



Town of Newmarket Council Information Package

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Date: June 20, 2025

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 Woodstock, ON
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June 6, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 80 Wellington Street
 Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Via email: premier@ontario.ca

Re: Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025

At the regular meeting of Woodstock City Council held on June 5, 2025, the following resolution was passed:

“That Woodstock City Council support the resolution from the City of Kingston opposing all provisions in Bill 5 that reduce environmental protections and Ontario’s proud legacy of protections of Endangered Species, and that override the rule of law and that nullify municipal planning authority;

And further that City Council urge the Province of Ontario to support housing and infrastructure development in ways that align with sound environmental planning and wildlife protection and empower municipalities with appropriate planning tools;

And further that City Council call on the provincial government to rescind Bill 5 and return to consultation with the public, Ontario Municipalities, and First Nations;

And further that City Council voice opposition to the establishment of a Special Economic Zone within the City of Woodstock, as currently defined in Bill 5;”

And further that this resolution be circulated to The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; The Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; The Hon. Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; The Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development; Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP; and all Ontario Municipalities.

Yours Truly,

Amy Humphries
 Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk
 City of Woodstock

Cc.

The Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines – stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org

The Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – rob.flack@pc.ola.org

The Hon. Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks –
todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org

The Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development – vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org

Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP - ernie.hardemanco@pc.ola.org;

And all Ontario Municipalities



Office of the City Clerk

May 21, 2025

Via email

All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Kingston City Council Meeting, May 20, 2025 – Resolution Number 2025-197; Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025

At the regular Council meeting on May 20, 2025, Council approved Resolution Number 2025-197 with respect to Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 as follows:

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning policies, including replacing the Endangered Species Act with a new framework that reduces protections for at-risk species, and enabling the creation of Special Economic Zones that may override local planning authority and environmental oversight; and

Whereas the City of Kingston supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be done in a way that upholds environmental responsibility and maintains the integrity of local planning processes; and

Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, weakens safeguards for natural heritage systems, threatening biodiversity, and diminishing the authority of municipalities to manage growth in accordance with local needs and official plans; and

Whereas the Canadian Environmental Law Association submits that all of the Bill 5 schedules, with minor exceptions, should be withdrawn and not further considered by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario until they are substantially modified to ensure robust protection for the environment, human health, and vulnerable members of the Ontario public, including Indigenous peoples, who may otherwise be harmed by the amendments contained in the various schedules; and

Whereas the Canadian Civil Liberties Association finds that Schedule 9, in allowing the Minister of Economic Development to exempt “trusted proponents”

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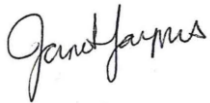
from compliance with municipal and provincial law within the special economic zones, promotes abandonment of the rule of law subjecting Ontario's lands and peoples to the possibility of arbitrary and non-transparent decision-making and effectively nullifying decades of legacy law-making in those zones;

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of Kingston oppose all provisions in Bill 5 that reduce environmental protections and Ontario's proud legacy of protections of Endangered Species, that override the rule of law and that nullify municipal planning authority; and

That the Council of the City of Kingston urge the Province of Ontario to support housing and infrastructure development in ways that align with sound environmental planning and wildlife protection and empower municipalities with appropriate planning tools; and

That a copy of this motion be sent to The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P. Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Stephen Lecce, M.P.P. Minister of Energy and Mines, The Honourable Rob Flack, M.P.P. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, M.P.P. Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ted Hsu, M.P.P., Kingston & the Islands, John Jordan, M.P.P., Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, and all Ontario municipalities.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Jaynes
City Clerk
/nb



52 Frank Street,
Strathroy ON N7G 2R4
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www.strathroy-caradoc.ca

June 02, 2025

To all Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:

Re: In Support of: Bill 5- Risks to your communities and support requested

Moved: Councillor Derbyshire

Seconded: Mayor Grantham

THAT: Council support the Chatham-Kent Resolution for opposition of this section of Bill 5.

Result: Carried

As Mayor of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, I am sharing this motion to bring to your attention the potential risks to your communities and ask for your support to oppose this approach. The following motion was approved yesterday, May 12, 2025:

“Whereas 29831 Irish School Road in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is a property approximately 800 metres from the Town of Dresden;

And Whereas the property contain small fill areas used for historic local landfill purposes, and the property has never been properly studied or zoned for any significant landfilling use;

And Whereas the current property owners are attempting to create a new recycling and landfill facility for millions of tonnes of waste, which would result in hundreds of trucks travelling through towns and communities in the area;

And Whereas this approach has been strongly opposed by Council, the Community, neighbouring Indigenous Nations and many other voices, due to impacts to the environment, our homes, the safety of our families and children, and the fabric of our communities;

And Whereas the Provincial government has proposed Bill 5, which includes a section removing the obligation for a full Environmental Assessment for this new landfill and recycling facility;

And Whereas if this limited, historic local landfill use on the edge of Dresden can be expanded into a massive landfill and recycling facility, then this can happen anywhere;

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And Whereas there are likely hundreds of properties across the Province that may have had limited, historic waste uses, which could also face this threat;

And Whereas Bill 197 established a veto for Municipalities within 3.5 kms of a new landfill, which reflected the need for local government and community approval of landfill sites;

And Whereas the approach being taken for this property disregards the importance of our rural communities, and local voices, in determining appropriate landfill sites within their communities:

Now Therefore to ensure that other Municipal Councils and communities know about what is happening in Dresden, and the potential risk to their community if this approach is taken by the Province, Council requests that the Mayor's Office write a letter to all other Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:

- 1. Advising them of this issue and the risks to their community if a similar approach is taken for other historic landfill properties; the possibility of the Ontario government setting a precedence and*
- 2. Requesting their support in opposing this approach and ensuring that full Environmental Assessments are required for all landfills and that municipalities have a strong voice in determining appropriate locations for landfills in their communities."*

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Colin Grantham, Mayor
Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc



The Township of Georgian Bay Resolutions Council - 02 Jun 2025

Item 11.(b)

Date: June 2, 2025

C-2025-155

Moved by Councillor Kristian Graziano

Seconded by Councillor Allan Hazelton

WHEREAS the Floating Accommodations – Position Paper (April 2025) provides detailed guidance to Ontario municipalities on the regulation of Floating Accommodations, highlighting critical legal and environmental challenges; and

WHEREAS the document identifies significant gaps in current provincial and federal frameworks that municipalities are best positioned to address through zoning and land-use bylaws; and

WHEREAS the paper recommends proactive municipal action based on successful case studies and legal precedents such as the Glaspell v. Ontario decision; and

WHEREAS Georgian Bay Township has already taken steps to address Floating Accommodations and has an interest in promoting inter-municipal collaboration on this issue;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the Floating Accommodations – Position Paper (May 2025) for informational purposes; and

THAT the Clerk be further directed to forward the document and this resolution to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and member municipalities for consideration and potential provincial advocacy.

☒ Carried ☐ Defeated ☐ Recorded Vote ☐ Referred ☐ Deferred

Recorded Vote:

	For	Against	Absent
Councillor Brian Bocek			
Councillor Peter Cooper			
Councillor Kristian Graziano			
Councillor Allan Hazelton			
Councillor Stephen Jarvis			
Councillor Steven Predko			
Mayor Peter Koetsier			

Peter Koetsier, Mayor



Floating
Accommodations not
Vessels Coalition



Floating Accommodations Position Paper

EXECUTIVE Summary

This position paper provides guidance for Ontario municipalities seeking to regulate or restrict Floating Accommodations within their jurisdictions.

Floating Accommodations are a detrimental presence on Ontario's lakes and rivers. They present multiple environmental, navigational, taxation, and zoning issues. Over the past four years, they have eluded control as the issue of Floating Accommodations fell into a very large gray area when this all began.

The authors of this position paper, the **Floating Accommodations not Vessels Coalition**, strongly urge you as municipal leaders to pursue **one or a hybrid** of the following two regulatory strategies:

1. Ban floating accommodations in your jurisdiction. *They cannot exist within your*



municipality without putting your natural environment and governance regulations in turmoil. The Township of Severn has led the way with a bylaw banning Floating Accommodations [[Township of Severn Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)]. The Township of Georgian Bay recently adopted a similar by-law [[Township of Georgian Bay Zoning By-law](#)

[Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)]. The intent is to provide clarity in their zoning bylaws in that floating accommodations are not a permitted use. Several municipalities are following their lead and investigating this strategy.



2. Restrict floating accommodations to fixed / permanent moorings.

These locations would be subject to municipal zoning by-laws stipulating appropriate sanitary, hydro, power connectivity, and placed on environmentally safe floatation systems. Floating accommodations are permanently located in a properly zoned facility similar to a trailer park but

for floating accommodations on water. This model has several working examples such as Bluffers Park on Lake Ontario or False Creek in downtown Vancouver. For most municipalities, this would be considered a new form of development and require significant policy changes.

“Your new neighbours”

They can suddenly appear on your waterfront at any moment...

Floating Accommodations (FAs) can be a building or structure such as modified shipping containers or wood framed structures placed on floatation devices. They are not primarily intended for navigation and will moor over crown lakebeds or private property lakebeds. FAs can move frequently and are usually equipped with an anchoring system such as steel ‘spuds’ embedded into the lakebed to stabilize the unit at each mooring location. They potentially shed toxic materials and other contaminants into surrounding waters and lakebeds.



Municipalities Play a Crucial Role in Fully Regulating Floating Accommodations

Municipalities have a crucial role in addressing regulatory gaps and exceptions that fall outside the recent implementation of federal, provincial, and private property trespassing regulations to manage Floating Accommodations. Verifying and strengthening the regulatory framework was a collaboration between Parks Canada (PC - federal), the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR - provincial), and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP - provincial).

The following scenarios are not hypothetical. They have all occurred and would fall outside the jurisdiction of new and existing federal, provincial and OPP controls.

- 1) *What happens to an owner of an FA who chooses to float their FA over their personally owned private lakebed property?*
- 2) *What happens to commercial marinas who wish to establish mooring for FAs on their premises in a permanent or semi-permanent manner?*
- 3) *What happens when FA owners floating within a township, move daily to relocate in that same township to avoid confrontation with governing agencies?*

Municipal Bylaws – What Issues Are You Being Asked to Tackle?

The recently launched PC, MNR, and OPP frameworks can clearly deal with trespassing for stationary (moored) FAs in federal / provincial waters and over private lakebeds.

