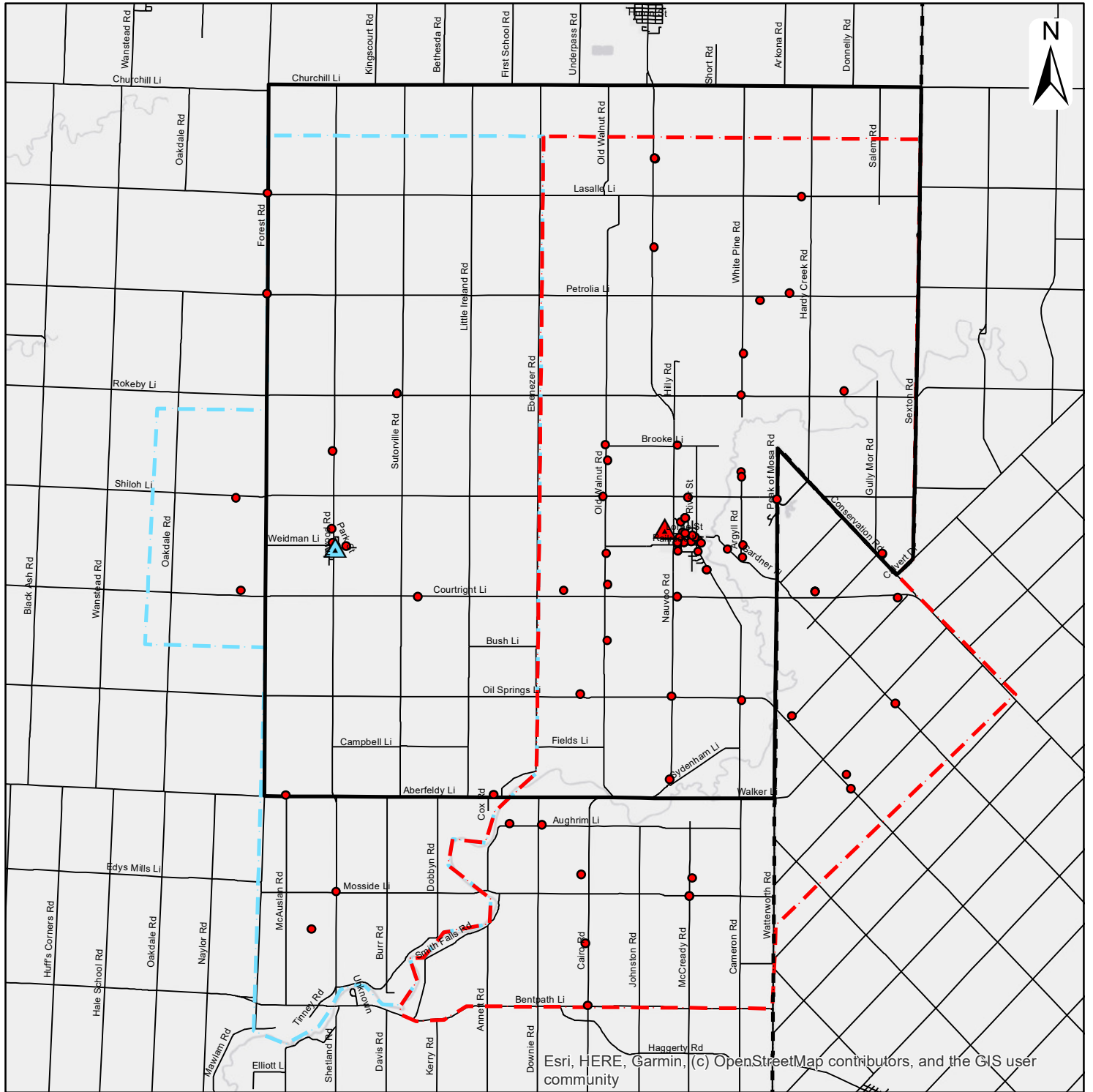
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June, 2020

