



# The Regional Municipality of Durham

## COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

### February 26, 2021

#### Information Reports

- 2021-INFO-22** Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – re: Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update
- 2021-INFO-23** Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – re: Economic Development and Tourism Annual Report 2020
- 2021-INFO-24** Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – re: Proposed Federal Clean Fuel Standard Regulations - Land Use and Biodiversity
- 2021-INFO-25** Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – re: Provincial consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt, ERO# [019-3136](#)

#### Early Release Reports

There are no Early Release Reports

#### Staff Correspondence

There is no Staff Correspondence

#### Durham Municipalities Correspondence

There are no Durham Municipalities Correspondence

#### Other Municipalities Correspondence/Resolutions

1. **Township of The Archipelago** – re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on February 19, 2021, requesting that Minister Clark review the Municipal Elections Act and provide amendments to provide clearer, stronger wording to assist Municipal Clerks in addressing issues to allow for a more definitive decision to be made when adding names to the voters' list

2. **Township of South Glengarry** – re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on February 16, 2021, in support of the resolution passed by the Township of South-West Oxford in support of the use of Automatic Speed Enforcement (photo radar) by municipalities
3. **Township of South Glengarry** – re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on February 16, 2021, in support of the resolution passed by the Township of Guelf/Eramosa and urging the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services to review the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and consider the recommendations as presented by the Township of Guelf/Eramosa
4. **Municipality of St. Charles** – re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on February 22, 2021 in support of the resolution passed by the Municipality of Tweed regarding Cannabis Production Facilities, the Cannabis Act, and Health Canada Guideline
5. **Township of Tiny** – re: Correspondence to Graydon Smith, President, The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, asking that reconsideration be given to the closure of the Ontario Fire College, until a plan is in place to support municipalities with the resources and funding that is required to adequately train and support its fire fighters

#### **Miscellaneous Correspondence**

1. **Steve Clark, Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing** – re: Correspondence to Regional Council announcing that the ministry is launching a consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt, and seeking feedback on ways to grow the size and further enhance the quality of the Greenbelt
2. **Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasures of Ontario (AMCTO)** – re: An Open Letter to Ontario Municipal Councils regarding the importance of municipalities continuing to invest in staff training

#### **Advisory / Other Committee Minutes**

1. Durham Environmental Advisory Committee (DEAC) minutes – February 18, 2021

Members of Council – Please advise the Regional Clerk at [clerks@durham.ca](mailto:clerks@durham.ca), if you wish to pull an item from this CIP and include on the next regular agenda of the appropriate Standing Committee. Items will be added to the agenda if the Regional Clerk is advised by Wednesday noon the week prior to the meeting, otherwise the item will be included on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the applicable Committee.

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# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
Report: #2021-INFO-22  
Date: February 26, 2021

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**Subject:**

Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update, File: D07-17-10

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the virtual Public Open House meetings held on February 1 and February 4, 2021 which presented the draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update to members of the public for questions and comments.

**2. Background**

2.1 The Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update project began in 2015. The project is being led by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) working on the Region's behalf, and in consultation with staff from the City of Pickering and Town of Ajax.

2.2 In early 2020, a draft Watershed Plan was prepared, and the project entered its final stage of public consultation. On March 13, 2020 the draft Watershed Plan was released for public review and comment. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and limitations imposed on organized public events and social gatherings, public consultation including a planned Public Open House was suspended.

2.3 On December 16, 2020, Regional Council authorized staff to resume public consultation and to schedule two virtual Public Open House meetings. During the December 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, questions were raised about the ability to successfully engage virtually, and staff undertook to report back following the virtual Public Open House meetings.

### **3. Previous Reports and Decisions**

3.1 Further background details, including the draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update can be found in the linked documents available below:

- Commissioners Report [#2020-P-20](#) requesting authorization to resume public consultation and to schedule two virtual Public Open House meetings.
- Commissioners Report [#2020-INFO-18](#) advising Council on the Status of Phase 2 of the Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update, including the release of the draft Watershed Plan for public review and comment.

### **4. Notification and Format of the Public Open Houses**

4.1 Notification of the February 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Open House meetings was provided by:

- Email distribution to the Carruthers Creek Watershed interested parties list by TRCA staff;
- A posting on the [project website](#);
- An advertisement in the Ajax/Pickering newspaper (January 7, 2021);
- Social media distribution;
- A targeted mailout to residents in the rural portions of the Watershed (approximately 500 homes), on the basis that there may be limited internet availability and/or newspaper circulation in this area;

4.2 The Town of Ajax also undertook its own a targeted mailout to 550 households located in the Watershed.

4.3 The format for the Open Houses included an introductory presentation summarizing the draft Watershed Plan, followed by a question and answer period. During the question and answer period, members of the public could ask questions of the TRCA and Region of Durham project team. A series of poll questions were also asked at various times, soliciting input from participants on a range of topics and questions.