However, there are 3 scenarios that fall outside of the newly published PC, MNR, and OPP frameworks. They are:

- 1) ***FAs floating over private lakebeds:*** *What is missing is how to deal with an FA owner who chooses to park adjacent to their shoreline where he/she has property 'ownership' rights to the lakebed. This issue is very real and exists in many of Ontario's lakes and rivers. The scenario would allow an FA owner to bypass existing building codes and local taxation to class their structure (be it a boathouse, or residence) as a vessel. This scenario is a "trojan horse" into illegal residential boathouses and homes on water with the very real possibility of being short term rentals.*
- 2) ***FAs floating in a commercial marina:*** *The scenario of a marina establishing an unauthorized temporary (or permanent) mooring location for a FA within a municipality that is not zoned for FAs causes a significant degree of difficulty. Most current municipal zoning does not acknowledge FAs and in a jurisdiction without FA definitions and approved zoning the FA owner can fall back on their vessel designation and potentially use the Transport Canada vessel designation as a shield to avoid any charges. This scenario has already occurred throughout Ontario, including in the Rideau Canal and the Kawartha Lakes region.*
- 3) ***FAs floating freely and/or mooring in a different location each night:*** *The challenge with this scenario is some FA owners have been very creative in where they moor and for how long. They have become very familiar with enforcement processes and time limitations and simply move before charges can be laid. Each situation would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and time limitations may or may not apply.*

All three of these scenarios require a municipal regulatory framework. There are emerging strategies to guide Ontario's municipalities in preventing FAs from further potential abuse and destruction of our natural resources for current and future generations.

Call to Action To All Ontario Municipalities With Waterfront Assets

Based on our collective learning, experience and history with the FA problem, we believe there are two responses municipalities can utilize to attempt to control FAs participating in one or more of the three scenarios outlined above:

- 1) ***FAs cannot exist within the boundaries of a municipality:*** *This scenario has recently been enacted in the Townships of Severn and Georgian Bay; although they have not yet been tested in court. These zoning by-law amendments provide clarity in that floating accommodations are not a permitted use. FAs cannot exist on waters within these Townships, under any circumstances, over public or private lakebeds or in commercial marina establishments. Their outright ban of FAs is actively being considered by several other municipalities, [\[Township of Severn Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations\]](#), [\[Township of Georgian Bay Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations\]](#)*
- 2) ***FAs can only exist as FHs (floating homes):*** *When floating accommodations are permanently fixed to an approved dock/mooring with permanent hydro, sanitary, and water connections they are classified by Transport Canada as a Floating Home (FH). Floating Homes are not vessels. This scenario of approved mooring for Floating Homes is well understood, documented and in place throughout British Columbia and Bluffers Park on Lake Ontario and would require significant municipal policy changes for most. One further twist on this scenario is that a FH owner who chooses to untether and go float “free range” for a time and then come back may be banned from the FH mooring location depending upon their Home Owners Agreement. This solution has existed for some 20+ years in both locations and is very well understood.*

It is suggested that municipalities consult with their own legal representatives to determine what regulatory approach is best suited for your jurisdiction.

Need To Find Out More?

If you need more information or further clarification on any aspect of this position paper, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Floating Accommodations not Vessels Coalition or to our email address fanv2025@gmail.com.

APPENDIX

Floating Homes versus Floating Accommodations: Definitions and Management to date

Historical context and definitions:

Historically, floating residential structures have existed in zoned-for-purpose marinas and permanent mooring locations. These types of structures look and feel like houses. They are typically wood framed units with windows, doors, roofs, and decking and floatation devices. Inside they have bathrooms, kitchens, living rooms and bedrooms... essentially a house on water. They are “permanently” moored / fixed to a docking arrangement and are also permanently connected to sanitary sewers, water supply, power supply, and gas (for heating and cooking) supply.

There are multiple instances of these floating residences, but the most popular and recognized communities are the 24 floating homes in Bluffers Park on the shores of Lake Ontario in Scarborough (Toronto), and 60+ homes in False Creek in downtown Vancouver.



Both of these examples and all other occurrences where a floating residence is fixed permanently to a mooring location are classified by Transport Canada as “Floating Homes”. It is important to understand that Floating Homes are not recognized by Transport Canada as vessels. They are distinct and separate from Floating Accommodations.



How do Floating Accommodations differ from Floating Homes?

The recently emerging challenge is Floating Accommodations, which can be ‘repurposed’ shipping containers modified by DIY individuals or purpose-built wood construction. The units have windows, doors and some form of bathroom, kitchen, sleeping, and living quarters. Floating Accommodations are not restricted to the configuration seen below, as there are numerous examples of residences fabricated with wood frame construction built on floatation devices that appear more like a traditional boathouse.



All of these floating accommodations are not permanently fixed to a mooring location. They are “free range floating residences”; moving, floating and mooring whenever and wherever they wish.

Transport Canada classifies floating residences that are not connected to a permanent mooring location as vessels.

Floating Accommodations until 2023 were largely unregulated within Ontario. The topic had not historically been an issue; therefore, government agencies needed to react to the changing issue and the “vessel” designation being utilized by Transport Canada as well as by the individuals and/or companies exploiting this loophole.

The authors can now report that Parks Canada, MNR, and OPP have separately and collectively identified enforcement avenues where appropriate to attempt to govern Floating Accommodations. To complete the governance framework, appropriate amendments to existing municipal by-laws are required.

What Are the Challenges Associated with Floating Accommodations?

This table illustrates the complexity of multiple government agencies whose mandates are individually impacted yet require collective collaboration to implement solutions. The following table lists the various issues and respective agencies likely to manage them.

Issue / Concern with Floating Accommodations	Expected Responsible Agency
Potential absence of sanitary capability and dumping of toxic and other harmful substances from FA	Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC) (Federal) and Ministry of Environment (Prov.)
Pollution from floatation devices and garbage	Transport Canada & ECCC (Federal); Ministry of Environment (Provincial)
Impact of endangered wildlife when moored in environmentally sensitive areas	Parks Canada or ECCC if outside of Parks Canada sites; Fisheries & Oceans if fish/mussel related; <i>Endangered Species Act</i> administered by Ministry of the Environment (Provincial)
Navigational impediment as a moving vessel	Transport Canada
Navigational impediment as a moored vessel	Transport Canada & Local Municipalities (via VORR's)
No building or construction standards specifically related to FAs exist	Transport Canada
FAs pay no taxation to support consumption of local emergency services or waste management services	Municipality
Mooring in any location	Municipal zoning (not yet tested in court)
Mooring on private lakebeds (must make contact with private property beneath the water)	OPP – Trespass to Property Act

Issue / Concern with Floating Accommodations	Expected Responsible Agency
Spawning ground / fish habitat damage caused by the steel spuds into lakebeds	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) (Federal water control); DFO supported by Parks Canada in National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas; MNR (inland lakes); responsible for the management of fisheries
Floating Accommodations becoming vacation rentals (VRBO or Airbnb)	Municipal by-laws (e.g. Short-Term Rental by-laws and zoning by-laws)
Floating Accommodations becoming an unregulated expansion of a cottage	Federal waters – Parks Canada in National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas Provincial waters- <i>Public Lands Act</i> administered by MNR prohibits FAs from occupying provincial public land through regulation Privately owned waters – Municipality

During our early discussions, each of the agencies that we expected to play a partial and/or full role to control Floating Accommodations felt they were not legislated to manage and regulate Floating Accommodations. Many felt that other agencies were better equipped to regulate the problem or that, given Transport Canada's designation of FAs as vessels, that Transport Canada was the ultimate controlling ministry. Agencies outside of Transport Canada were of the opinion that any attempt to act would result in legal proceedings that given the vessel designation, would likely be unsuccessful with respect to the agency responsible for legal expenses.

What Changes Have Been Made to Support a Regulatory Framework?

The shift to create enforceable solutions came via 2 separate but foundational insights:

1. ***Glaspell vs Ontario 2015*** – Clarifying lakebed ownership which has become the cornerstone strategy “anchoring” all of the in-force regulatory frameworks.
2. ***Freedom of Information request to Transport Canada*** – Clarified 3 important aspects:
 - a) *Floating Homes vs Floating Accommodations: Floating Homes are not vessels; Floating Accommodations are vessels.*

- b) Transport Canada's primary (and some would say only) objective is vessel safety. They do not believe their mandate / charter per the Canadian Transport Act (2001) mandates them or requires them to control Floating Accommodations.*
- c) Transport Canada has expressed strong public support of the newly launched MNR Floating Accommodation regulatory framework (161/17). Transport Canada's guidance to other agencies interested in governing FAs was very clear – use the MNR framework to guide your actions.*

It is critical to the municipal strategy that readers of this position paper are comfortable with the solid underpinnings of the current provincial, federal and criminal regulatory framework.

The Glaspell v Ontario ruling [[Glaspell v Ontario 2015 ONSC 3965](#)] has clarified 3 elements that have been 'baked' into case law informing FA regulations formed by Parks Canada and MNR.

- a) Glaspell ruling established that all lakebeds and riverbeds are the ownership of either federal crown, provincial crown or private ownership, and separately, municipalities have the option to issue zoning controls over those lakebeds.*
- b) The ownership of lakebed can act as a basis to authorize or not permit a floating object overhead to cast a shadow over the lakebed and by definition occupying that lakebed.*
- c) Resulting from the case law establishing enforceable lakebed ownership, the principle of authorized vs unauthorized occupation of crown land (lakebed) has been crystallized into FA regulatory frameworks.*

The importance of Glaspell was vital to the success of the regulatory frameworks that have emerged. The critical learning here is that historically all enforcement by Parks Canada, MNR, and OPP was through "land-based" policies. Had any of these agencies sought to remedy through water-based policies, they likely would have lost any court challenge due to the vessel designation that Transport Canada would likely uphold. Seeking to control Floating Accommodations through land-based laws was a masterful stroke of genius and we applaud the leadership of MNR, Parks Canada and OPP.

Municipalities would be advised to consider and build on the positive implications of the Glaspell ruling in their formation of FA zoning and governance by-laws.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR Ontario) was first out of the gate to create their regulatory framework based on the Glaspell ruling. Specifically, 161/17 which is exactly the right regulatory framework to govern Floating Accommodations.