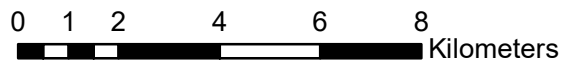
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Fire Emergency Calls (2015-2019) in Brooke-Alvinston



Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community



Legend

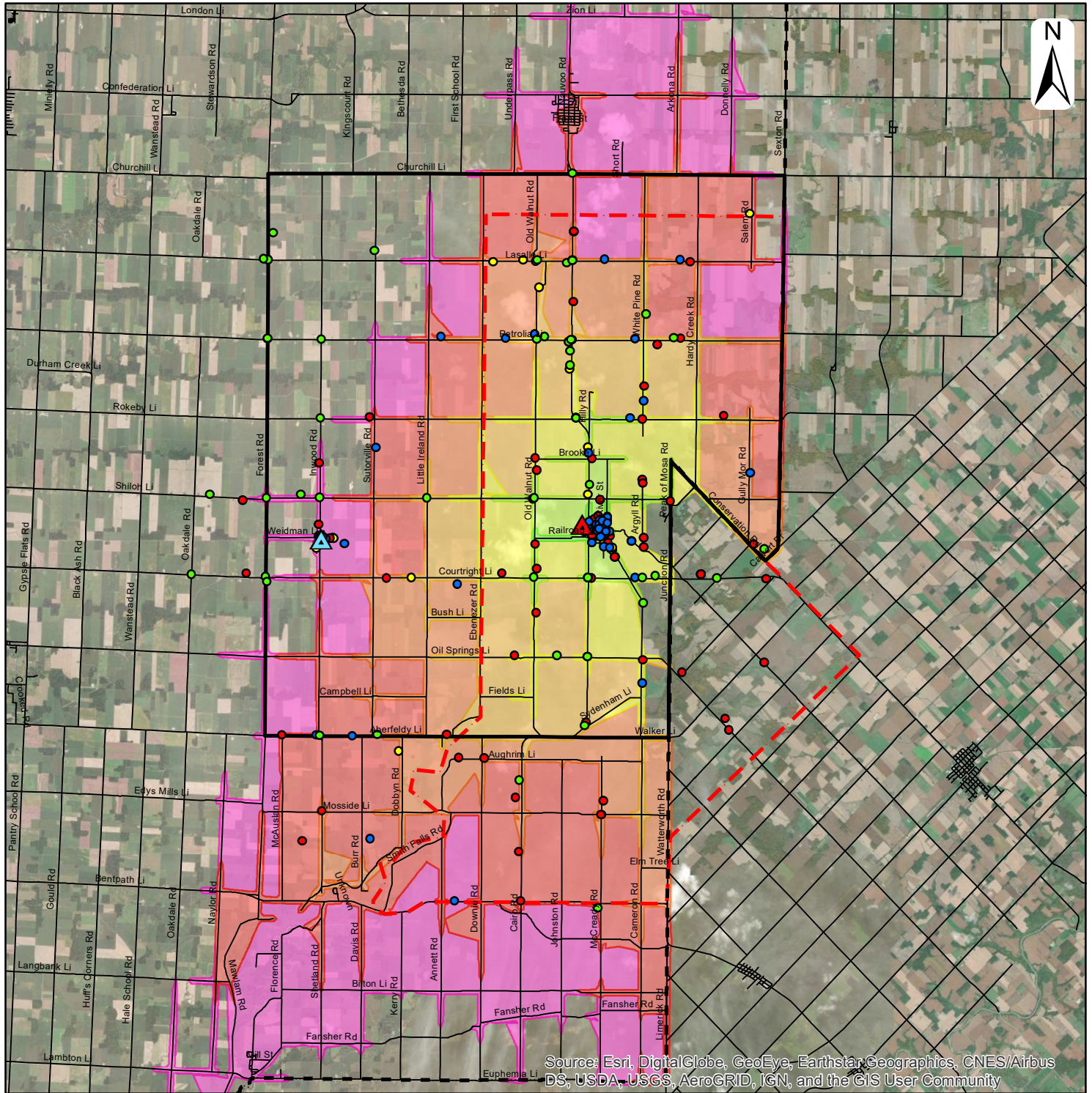
-  Proposed Fire Station
-  Existing Fire Station
-  Fire Emergency
-  Brooke-Alvinston Boundary
-  Lambton County Boundary
-  Alvinston Fire Station Coverage
-  Inwood Fire Station Coverage
-  Road Network