The full definition of Ontario Regulation 161/17 is found in this link [[MNR Regulation 161/17 governing Floating Accommodations](#)] The fundamentals of 161/17 include:

- a) Defining what is and what is not a floating accommodation.*
- b) Defining occupation of provincial crown land by the shadow of a floating object overhead on crown lakebed.*
- c) Conveying that a floating accommodation is not permitted to occupy provincial lakebed and shoreline.*
- d) The ability to charge the owner of the floating accommodation in the event they are occupying provincial lakebed without permission.*

The principles underlying the MNR 161/17 framework (released in summer of 2023) has since been adopted in principle by both Parks Canada and OPP and both agencies have identified enforcement avenues where appropriate.

Parks Canada's solution was issued in 2024 and mirrors MNR's strategy. The full definition of Parks Canada's regulation can be found in the following link [[Parks Canada Mooring Regulations covering Floating Accommodations](#)]. The fundamentals of Parks Canada's framework include:

- a) Defining what is a floating accommodation in a manner similar to MNR.*
- b) Requiring all floating accommodations secure a permit to lawfully moor over federal lakebeds overnight.*
- c) Failure to obtain a permit constitutes "unauthorized occupation" of federal lands and the occupying person(s) will be charged accordingly.*

Lastly, the OPP have embraced a similar lakebed ownership strategy for privately owned lakebed. They have case law where they have successfully prosecuted a floating accommodation that was making actual contact with a private lakebed in an unauthorized manner and consequently the FA owners were charged and successfully prosecuted with trespassing.

The Townships of Severn and Georgian Bay Experience

As we described in the first few pages, the existing regulatory framework created by MNR, Parks Canada and OPP has a few gaps. Severn Township recognized that early on and amended their by-law in 2024 [[Township of Severn Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)]. A similar by-law amendment was enacted in the Township of Georgian Bay in 2025 [[Township of Georgian Bay Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)].

The essential element of these amended by-laws, described in this position paper as Response #1 on page 5, is very simple... FAs cannot exist on waters within the boundaries of these two townships.... period. While they have not been tested in court, one by-law has already been successfully used as a deterrent to an FA presence. Several other townships are actively studying and considering implementing similar by-laws for their respective jurisdictions.

There Are Numerous Lessons Gained Along This Journey

Our grass roots organization **Floating Accommodations not Vessels Coalition** experienced many peaks and valleys in the journey to facilitate the appropriate agencies to successfully manage and control the new “issue” of Floating Accommodations.

It would be an accurate reflection to say that only if we knew then what we know now...

There are six key learnings:

- 1) *It takes a team of motivated, passionate, patient people to stick with it... we discussed after year one and two – was this worth it? Yes! While it took our coalition four years to get here, we believe our efforts have been instrumental in facilitating the right framework that can be applied province-wide.*
- 2) *When working with federal and provincial agencies who say no, don't take that for an answer, keep up the pressure, continue to make your issue their issue. At some point in time the right set of agencies will step forward and get to the solution. In our case that was a combination of Parks Canada, MNR, OPP and our local municipalities – the Townships of Severn and Georgian Bay.*
- 3) *Broad based support by multiple grass roots organizations was key to our combined success. In our case that consisted of numerous local Cottage Associations large and small who all successfully raised their voices. We would do it again in the same way.*
- 4) *While appeals by local politicians and provincial MPP's and federal MP's to both provincial and federal ministers didn't directly solve the issue, it greatly helped to communicate the seriousness of the issue.*
- 5) *Sometimes, it takes a change in basic assumptions and in this case it was the insights gained from the Glaspell ruling to get to the right answer. Together with MNR, Parks Canada and OPP we were fortunate enough to understand the pathway and leverage Glaspell.*
- 6) *Media! We were fortunate to tap into print, tv, radio, social media – it all helped. We brought on partners like Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA) and Cottage Life to spread the message. Had we had more financial resources we would have stepped up our investment in social media... maybe next time!*

Acknowledgements and Thank You.

We would like to thank in no particular order...

- *Working group members from our partners at Parks Canada, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Provincial Police.*
- *Working group members from our municipal partners - Mayors, Councillors and Staff from Severn Township, Township of Georgian Bay, Tay Township and Township of the Archipelago.*
- *Gloucester Pool Cottagers' Association & Georgian Bay Association*
- *The Decibel Coalition*
- *Safe Quiet Lakes Coalition*
- *Cottage Life*
- *Many cottage associations, and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA)*
- *And lastly, the Floating Accommodations Not Vessels Coalition members who authored this position paper*

While we did strive to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this information, the authors assume no responsibility for any omissions to or errors that may be contained within this position paper.

We the members of the Floating Accommodations not Vessels Coalition wish to express our deep gratitude and thanks to all the members mentioned above that have been instrumental in this journey.... Thank you!

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MARKSTAY-WARREN
RESOLUTION

Agenda Item # 12.a

NO: 2025-RCM - 62

DATE: May 20, 2025

MOVED BY: Rachelle Poirier

SECONDED BY: Laura Schell

Whereas on April 9, 2025, the Government of Ontario (hereafter, the "Province"), led by Premier Doug Ford, announced a proposal to expand by "Strong Mayor Powers" as provided for by Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to the heads of council in 169 additional municipalities, effective May 1, 2025;

And whereas Strong Mayor Powers erode the democratic process and have fundamentally altered the historic model of local governance, which has existed for almost two centuries, by:

- providing the head of council with the authority to unilaterally give direction and make certain decisions without a consensus from a majority of the members of council; and,
- creating a power imbalance by providing the head of council with special powers that other members do not generally have.

And whereas the Province is undermining the local governance model and municipal independence by attempting to advance its priorities through municipalities and downloading its responsibilities to the same.

Now therefore be it resolved that:

- The Council of the Municipality of Markstay-Warren ("Council") **opposes** the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025;
- That Council **directs** the CAO/Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; All Local MPPs; AMCTO, AMO and All Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED



MAYOR

DIVISION VOTE

	YEA	NAY		Disclosure on interest
Steven Olsen				
Rachelle Poirier				
Laura Schell				
Ross Evans				
Francine Bérubé				



May 21, 2025

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

Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Via Email: rob.flack@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Flack,

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers - Proposed Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22

Please be advised that at its Regular Meeting held Tuesday, May 20, 2025, the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Markstay-Warren passed the following resolution respecting the matter referenced in the above subject line:

Whereas on April 9, 2025, the Government of Ontario (hereafter, the "Province"), led by Premier Doug Ford, announced a proposal to expand by "Strong Mayor Powers" as provided for by Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to the heads of council in 169 additional municipalities, effective May 1, 2025;

And whereas Strong Mayor Powers erode the democratic process and have fundamentally altered the historic model of local governance, which has existed for almost two centuries, by:

- providing the head of council with the authority to unilaterally give direction and make certain decisions without a consensus from a majority of the members of council; and,
- creating a power imbalance by providing the head of council with special powers that other members do not generally have.

And whereas the Province is undermining the local governance model and municipal independence by attempting to advance its priorities through municipalities and downloading its responsibilities to the same.

Now therefore be it resolved that:

- The Council of the Municipality of Markstay-Warren ("Council") **opposes** the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025;



- That Council **directs** the CAO/Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; All Four Local MPPs; AMCTO, AMO and All Ontario Municipalities

We thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to respect the democratic wishes of our Council and community.

Sincerely,

Kim Morris, CAO
The Corporation of the Municipality of
Markstay-Warren

Cc: The Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
Regional Members of Provincial Parliament
All Ontario Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)



June 6, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
 Legislative Building
 Queens Park
 TORONTO ON M7A 1A4
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

At the Municipality of Bluewater's regular Council meeting held on June 2, 2025, Council received a resolution distributed by the Town of LaSalle regarding the Northern Health Travel Grant Program. Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater passed the following resolution:

MOVED: Councillor Bailey **SECONDED:** Councillor Walden
 THAT the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater supports the resolution passed by the Town of LaSalle regarding the Northern Health Travel Grant Program; and

THAT this resolution of support be circulated to all Ontario municipalities, Premier Doug Ford, Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron Bruce, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Ms. Sylvia Jones.
CARRIED.

Attached is the resolution passed by the Town of LaSalle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial 'A'.

Chandra Alexander
 Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk

cc:

Lisa Thompson, Huron-Bruce MPP
 Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier
 Jennifer Astrologo, Director of Council Services/Clerk
 Ontario Municipalities



February 4, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Re: Northern Health Travel Grant Program

Council of the Town of LaSalle, at its Regular Meeting held Tuesday, January 28, 2025, passed the following resolution:

14/25

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Akpata
Seconded by: Councillor Renaud

Whereas the Northern Health Travel Grant program (the "Program") offers financial assistance to Northern Ontario residents who need to travel long distances for specialized medical services or procedures at a ministry funded health care facility;

And Whereas, the grants for this Program are based on the distance residents must travel to reach the nearest medical specialist or ministry funded healthcare facility;

And Whereas, residents must travel at least 100 kilometers one-way to access the nearest medical specialist or ministry-funded healthcare facility for services that are not available locally to qualify for the grant;

And Whereas, there are many occasions in which residents of Windsor-Essex County must travel at least 100 kilometers one way to access health care facilities or services that are not available locally; And Whereas, there are four primary children's hospitals across the province, located in London, Hamilton, Toronto and Ottawa, and none of these facilities are within 100 kilometers of Windsor-Essex County;

And Whereas, it has been reported that more than 5,000 times each year pediatric patients across Windsor-Essex County must drive to London Health Sciences Centre for treatment at its Children's Hospital, which places a financial strain on families and care-givers;

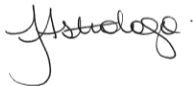
Now Therefore, the Town of LaSalle calls upon the Provincial Government and Ministry of Health to establish a grant system similar to the Northern Health Travel Grant program in Windsor-Essex County to provide support to the residents of Windsor-Essex County when they need to travel long distances for specialized medical services or procedures at ministry funded health care facilities;

And that, this motion be circulated to all municipalities for support, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Anthony Leardi, MPP Andrew Dowie, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Ms. Sylvia Jones and all local municipalities.

Carried.

Please consider this letter as confirmation of the Town of LaSalle's support of the above matter.

Yours Truly,



Jennifer Astrologo
Director of Council Services/Clerk
Town of LaSalle
jastrologo@lasalle.ca

Cc: (via email)
MPP Anothony Leardi Anthony.Leardi@pc.ola.org
MPP Andrew Dowie Andrew.Dowie@pc.ola.org
MPP Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org
Association of Municipalities of Ontario resolutions@amo.on.ca
All Ontario Municipalities



CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BLACK RIVER – MATHESON
367 FOURTH AVE, P.O. BOX 601, MATHESON, ON P0K 1N0
TELEPHONE (705) 273-2313 EMAIL : brm@twpbrm.ca WEBSITE: www.twpbrm.ca

Jon Pegg
Fire Marshal of Ontario
Office of the Fire Marshal
25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto, ON M3M 0B1

June 10, 2025

Via Email: Jon.Pegg@ontario.ca

Dear Fire Marshal Pegg:

Subject: Request for Exemption to Proposed Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements (O. Reg. 343/22)

On behalf of the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the mandatory firefighter certification requirements under Ontario Regulation 343/22.

At its meeting held on June 10th, Council passed the attached resolution formally opposing the implementation of these requirements. While we recognize and support the importance of firefighter training and safety, the regulation as it stands does not adequately reflect the operational realities of small, rural, and northern municipalities.

Communities such as ours rely heavily on volunteer and composite fire departments that already face critical challenges in recruitment, training accessibility, and financial capacity.

Specifically, we are burdened by:

- Geographic barriers and long travel distances to accredited training centres,
- Inconsistent access to instructors and scheduling options,
- Limited budgets and competing capital demands,
- Difficulty in retaining and replacing volunteers due to increased regulatory pressures.

Without additional support, flexibility, or exemption mechanisms, the implementation of O. Reg. 343/22 will severely compromise our ability to provide consistent, timely, and effective fire protection to our residents.

Accordingly, the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson respectfully requests that the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Ministry of the Solicitor General:

1. Defer full implementation of the certification regulation for rural and northern municipalities,
2. Provide exemptions or alternative compliance pathways tailored to the needs and limitations of small, remote fire services,
3. Increase funding and training supports for municipalities outside major urban centres.

We believe that a one-size-fits-all regulatory model will disproportionately and unfairly affect communities like ours. A more flexible, consultative approach is urgently needed. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We would welcome further discussion and are open to participating in any future consultations or working groups aimed at resolving these challenges collaboratively.

Sincerely,

Dave Dymont, Mayor

/hjl

On behalf of the Council of Black River-Matheson

Encl.: Resolution No.2025-214 – Council Opposition to O. Reg. 343/22

CC:

The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General – michael.kerzner@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario – premier@ontario.ca

John Vanthof, MPP, Timiskaming—Cochrane – jvanthof-co@ndp.on.ca

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – amo@amo.on.ca

Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) – admin@fonom.org

All Ontario Municipalities


Corporation of the Township of Black River - Matheson

367 Fourth Avenue
P.O. Box 601
Matheson, Ontario
P0K 1N0

**ITEM # 2025-10.b)
RESOLUTION**

DATE: June 10, 2025

2025-214

Moved by Councillor Steve Campsall
Seconded by Councillor Alain Bouchard

WHEREAS the Ontario government has enacted O. Reg. 343/22, establishing mandatory certification requirements for firefighters under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997;

AND WHEREAS Council for the Township of Black River-Matheson acknowledges the importance of standardized firefighter training and safety;

AND WHEREAS these mandatory certification requirements pose significant challenges for small, rural, and northern municipalities due to limited financial and training resources, geographic barriers, and reliance on volunteer fire departments;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of these requirements without additional flexibility or support may negatively impact the Township's ability to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and provide adequate fire protection to its residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Township of Black River-Matheson formally opposes the mandatory firefighter certification requirements as currently outlined in O. Reg. 343/22;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Solicitor General, Premier of Ontario, MPP John Vanthof, the Fire Marshal, AMO, FONOM, and all Ontario municipalities

☒ CARRIED ☐ DEFEATED

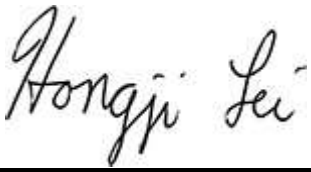
CHAIR SIGNATURE

☐ Original ☐ Amendment ☐ Refer ☐ Defer ☐ Reconsider ☐ Withdrawn

Recorded Vote-TO BE COMPLETED BY CLERK ONLY

	YEAS	NAYS
Mayor Dave Dymont		
Councillor Allen		
Councillor Charbonneau		
Councillor Campsall		

Councillor McCutcheon		
Councillor Gadoury		
Councillor Bouchard		



Hong Ji Lei
Town Manager/Clerk



June 6, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
 Legislative Building
 Queens Park
 TORONTO ON M7A 1A4
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

At the Municipality of Bluewater's regular Council meeting held on June 2, 2025, Council passed the following resolutions:

MOVED: Councillor Whetstone **SECONDED:** Councillor Hessel
 WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has designated Municipality of Bluewater as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

WHEREAS the Municipality of Bluewater did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the Strong Mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Bluewater Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Municipality of Bluewater from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron Bruce, all Ontario municipalities, Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and the Association of Municipalities (AMO) for their awareness and support. **CARRIED**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter being a large capital 'A'.

Chandra Alexander
Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk

cc:

Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Lisa Thompson, Huron-Bruce MPP
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Association of Municipalities (AMO)
All Ontario municipalities



TOWNSHIP OF BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

June 6, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office
Room 281, Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

RE: Call for inclusive research to reflect diversity of Canadian communities

Dear Mr. Ford,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on June 4, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Town of Parry Sound.

Resolution No: 2025-05-04-08
Moved by: Councillor Kauffeldt
Seconded by: Councillor Keller

"Be it resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Town of Parry Sounds resolution regarding the Call for inclusive research to reflect diversity of Canadian communities.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs Cheryl Gallant, MP Billy Denault, MPP AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) All Ontario Municipalities."

Carried.

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND
RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL**

NO. 2025 – 046

DIVISION LIST

YES NO

DATE: April 15, 2025

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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED: ✓ **DEFEATED:** _____ **Postponed to:** _____

WHEREAS inclusive, evidence-based scientific research leads to better outcomes for Canadians by ensuring that all voices and experiences are reflected in the development of knowledge, treatments, and innovations;

WHEREAS Canadian municipalities benefit directly from research-informed policies on public health, infrastructure, education, environmental protection, and economic development;

WHEREAS diverse and inclusive research teams have been shown to generate more innovative, practical, and impactful solutions, and yet many equity-deserving groups, including women, remain underrepresented in science and research careers;

WHEREAS inclusive research strengthens our economy, healthcare system, and ability to address national and global challenges;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Parry Sound supports the national call for stronger federal support for inclusive research that reflects the diversity of Canadian communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be shared with other municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and relevant provincial and federal representatives for consideration and support.

Mayor Jamie McGarvey



TOWNSHIP OF BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

June 6, 2025

Minister of Children Community and Social Services
438 University Avenue, 7th floor,
Toronto, ON
M7A 1N3

RE: Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates

Dear Hon. Michael Parsa,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on June 4, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee.

Resolution No: 2025-05-04-07
Moved by: Councillor Keller
Seconded by: Councillor Banks

"Be It resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee resolution regarding Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and all Ontario Municipalities."

Carried.

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



Prince Edward-Lennox & Addington Social Services

95 Advance Avenue

Napanee, ON K7R 3Y5

Tel 613-354-0957 | Fax 613-354-1224

Toll Free 1-866-354-0957

April 10, 2025

Re: Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates

Please be advised that the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee, at its meeting held on April 10, 2025, approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

AND WHEREAS the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

AND WHEREAS people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

AND WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 percent as of July 2023 and another 4.5% as of July 2024 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month);

AND WHEREAS OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

AND WHEREAS designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

AND WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;



Prince Edward-Lennox & Addington Social Services

95 Advance Avenue

Napanee, ON K7R 3Y5

Tel 613-354-0957 | Fax 613-354-1224

Toll Free 1-866-354-0957

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Prince Edward-Lennox & Addington Committee requests the Provincial Government to urgently:

- 1. Increase Ontario Works rates to match the ODSP rate increases that have already been made and be indexed to inflation;**
- 2. Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;**

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Regards,

Sam Branderhorst

Signed with ConsignO Cloud (2025/04/11)
Verify with veriflo.com or Adobe Reader.



Sam Branderhorst, Chair

Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee

**Cc: Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services
Minister of Health
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
All Ontario Municipalities**



TOWNSHIP OF BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

June 6, 2025

The Honourable Minister Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

RE: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers

Dear Minister Flack,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on June 4, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards.

Resolution No: 2025-05-04-06
Moved by: Councillor Kauffeldt
Seconded by: Councillor Banks

"Be It resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards resolution regarding Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs Cheryl Gallant, MP Billy Denault, MPP AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) All Ontario Municipalities."

Carried.

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



Naturally Spirited

1 John Street, P.O. Box 39

Killaloe, ON K0J 2A0

Telephone: (613)757-2300 – Fax: (613)757-3634

email: info@khrtownship.ca

Web Site: www.killaloe-hagarty-richards.ca

April 16, 2025

The Honourable Minister Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers

Dear Minister Flack,

Council for the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards wishes to formally express our strong opposition to the implementation of “strong mayor” powers as introduced through recent amendments to the *Municipal Act, 2001* and related regulations.

Council has carefully reviewed the intent and implications of these powers, and we believe they are neither appropriate nor beneficial for the structure and scale of local government in our municipality. The Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards—like many rural and small-town communities across Ontario—has a longstanding tradition of cooperative governance, where all elected officials have an equal voice and decisions are made collectively, through open dialogue and democratic process.

The introduction of strong mayor powers, including the ability for mayors to unilaterally hire and dismiss senior staff, veto by-laws, and control budget processes, significantly undermines the fundamental principle of governance by council. This shift in authority creates an imbalance that risks eroding trust among council members, staff, and the public. It may also reduce transparency and accountability, which are cornerstones of effective and responsible municipal leadership.

The authority granted through strong mayor powers is primarily aimed at eliminating obstacles that hinder the construction of new housing. However, our municipal council is already making meaningful progress without relying on these powers. We are actively collaborating with two local non-profit organizations and the County of Renfrew to develop affordable and accessible housing units, demonstrating our commitment to inclusive housing solutions through partnership and community engagement.