NAD 1983 UTM 17N

June, 2020

Astop-Ford, Barros, Fardin

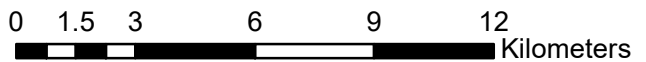
Drive Time and Emergency Calls (2015-2019) in Brooke-Alvinston Existing Fire Station Analysis



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Legend

- Proposed Fire Station
- Existing Fire Station
- MVC Emergency Response
- Medical Emergency
- Fire Emergency
- Other Emergency
- Brooke-Alvinston Boundary
- Lambton County Boundary
- Alvinston Fire Station Coverage
- Road Network
- 2min
- 4min
- 6min
- 8min
- 10min
- 12min
- 14min





Council Staff Report

To: Mayor Ferguson and Members of Council
Subject: Alvinston Pro Rodeo - Public Event
Meeting: Council - 25 Jun 2020
Department: Clerks
Staff Contact: Janet Denkers, Clerk Administrator

Recommendation:

That should the Emergency Order under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act be lifted prior to the planned August 28-30, 2020 Alvinston Pro Rodeo event; and that large public and social gatherings are allowed; and that all provincial regulations are followed; that the Council of the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston acknowledge that the Brooke-Alvinston Ag Society will be applying for a Special Occasion Permit.

Background:

A written request has been received from the Alvinston Pro Rodeo requesting the municipal approval in applying for a Special Occasion Permit for the Alvinston Pro Rodeo scheduled for August 28, 29 and 30, 2020 at the BAICCC.

The municipal approval is required when making application to the LCBO for the Special Occasion Permit.

Comments:

The Ontario government has issued an emergency order under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* to prohibit organized public events and social gatherings. Applications related to prohibited public events and social gatherings will not be processed until after the emergency order has been lifted or modified.

The Alvinston Pro Rodeo Committee are only being proactive in seeking necessary approvals at this time should the emergency order be lifted in time for their planned event in August.

Financial Considerations:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Rodeo Request](#)



The Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston
3236 River Street
Alvinston, ON
N0N 1A0

Attention: Janet Denkers

The Brooke & Alvinston Agricultural Society would request the possibility of the Municipal Council to declare the Alvinston Pro Rodeo a **Public Event**. This declaration is for the purpose of obtaining a Special Occasion Permit under the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. The Pro Rodeo will be running for three days and will be operating a outdoor refreshment area on August 28, 29, and30, 2020 at the Brooke Alvinston Inwood Community Centre grounds. A Public Event covers an **event of municipal significance and is designated by municipal council as an event of municipal significance** which runs for more than one day. It is for this reason that we ask this request.

Thank you

Mark McLean
Brooke-Alvinston Ag. Soc.



Council Staff Report

To: Mayor Ferguson and Members of Council
Subject: Centre Street Alley, Alvinston
Meeting: Council - 25 Jun 2020
Department: Clerks
Staff Contact: Janet Denkers, Clerk Administrator

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston declare the alley located on Plan 6 Lot 3, Lot 4 in Alvinston surplus; and that the Clerk Administrator be directed to notify the property owners that the alley will be stopped up and closed; and that a surveyor be engaged to develop a survey for the proper dispersion of the alley as indicated by the owners.