Moreover, there is no demonstrated need for such powers in municipalities like ours. The current system—based on majority rule and consensus-building—has served our community well and reflects the values of fairness, representation, and collaboration that our residents expect from their local government. These powers may be intended for use in large urban centres facing unique governance challenges, but applying them more broadly to small and rural municipalities is both unnecessary and potentially disruptive.

We therefore respectfully request that your ministry reconsider the implementation of strong mayor powers across Ontario, particularly in municipalities that have not asked for, and do not require, such authority. We urge you to engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities of all sizes, and to recognize that one-size-fits-all approaches to governance often do more harm than good.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns further and to contribute to a broader conversation about how best to support good governance and municipal autonomy in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Council for Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards

cc: Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs
 Cheryl Gallant, MP
 Billy Denault, MPP
 AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario)
 All Ontario Municipalities

June 13, 2025

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of June 10, 2025 the following resolution regarding support of advocacy to the Federal Government for 'disability without poverty' was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-345

DATE: June 10, 2025

MOVED BY: Councillor Roberts

SECONDED BY: Councillor Branderhorst

WHEREAS one in four Ontarians lives with a disability; and

WHEREAS the median household income in Prince Edward County (\$75K) is already well below both the Basic Living Income and the Ontario Median Household Income (\$84K); and

WHEREAS persons with disabilities are twice as likely to live in poverty and would already require an average of 30% more income just to reach the poverty line; and

WHEREAS the new federal benefit for people with disabilities (about \$200/month) and called the Canada Disability Benefit) is about to be rolled out; and

WHEREAS the Federal government has yet to exempt this new federal benefit from being considered income for federal tax purposes,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Mayor be requested to communicate with Prime Minister Carney that the Council of the County of Prince Edward calls on the Government of Canada to commit to exempting the Canada Disability Benefit from income tax and work towards supporting Canadians with a disability to live without poverty;

THAT Prime Minister Carney be requested to publicly confirm his government's commitment to making that legislative change as soon as possible; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to the federal Minister of Finance, the federal Minister of Health, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Prince Edward Lennox and Addington Social Services, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) and all municipalities in the Province of Ontario.

CARRIED



From the Office of the Clerk
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

Yours truly,

Victoria Leskie, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Branderhorst, and Adam Goheen, Interim CAO



June 13, 2025

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Mr. Premier,

RE: Council motion passed June 10, 2025

Please be advised that on June 10, 2025 during a City Council meeting, Guelph City Council passed the following resolutions in regards to the Special Economic Zones Act, 2025.

Moved By: Councillor Caron
Seconded By: Councillor Goller

1. THAT the City of Guelph opposes provisions in Bill 5, particularly under Schedules 2 and 9, and provisions in Bill 17, that would diminish environmental protections or override municipal planning authority; and
2. THAT the City of Guelph call on the Province of Ontario to obey their own rule of law, to pursue housing, forestry, infrastructure and critical mineral development through policies that follow sound environmental planning principles, uphold the planning authority of local government, respect Indigenous treaty obligations, and protect vital ecological systems; and
3. THAT City of Guelph Council endorse the City's submissions regarding Bill 5 to ERO 025-0391 - Special Economic Zones Act, 2025 and ERO 025-0380 - Species Conservation Act, 2025 as posted in Information Items on May 23, 2025; and
4. THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Mike Schreiner, MPP for Guelph; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Carried

Stephen O'Brien, General Manager, City Clerk's Office/City Clerk
Corporate Services. **City Clerk's Office**



T 519-822-1260 x 5644
E stephen.obrien@guelph.ca

City Hall
1 Carden St
Guelph, ON
Canada
N1H 3A1

T 519-822-1260
TTY 519-826-9771

guelph.ca

Copy:

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal
Affairs and Housing

Hon. Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of
Environment, Conservation and Parks

Hon. Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic
Development, Job Creation and Trade

Mike Schreiner, MPP for Guelph

Association of Municipalities of Ontario



June 16, 2025

Re: Item for Discussion – Road Salt Usage

At its meeting of June 11, 2025, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motion #24-GC-068, regarding Road Salt Usage, as follows:

“WHEREAS chloride concentrations have increased by at least 0.5 mg/L in 80 of 274 (29%) of the lakes sampled by the District of Muskoka between 2018 and 2022, and by 15-fold in Lake Muskoka since 1970;

AND WHEREAS Queen’s University scientist, Dr. Shelley Arnott, a leader in global research on the effects of road salt on lakes, has demonstrated that in Muskoka lakes, some important aquatic organisms are negatively affected at chloride exposure levels as low as 10 mg/L, far below the 120 mg/L long term or chronic exposure guideline;

AND WHEREAS roughly one quarter of lakes sampled by the District Municipality of Muskoka now have chloride levels above 10 mg/L;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Bracebridge:

1. Commits to ongoing efforts toward the reduction of road salt as much as possible, while maintaining safety on roads, including public reporting on annual use, supporting local efforts to research the ongoing impacts of road salt, and assisting education efforts.
2. Urges the Province of Ontario to work urgently with key stakeholders to develop limited liability legislation, including enforceable contractor training and a single set of provincially-endorsed standard Best Management Practices for snow and ice management on private lands; and to create and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the Province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems, drinking water and infrastructure from the impacts of salt pollution.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Attorney General of Ontario; the Muskoka-Parry Sound MPP; Conservation Ontario; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario, the District Municipality of Muskoka; and other lower-tier municipalities in Muskoka.”

In accordance with Council's direction, I am forwarding you a copy of the resolution for your reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional clarification in this regard.

Yours truly

Lori McDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk

**Municipality of Tweed Council Meeting
Council Meeting**



Resolution No. 274
Title: Notices of Motion
Date: Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Moved by D. DeGenova
Seconded by J. Palmateer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

WHEREAS under Ontario Regulation 391/21:Blue Box producers are fully accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging once they reach their end of life and are disposed of, for 'eligible' sources only;

AND WHEREAS 'ineligible' sources, which producers are not responsible for, include businesses, places of worship, daycares, campgrounds, public-facing and internal areas of municipal-owned buildings, and not-for-profit organizations, such as shelters and food banks;

AND WHEREAS failure to include 'ineligible sources under the Ontario Regulation 391/21:Blue Box program is in essence a provincial tax on ineligible sources;

AND WHEREAS should a municipality continue to provide services to the 'ineligible sources, the municipality will be required to oversee the collection, transportation, processing of the recycling, assuming 100% of the cost which amounts to yet another provincial municipal download;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Tweed Council hereby request that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21:Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling product from all sources;

AND FURTHER THAT Council hereby request the support of all Ontario Municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, Mike Harris, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ric Bresse, Member of Provincial Parliament for Hastings-Lennox and Addington, Minister of Affairs and Housing, Rob Flack and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried



Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
VIA EMAIL:
premier@ontario.ca

Hon. Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs
and Housing
VIA EMAIL:
rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

June 18, 2025

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Minister of the
Environment, Conservation
and Parks
VIA EMAIL:
todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org

MPP Joseph Racinsky
Wellington-Halton Hills
VIA EMAIL:
joseph.racinsky@pc.ola.org

RE: Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act 2025

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on May 28, 2025 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2025-167:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Hurst

That the Consent Agenda item 6.9 and 6.10 be received for information; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of “Special Economic Zones” that may override local planning authority; and

Whereas the Township of Puslinch supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes; and



Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario's natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Puslinch:

- **Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;**
- **Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;**
- **Opposes the use of Bill 5 that may reduce a municipality's ability to enforce its local by-laws (planning and other affected by-laws);**
- **Opposes the potential use of Bill 5 to supersede Ministry jurisdiction to require proper approvals such as ARA licences or ECAs; and**
- **Opposes the potential use of Bill 5 to apply a SEZ to lands that are already licenced through provincial approvals such as an ARA licence or ECA to supersede requirements under those licenses or approvals.**
- **Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:**
 - 1. The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario**
 - 2. The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing**
 - 3. The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks**
 - 4. MPP Joseph Racinsky**
 - 5. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)**
 - 6. All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration.**
 - 7. All Conservation Authorities in Ontario**
 - 8. Conservation Ontario**

CARRIED

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

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

Monika Farncombe

From: Jennifer E. Willoughby <jwilloughby@shelburne.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 9:50 AM
To: rob.flack@pc.ola.org; sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org; premier@ontario.ca; todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org
Cc: policy@amo.on.ca; Minister (MMAH); romachair@roma.on.ca; Alice Byl
Subject: Town of Shelburne - Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5

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Good Morning

At the May 12, 2025, meeting of Shelburne Town Council, the following resolution was passed unanimously

Moved By: Councillor Len Guchardi
 Seconded By: Councillor Lindsay Wegener

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of “Special Economic Zones” that may override local planning authority;

And Whereas the Town of Shelburne supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes;

And Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario’s natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That Council for the Town of Shelburne:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Urges the Province to support municipalities through ensuring responsible growth through infrastructure projects designed to ensure protection of sensitive wildlife and natural resources;

And Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario,

- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
- The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks,
- Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin–Caledon,
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO),
- All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration,
- All Conservation Authorities in Ontario,
- Conservation Ontario

CARRIED; Mayor Wade Mills

Thank You

Jennifer Willoughby, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Phone: 519-925-2600 ext 223 | Fax: 519-925-6134 | jwilloughby@shelburne.ca

Town of Shelburne | 203 Main Street East, Shelburne ON L9V 3K7

www.shelburne.ca



Resolution

Meeting Date: May 12, 2025

Resolution No. 2025-093

Moved: Councillor Prendergast

Seconded: Councillor Andrews

Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of “Special Economic Zones” that may override local planning authority; and

Whereas the Town of Orangeville supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes; and

Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario’s natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now therefore be it resolved that Council for the Town of Orangeville:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:
 - The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 - The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
 - The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and MPP for Dufferin–Caledon
 - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration.

Result: Carried Unanimously



111 Sandiford Drive
Stouffville, Ontario
L4A 0Z8

t: 905-640-1900
tf: 855-642-TOWN
townofws.ca

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Town of Stouffville Council Resolution of June 4th, 2025 – DS-021-25
Additional Residential Units and Other Matters in the Greenbelt and Oak
Ridges Moraine Area**

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville considered staff report DS-021-25, Additional Residential Units and Other Matters in the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine Area, a copy which is enclosed, at its meeting held on June 4, 2025. Council adopted the following resolution:

- 1) That Council endorse the following recommendations for the Province to consider permitting Additional Residential Units (ARUs) within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) and the Greenbelt Plan Area, as outlined in this Report:
 - a) Permit up to two ARUs in all of the ORMCP designations, including the Countryside Area, Natural Linkage Area, and Natural Core Area designations;
 - b) Permit up to two ARUs in all of the Greenbelt Plan designations, including the Protected Countryside and within the Natural Heritage System;
 - c) Permit up to two ARUs in the primary dwelling, or one ARU in the primary dwelling and/or one ARU in an existing or new accessory building/structure;
 - d) That the ARU development criteria outlined in Section 3.5 b) of this Report be considered to provide Provincial guidance in ensuring the responsible stewardship of the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine when evaluating the appropriateness of permitting ARUs, consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024; and
 - e) That the terminology and definitions within these Provincial Plans be updated to specifically reference ARUs and be consistent and align with the ARU permissions within prime agricultural areas under the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024.
- 2) That the Province expedite the amendments to the Provincial Plans at this time through Bill 17 (Protecting Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025), to implement updated permissions for ARUs which align with the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024, in order to facilitate the development of much needed housing.
- 3) That the Province expedite the review of the Provincial Plans at this time to consider addressing other matters to provide greater flexibility and guidance in implementation, as outlined in Section 3.6 of this Report, including:

- a) Expanded local decision-making powers and a process to implement minor amendments to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan should be considered;
 - b) Process and guidance for the redesignation of prime agricultural areas to rural areas;
 - c) Defer broader permissions for small scale commercial, industrial and institutional uses in the Countryside Area, including both rural and prime agricultural lands, of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan; until such time as staff bring forward a report providing additional clarification and information on this area.
 - d) Broader permissions for public service facilities / parks in the Countryside Area, including both rural and prime agricultural lands, of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan; and
 - e) Provincial guidance on settlement area expansions within the Countryside Area of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
- 4) That Council direct staff to submit this Report to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, and the Minister of Red Tape Reduction for consideration.
- 5) That Council direct staff to submit this Report to the Clerks of all municipalities within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area and the Greenbelt Plan Area for information.

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Kind regards,

Steven Medvesky,

Legislative Services Assistant – Council/Committee

Encl.: Staff Report DS-021-25 Additional Residential Units and Other Matters in the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine Area

COPY:

Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Hon. Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness

trevor.jones@pc.ola.org

Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Red Tape Reduction andrea.khanjin@pc.ola.org

Ontario Municipalities in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area and the Greenbelt Plan Area

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council Report**Item 10.3**

Subject: Additional Residential Units and Other Matters in the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine Area

Staff Report No. DS-021-25

Department/Commission: Development Services Commission

Date: June 4, 2025

Recommendation:

- 1) That Council endorse the following recommendations for the Province to consider permitting Additional Residential Units (ARUs) within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) and the Greenbelt Plan Area, as outlined in this Report:
 - a) Permit up to two ARUs in all of the ORMCP designations, including the Countryside Area, Natural Linkage Area, and Natural Core Area designations;
 - b) Permit up to two ARUs in all of the Greenbelt Plan designations, including the Protected Countryside and within the Natural Heritage System;
 - c) Permit up to two ARUs in the primary dwelling, or one ARU in the primary dwelling and/or one ARU in an existing or new accessory building/structure;
 - d) That the ARU development criteria outlined in Section 3.5 b) of this Report be considered to provide Provincial guidance in ensuring the responsible stewardship of the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine when evaluating the appropriateness of permitting ARUs, consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024; and
 - e) That the terminology and definitions within these Provincial Plans be updated to specifically reference ARUs and be consistent and align with the ARU permissions within prime agricultural areas under the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024.
- 2) That the Province expedite the amendments to the Provincial Plans at this time through Bill 17 (Protecting Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025), to implement updated permissions for ARUs which align with the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024, in order to facilitate the development of much needed housing.
- 3) That the Province expedite the review of the Provincial Plans at this time to consider addressing other matters to provide greater flexibility and guidance in implementation, as outlined in Section 3.6 of this Report, including:

- a) Expanded local decision-making powers and a process to implement minor amendments to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan should be considered;
 - b) Process and guidance for the redesignation of prime agricultural areas to rural areas;
 - c) Broader permissions for small scale commercial, industrial and institutional uses in the Countryside Area, including both rural and prime agricultural lands, of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan;
 - d) Broader permissions for public service facilities / parks in the Countryside Area, including both rural and prime agricultural lands, of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan; and
 - e) Provincial guidance on settlement area expansions within the Countryside Area of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
- 4) That Council direct staff to submit this Report to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, and the Minister of Red Tape Reduction for consideration.
- 5) That Council direct staff to submit this Report to the Clerks of all municipalities within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area and the Greenbelt Plan Area for information.

Report Highlights

- Recent Provincial legislation and policies, including the new Provincial Planning Statement, October 2024, permit up to two Additional Residential Units (ARUs) within prime agricultural areas.
- Notwithstanding, the policies of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Greenbelt Plan are more restrictive and take precedence.
- This Report summarizes the policy challenges to permit ARUs within these Provincial Plan Areas and provides recommendations to the Province to more broadly permit ARUs within the agricultural and rural areas of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan, along with additional recommendations related to the two Provincial Plans.

1. Purpose:

As per the Mayoral Directive to staff (MDI-2025-001), dated February 4, 2025 (see Attachment 1), staff is bringing this Report to Council to:

- outline the policy challenges with respect to permissions for Additional Residential Units (ARUs) within the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan Area and the Greenbelt Plan Area; and
- provide recommended changes to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) and the Greenbelt Plan for consideration by the Province.

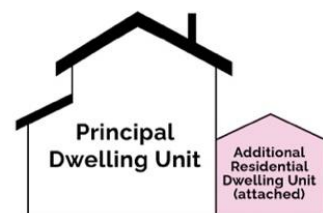
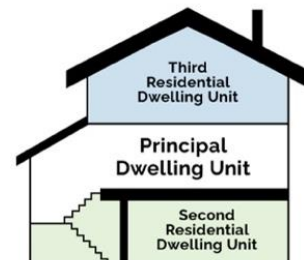
Staff is seeking Council endorsement of the recommended changes to the ORMCP and the Greenbelt Plan, and for Council to direct staff to submit comments to the Province for consideration, as outlined in this Report.

2. Background:

As per the Mayoral Directive to Staff (MDI-2025-001), dated February 4, 2025 (see Attachment 1), staff have prepared this Report to Council outlining the current permissions and policy challenges for permitting Additional Residential Units (ARUs) within the agricultural areas of the ORMCP and the Greenbelt Plan, and provide comments to the Province for consideration, as outlined in this Report. In the context of this Report, reference to the “Provincial Plans” is a reference to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan.

While the Planning Act does not explicitly define “Additional Residential Units” (ARUs), the legislation refers to ARUs as comprising a second and a third residential unit in addition to a primary residential unit, for a total of three units, on a residential lot containing a detached house, semi-detached house or townhouse. A “residential unit” includes self-contained rooms containing a kitchen, sleeping and bathroom facilities intended for the exclusive use of the unit. ARUs must also adhere to Ontario Building Code and Fire Code requirements.

ARUs are also commonly referred to as second units, secondary suites, accessory dwelling units, basement apartments, coach houses, laneway houses, garden suites, and tiny homes.



The Town's [New Adopted Official Plan, May 2024](#), outlines broad policies to permit ARUs throughout the Town, in conformity with Provincial legislation and Plans. Section 3.2.1 of the Official Plan outlines where ARUs may be permitted and the associated development policies. The Official Plan defers to the Town's Comprehensive Zoning By-law to establish specific regulations for the development of ARUs throughout the Town.

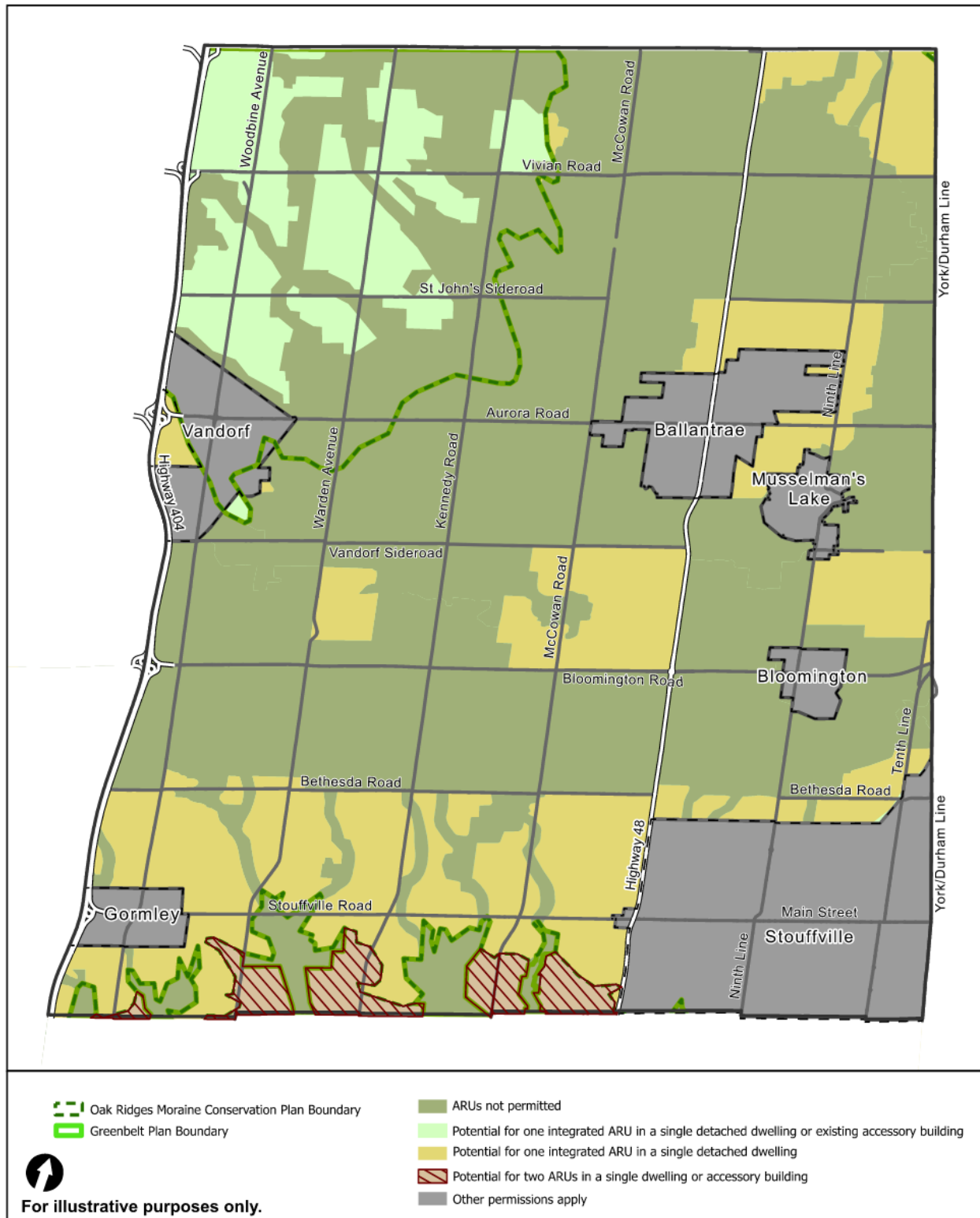
On June 19, 2024 Council approved [Zoning By-law Amendment 2024-078-ZO](#) to establish zoning regulations for permitting ARUs in conformity with the Planning Act and Provincial Plans.