Background:

A request was received to purchase a portion of the alley from a resident in Plan 6, lot 3, lot 4 in Alvinston. A letter was subsequently sent to the affected residents seeking interest to purchasing their respective portions of the alley that run alongside their properties.

Comments:

Five letters were sent out to the property owners with four interested in purchasing their section of alley or the other section should that resident not wish to. Upon Council approval, a formal letter will be sent to these residents outlining the closing of the alley, declaring it surplus and next steps in selling to the owners. The process is estimated to take a minimum of 6 months pending surveyor availability.

Financial Considerations:

All associated costs including the survey and legal paperwork will be borne initially by the Municipality and in turn will be costed out to the affected residents accordingly.



Council Staff Report

To: Mayor Ferguson and Members of Council
Subject: River Street Lot
Meeting: Council - 25 Jun 2020
Department: Clerks
Staff Contact: Janet Denkers, Clerk Administrator

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston declare the lot located at 3223 River Street in Alvinston surplus

Background:

The lot between the Alvinston Medical Building and Armor's Ale House is municipally owned. It is worth noting that the lot is a serviced lot and formally housed a restaurant.

Comments:

The property is surplus to the Municipality's needs and can be offered for sale accordingly. Once declared surplus, the Municipality can advertise the lot on their website and seek any interested offers for presentation to Council.

Financial Considerations:

No financial considerations at this time. Should an offer be received, Council can review the consideration at that time.



Council Staff Report

To: Mayor Ferguson and Members of Council
Subject: Murals at the BAICCC
Meeting: Council - 25 Jun 2020
Department: Public Works
Staff Contact: Randy Hills, Public Works Manager

Recommendation:

That staff be directed to arrange for plaque mounted murals to be created at as close to the current size of the murals.

Background:

One of the recommended modifications to the auditorium of the BAICCC is the removal of the murals. The murals hold a great deal of history in the community and should be restored as best as possible.

Comments:

An interior designer viewed the space and suggested high quality photos of the murals be taken and then transferred onto a plaque in as close to the current size as possible. Once the plaques are received, it is recommended that the walls of the auditorium be freshened with a more modern finish. (A report will be forthcoming on insulation and finishing options).

The intent is to re-place the plaque mounted murals on the walls with flexibility of renters being able to remove the murals should they desire blank walls.

Financial Considerations:

Staff received a quoted price of \$3,500 for the transformation of the murals onto plaques as close to the size as possible.

Relationship to Strategic Plan:

Improvements to infrastructure.



Council Staff Report

To: Mayor Ferguson and Members of Council
Subject: Arena Sound System Upgrades
Meeting: Council - 25 Jun 2020
Department: Public Works
Staff Contact: Randy Hills, Public Works Manager

Recommendation:

That the Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston award Musical Strings 'N' Things the contract for the arena sound system upgrade at the quoted price of \$24,858.29 (including HST) for the reason that Musical Strings "N" Things has provided all other sound equipment in the BAICCC, has provided superior service to the Municipality when requested and the system will work in conjunction with the already installed system of the auditorium.

Background:

The sound system in the arena portion of the BAICCC has been experiencing many difficulties in previous seasons and has been "piece repaired" over the years. The 2020 budget had the audio system noted and approved.

Comments:

Musical stings 'N' Things has been the general contractor used for audio supply and repair in the BAICCC. The system is intended to replace the current system and be reliable for ice surface functions including hockey games, public skating events and the skating carnival.

The only part of the old sound system that will remain is the wall rack in the office and the soundsphere speaker over the ice surface.

The replacement of the sound system can be done prior to the ice installation and while the facility is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Financial Considerations:

The price for installation is complete. The Municipality will need to supply a boom manlift capable of reaching all speaker install locations. The 2020 budget allotted \$25,000 for a new sound system.

Relationship to Strategic Plan:

Improvements to Infrastructure