As outlined in Section 3 of this Report, the new Provincial Planning Statement 2024 (PPS 2024), permits up to two ARUs within prime agricultural areas. Notwithstanding, the Provincial Plans (Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan) are more restrictive, and only permit one secondary dwelling unit within certain land use designations, while prohibiting ARUs in other designations. These Provincial Plans take precedence over the PPS 2024, and municipal planning instruments and decisions must conform to the Provincial Plans. In staff's view, the Province should consider permitting ARU's more broadly within the Oak Ridges Moraine and Greenbelt Area to align with recent Provincial legislation and the new PPS 2024, as outlined in this Report.

3. Analysis:

This section outlines the current Provincial legislation and policies which provide direction on the permissions for Additional Residential Units (ARUs) within the prime agricultural areas and rural areas of the Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP).

Figure 1 provides a summary and illustration of where ARUs are currently permitted in the Town, as further described below.

Figure 1 – Additional Residential Unit Permissions in the Agricultural/Rural Area

3.1 Planning Act

On November 28, 2022, the Province updated the Planning Act to permit Additional Residential Units (ARUs) “as-of-right” in settlement areas that have municipal water and municipal sewage servicing. These changes were intended to increase housing supply in the Province. Notwithstanding, permissions for ARUs, particularly within the agricultural and rural areas that are governed by the ORMCP and the Greenbelt Plan, do not permit ARUs as-of-right, but are further restrictive in permitting ARUs in accordance with those Provincial Plans, as discussed below.

The Planning Act (S. 16(3) and 35.1) provides legislation that restricts municipal Official Plans and Zoning By-laws from prohibiting the use of ARUs on a “parcel of urban residential land”. The Planning Act defines a “parcel of urban residential land” to generally include land that is within a settlement area that permits a residential use in the zoning by-law, and that is serviced by a municipal sewage and drinking water system. Furthermore, the Planning Act restricts the appeal of Official Plan policies and zoning regulations that implement the permissions for ARUs.

Notwithstanding, ARUs may still be permitted elsewhere throughout the Town’s agricultural and rural areas and privately serviced settlement areas, in accordance with the Provincial Plans, and at the discretion of the municipality.

3.2 Provincial Planning Statement, 2024

The new Provincial Planning Statement (PPS, 2024) took effect in October 2024, replacing the Provincial Policy Statement, 2020, and largely revoking the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2020. The PPS, 2024 provides broad policy guidance on matters of provincial interest relating to land use planning across the Province.

The PPS, 2024 permits up to two ARUs on a lot in prime agricultural areas (S. 4.3), in accordance with provincial guidance, and provided that, where two ARUs are proposed, at least one of these ARUs is located within or attached to the principal dwelling.

Furthermore, the PPS establishes general criteria for permitting ARUs, which include:

- a) comply with the minimum distance separation formulae;
- b) are compatible with, and would not hinder, surrounding agricultural operations;
- c) have appropriate sewage and water services;
- d) address any public health and safety concerns;
- e) are of limited scale and are located within, attached, or in close proximity to the principal dwelling or farm building cluster; and
- f) minimize land taken out of agricultural production.

Lots with ARUs are not permitted to be severed, as only one new residential lot, for a residence surplus to an agricultural operation as part of a farm consolidation, is permitted (S. 4.3.3.1.c)). Furthermore, ARUs that are permitted on a lot in a prime agricultural area, are in addition to farm worker housing which is permitted as an agricultural use (S. 4.3.2.6).

Notwithstanding the above, the ORMCP and Greenbelt Plan are more restrictive in permitting secondary units within the agricultural area. Municipal planning instruments and decisions are required to conform to the ORMCP and Greenbelt Plan, and therefore take precedence over the PPS, 2024, as outlined below. Furthermore, the Provincial Plans have not yet been updated to specifically address permissions for ARUs.

The PPS, 2024 ARU permissions would only be applicable to the lands within the Town that are located outside of the ORMCP and Greenbelt Plan Area, which includes the lands designated Agricultural Area in the southern portion of the Town, which have also been identified as New Urban Areas (i.e. settlement expansion areas) in the Town's New Adopted Official Plan.

3.3 Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, 2017

The ORMCP, 2017, does not specifically refer to ARUs, however, the Plan defines a "single dwelling" as: *"a building containing only one dwelling unit and, in any area other than an area within a Natural Core or Natural Linkage Area, includes a building containing one primary dwelling unit and no more than one secondary dwelling unit"*.

As such, only one secondary dwelling unit may be permitted within the primary dwelling within the Countryside Area designation of the ORMCP. The ORMCP does not permit secondary dwelling units within an accessory building or structure, nor are they permitted within the Natural Core Area and Natural Linkage Area designations which comprise a significant portion of the Town's agricultural areas. Furthermore, the ORMCP does not permit up to two secondary dwelling units on a lot in prime agricultural areas, which is more restrictive than the PPS.

3.4 Greenbelt Plan, 2017

The Greenbelt Plan, 2017, does not specifically refer to ARUs, however, the Plan permits secondary dwelling units within a single dwelling or within an existing accessory structure, provided the lot is not located within the Natural Heritage System of the Greenbelt Plan (S. 4.5.3).

As such, only one secondary dwelling unit may be permitted within a single dwelling or an existing accessory structure within the Protected Countryside Area, but outside of the Natural Heritage System of the Greenbelt Plan. The Greenbelt Plan does not permit a secondary dwelling unit within the Natural Heritage System, or within a new accessory structure. Furthermore, the Greenbelt Plan does not permit up to two secondary dwelling units on a lot in prime agricultural areas, which is more restrictive than the PPS.

3.5 Recommended Additional Residential Unit Permissions and Supporting Rationale

In staff's view, the Province should consider updating the ORMCP and Greenbelt Plan policies to specifically permit ARU's to align with recent Provincial legislation and the new

PPS, 2024. Staff recommends that the Province expedite the review of these Provincial Plans, as opposed to waiting until the mandated 10-year review (anticipated by 2027), to establish a consistent planning framework and ARU permissions across the Province and help facilitate the development of needed housing.

a) Additional Residential Unit Permissions:

It is recommended that the permissions for ARUs in the ORMCP and Greenbelt Plan Area be expanded to include:

- Permit up to two ARUs in all of the ORMCP designations, including the Countryside Area, Natural Linkage Area, and Natural Core Area designations;
- Permit up to two ARUs in all the Greenbelt Plan designations, including the Protected Countryside and within the Natural Heritage System; and
- Permit up to two ARUs in the primary dwelling, or one ARU in the primary dwelling and/or one ARU in an existing or new accessory building/structure.

Furthermore, the terminology and definitions within the Provincial Plans should be updated to specifically reference ARUs to be consistent and align with the ARU permissions within prime agricultural areas under the PPS, 2024.

b) Additional Residential Unit Development Criteria:

The Provincial Plans should also provide guidance to ensure responsible stewardship of the Greenbelt and ORMCP when evaluating the appropriateness of permitting ARUs within the Provincial Plan areas, consistent with Section 4.3.2.5 of the PPS, 2024, which include:

- a) comply with the minimum distance separation formulae;
- b) are compatible with, and would not hinder, surrounding agricultural operations;
- c) have appropriate sewage and water services;
- d) address any public health and safety concerns;
- e) are of limited scale and are located within, attached, or in close proximity to the principal dwelling or farm building cluster; and
- f) minimize land taken out of agricultural production.

Furthermore, the future potential severance of ARU's in the Provincial Plans should be restricted, consistent with the PPS, 2024.

Given the environmental sensitivity associated with lands within the Provincial Plan Areas, it may also be appropriate to include additional development criteria for permitting ARUs to ensure the objectives of the ORMCP and Greenbelt Plan are maintained, which may include or relate to:

- **Setbacks from key natural heritage features or hydrologic features** – As with all buildings or structures within the Provincial Plan Areas, development within the Area of Influence (i.e., within 120m) of a key natural heritage feature or hydrologic feature would require a Natural Heritage Evaluation and/or Hydrologic Evaluation to confirm the significance of the feature(s) and establish appropriate Minimum Vegetation Protection Zones (i.e. minimum of 30m), including appropriate buffers and recommended mitigation measures to demonstrate no adverse impacts and ensure the ecological integrity of the feature(s).
- **ARU and associated scale** – ARU additions and ARU's in an accessory building should be limited in size (i.e. gross floor area, lot coverage, etc.) to minimize potential impacts on natural features, and maintain the rural character of the area.
- **Location and limited development envelope** – ARUs should be located in close proximity to the existing dwelling or farm building cluster and existing infrastructure, including existing disturbed areas to limit the extent of land taken out of agricultural production.
- **Infrastructure** – ARUs should make efficient use of existing on-site infrastructure (i.e. wells, septic beds, etc.), when feasible. Required infrastructure should not have an adverse effect on natural and hydrological features.

c) **Supporting Rationale**

In staff's view, the potential impacts associated with expanded ARU permissions within the Provincial Plan Areas, are not inherently different from other permitted uses and buildings/structures, and it is not necessary to further restrict ARUs in the Provincial Plans. ARUs would be subject to the same or similar development criteria as other permitted uses to ensure no adverse impacts to the natural or hydrological features or the fragmentation of agricultural areas. For example, farm help dwellings, bed and breakfast establishments, home occupations, and other agricultural-related and on-farm diversified uses and buildings are permitted throughout the prime agricultural areas, subject to meeting the applicable development criteria, and as further established in the [OMAFRA Guidelines on Permitted Uses in Ontario's Prime Agricultural Areas \(Publication 851\)](#).

Furthermore, expansions to existing single dwellings and the construction of new accessory structures may be permitted subject to a minor variance application supported by appropriate environmental studies and are routinely sought at the Committee of Adjustment. This has a comparable impact to ARUs and the evaluation process. Potential home expansions/retrofits or the construction of new accessory structures should also be able to accommodate an ARU, while minimizing any potential adverse environmental impacts.

The majority of the Town's agricultural lands are located within the Provincial Plan Areas, and more specifically, within the ORMCP Natural Core Area and Natural Linkage Area, and the Natural Heritage System of the Greenbelt Plan, which do not permit a secondary

dwelling. As such, the majority of the Town's rural residents are unable to utilize the Federal and Provincial incentives to build even a single ARU. Allowing for ARUs more broadly would accommodate multi-family residential units on the same lot, allowing older residents to stay in their homes longer, and allow younger families to live in their own units, and save money to afford their own home. ARUs can also provide a source of secondary income and contribute to the provision of more affordable housing options within the Town.

3.6 Other Matters to Address

In addition to the expanded ARU permissions, staff have identified the following additional matters for consideration in reviewing and updating the Provincial Plans, to provide greater flexibility and guidance in implementation:

- **Expanded local decision-making powers** – In staff's view the Provincial Plans are overly restrictive and do not provide flexibility to account for local circumstances and planning or economic development objectives. Updates to the Provincial Plans, certain delegated authorities to municipalities and/or a process to implement minor amendments to facilitate development in a less onerous and streamlined manner, should be considered. Furthermore, greater coordination and consistency between the Provincial Plan policies and technical study requirements is required to streamline the planning approvals process and facilitate development.
- **Process for the redesignation of prime agricultural areas** – Prior to the enactment of the new Provincial Planning Statement, October 2024, (and revoking of the Growth Plan), and the removal of York Region planning responsibilities on June 1, 2024, the redesignation of prime agricultural areas could only be considered through an upper-tier Municipal Comprehensive Review, which is no longer applicable.

While the existing OMAFRA Implementation Procedures for the Agricultural System provides guidance on how to implement the agricultural system, it is not clear what the process is to consider requests to redesignate prime agricultural areas to rural areas. Further guidance and flexibility is required to consider the redesignation of prime agricultural areas to rural areas. Staff understand that OMAFRA will be developing updated Implementation Procedures to implement and align with the new PPS, 2024.

- **Permissions for small scale commercial, industrial and institutional uses** – Small scale commercial, industrial and institutional uses are only permitted within rural areas of the Countryside Area designation of the ORMCP. However, there are instances where such uses may be appropriate in prime agricultural areas which have limited agricultural capacity. Greater flexibility is required to contemplate such uses, either through the redesignation of prime agricultural areas to rural areas or less restrictive Provincial Plan policies. Furthermore,

expanded use permissions for small scale commercial, industrial and institutional uses should be considered in both the Rural and Prime Agriculture designations, to allow for greater economic development opportunities.

- **Permissions for public service facilities / parks** – The Provincial Plans are overly restrictive with respect to permissions for public service facilities (such as fire halls, community centres, libraries, etc.) and serviced parks which are not permitted in prime agricultural areas of the Countryside Area. The Community of Stouffville is surrounded by the Countryside Area which comprises prime agricultural areas. Greater flexibility is required to consider such uses within these areas to support the development of complete communities and provide adequate space for community needs while accommodating housing growth within the settlement areas.
- **Provincial guidance on settlement area expansions** – The “Implementation” section of the ORMCP provides opportunities for settlement area expansions. The section refers to policies of the Growth Plan and provides the opportunity to expand the boundaries of settlement areas by upper tier municipalities as part of a municipal comprehensive review process, provided they are only within the Countryside Area designation. Notwithstanding, through the Minister’s approval of the York Region Official Plan, the Minister chose to modify the Official Plan to remove certain settlement area expansions that were adopted by York Region Council through the Region’s municipal comprehensive review. Since the removal of planning responsibilities from certain upper tier municipalities, and the enactment of the new PPS, 2024, further flexibility, clarification and guidance is required from the Province on permitting settlement area expansions in the Countryside Area designation of the ORMCP. The Town’s settlement areas are entirely surrounded by lands within the ORMCP, and greater flexibility is required to ensure the logical expansion of settlement areas while balancing the Provincial objectives of developing complete communities, utilizing existing infrastructure, and protecting the ecological functions of the moraine.

4. Options:

4.1 Option A (Recommended) – Submit Comments to Province

That Council direct staff to submit this Report to the Province for consideration in incorporating the Town’s recommended Additional Residential Unit permissions within the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and the Greenbelt Plan Areas, and other matters for consideration. Furthermore, staff recommends that the Province expedite the review of the Provincial Plans (currently anticipated by 2027) to implement updated permissions for ARUs which align with the new PPS, to facilitate the development of much needed housing.

5. Financial Implications:

None.

6. Broader Intergovernmental Impacts and/or Considerations:

This Report recommends changes to the policies of the Provincial ORMCP and Greenbelt Plan to permit ARUs more broadly within the agricultural areas, among other matters, for consideration by the Province.

7. Communication:

As previously referenced, on June 19, 2024 Council approved Zoning By-law Amendment 2024-078-ZO to establish zoning regulations for permitting ARUs in conformity with the Planning Act and Provincial Plans. As part of that process the following public engagement took place.

1. On March 4, 2024 Town of Stouffville's Development Planning hosted a Drop-in Public Consultation Session to introduce the community to the project and seek feedback and answer questions.
2. Following this on May 1, 2024, a Statutory Public Meeting was held to introduce zoning by-law changes necessary to bring ARU permissions into conformity with the Planning Act.
3. On May 10, 2024 an online survey was released to receive further feedback from the public.

Through this consultation, and since then, Staff have routinely received development inquiries and requests to construct ARUs within the Greenbelt and ORMCP, and the desire for greater flexibility from the Provincial Plan requirements.

8. Alignment with Strategic Plan:

1. A Town that Grows
A Town that grows in support of complete communities
6. Good Governance
Provide Good Governance

9. Attachments:

Attachment No. 1 – Mayoral Directive to Staff MDI-2025-001, February 4, 2025

10. Related Reports:

[June 19, 2024 – DS-029-24 – Recommendation Report: Proposed Town-Wide Zoning Bylaw Amendments - Additional Residential Units \(File No. ZBA24.003\)](#)

Authors: Brandon, Slopach, Senior Development Planner
Randall Roth, Senior Policy Planner
Hena Kabir, Manager, Development Planning
Meaghan Craven, Manager, Policy Planning

For further information on this report, please contact the Department Head: Dwayne Tapp, Commissioner of Development Services at 905-640-1900 or 1-855-642-8697 ext. 2431 or via email at Dwayne.tapp@townofws.ca



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

☎ 905-640-1910 ex. 2100

✉ mayor@townofws.ca

Date: February 4, 2025

Mayoral Directive to Staff MDI-2025-001

Direction to Staff re: Additional Residential Units

Under the Authority: Part VI.1 (Special Powers and Duties of Head of Council) of the Municipal Act, 2001, Sections 284.3 & 284.4 (Direction to Employees) the Mayor may direct Staff to:

- (a) undertake research and provide advice to the head of council and city council on policies and programs of the City or of the head of council as they relate to the powers and duties under this Part; and
- (b) carry out duties related to the exercise of the power or performance of the duty, including implementing any decisions made by the head of council under this Part.

Therefore, I hereby direct Staff as follows:

1. Prepare a report to Council outlining policy challenges with respect to permissions for Additional Residential Units (ARUs) within the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine by the end of Q2; and
2. Provide a list of recommended changes to the Greenbelt Act and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan to send to the Province for their consideration.

Thank you,

Iain Lovatt
Mayor



Emily Thomas-Hopkins
Legislative Coordinator
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328 Station Main
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7
Email: ethomashopkins@newmarket.ca
Tel: 905-953-5300 x2210
Fax: 905-953-5100

June 6, 2025

Sent to: prem@cavernousmalformation.ca

Dear Prem Kaur:

RE: Lighting Request – June 24, 2025 – Cavernous Malformation Awareness Month

I am writing to advise that your lighting request has been approved in accordance with the Council-approved [Proclamation, Lighting Request and Community Flag Raising Policy](#), and the Town of Newmarket will illuminate the Fred A. Lundy Bridge located on Water Street in red on June 24, 2025 to recognize Cavernous Malformation Awareness Month. Please note that the lighting will occur from sunset until 11:00 PM.

Approved proclamations, lighting requests, and community flag raisings will be listed on the Town's website. Approved lighting and community flag raisings will also be communicated to the public through the Town's social media.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "ETH", written in a fluid, cursive style.

Emily Thomas-Hopkins

Legislative Coordinator



Emily Thomas-Hopkins
Legislative Coordinator
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328 Station Main
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7
Email: ethomashopkins@newmarket.ca
Tel: 905-953-5300 x2210
Fax: 905-953-5100

June 20, 2025

Sent to: viteljovoicecanada@gmail.com

Dear Hessa Asmani:

RE: Lighting Request – June 25, 2025 – World Vitiligo Day

I am writing to advise that your lighting request has been approved in accordance with the Council-approved [Proclamation, Lighting Request and Community Flag Raising Policy](#), and the Town of Newmarket will illuminate the Fred A. Lundy Bridge located on Water Street in purple on June 25, 2025 to recognize World Vitiligo Day. Please note that the lighting will occur from sunset until 11:00 PM.

Approved proclamations, lighting requests, and community flag raisings will be listed on the Town's website. Approved lighting and community flag raisings will also be communicated to the public through the Town's social media.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "ETH", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Emily Thomas-Hopkins

Legislative Coordinator