4.4 A pre-recording of the presentation was made available on the TRCA project webpage in advance of the meeting for those unable to attend one of the two virtual Public Open House meetings.

## **5. Summary of Virtual Public Open House Meetings**

5.1 The virtual Public Open House meetings were well attended, with 84 attendees on February 1, 2021 and 50 attendees on February 4, 2021, for a total 134 attendees. For reference, a total of 50 persons attended the two in-person Public Open House meetings held in October of 2019.

5.2 A total of 44 questions were asked by attendees and answered by TRCA and Durham Region staff at the virtual Public Open Houses. The main themes of questions included:

- Flood Mitigation / Risk;
- Headwaters Development;
- Planning Process;
- Bill 229 Schedule 6;
- Watershed Planning Process;
- Watershed Monitoring;
- Natural Heritage System Recommendations; and
- Waterfront development.

5.3 In addition to providing verbal responses to questions, TRCA and Regional staff provided several links where further information on these topics could be found.

5.4 A memorandum summarizing the virtual Public Open House meetings including the questions that were asked and the responses provided, can be found in Attachment #1.

## **6. Next Steps**

6.1 The draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update remains available for public review and comment. The final date to provide comments to the TRCA on the draft Watershed Plan is March 19, 2021. Comments can be submitted via the TRCA [project website](#) or by sending an email to [carruthers@trca.ca](mailto:carruthers@trca.ca).

6.2 Upon the closing of the public review and consultation period on March 19, 2021, TRCA staff will collect and summarize the comments that have been received. TRCA staff will then make final changes to the draft Watershed Plan to address

public comments. The final version of the Watershed Plan will be presented at an upcoming meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee.

## **7. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

7.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- a. Goal 1: Environment and Sustainability – The completion of the Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update will contribute to the protection, preservation and restoration of the natural environment, including greenspaces, waterways, parks, trails and farmlands (1.3).
- b. Goal 1: Environment and Sustainability – The completion of the Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update will contribute to demonstrating leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change (1.4).

## **8. Conclusion**

8.1 The two virtual Public Open House meetings, held on February 1 and February 4, 2021, were well attended. The draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update remains available for public review and comment. The final date to provide comments on the draft Watershed Plan is March 19, 2021.

8.2 Once all feedback has been considered, the final document will be presented to the Planning and Economic Development Committee.

## **9. Attachments**

Attachment #1: Memorandum summarizing virtual Public Open House meetings, prepared by Tony Morris, Senior Protect Manager, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development

# Memo

**To:** Brad Anderson, Principal Planner, Policy Planning and Special Studies, Region of Durham

**From:** Tony Morris, Senior Project Manager, Watershed Planning and Reporting

**Cc:** Laura Del Giudice, Senior Manager, Watershed Planning and Reporting  
Colleen Goodchild, Manager, Policy Planning and Special Studies, Region of Durham  
Gary Muller, Director of Planning, Region of Durham

**Date:** February 11, 2021

**Re:** Summary of Virtual Open Houses – Draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan

This memo provides a summary of the virtual open houses held on the draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan (CCWP) in February 2021 by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), in collaboration with the Region of Durham.

## Engagement Summary

Two virtual open houses were held on Monday, February 1 and Thursday, February 4 from 7 to 8 pm attended by a total of 134 individuals. TRCA used GoToWebinar as the platform for hosting the virtual events. Table 1 identifies the attendance rate for the two virtual sessions. In comparison, the two in-person open houses (one in Ajax and one in Pickering) held in October 2019 on the draft management framework for the CCWP were attended by approximately 50 individuals combined ([See Communications and Consultation Summary – 2019](#) for more information).

*Table 1 - Virtual Open Houses Attendance Rate*

Date	Registrants	Attendees	Attendance Rate
Monday, February 1	129	84	65%
Thursday, February 4	76	50	66%

## Advertising

The following methods were used to advertise the virtual open houses:

- Social media reminder posts on January 26 to TRCA's Twitter and Facebook feeds, retweeted by Region of Durham.
- Newspaper advertisement on January 7 in the Pickering/Ajax News Advertiser (See Figure 1 in Appendix A).



## Summary of Virtual Open Houses – Draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan

- Direct mailout (approximately 500) to rural residents in northern part of watershed by Region of Durham that followed the format of the newspaper ad.
- Email to 76 individuals on January 4, 2021 to the CCWP subscribers list advertising the two virtual open houses and providing the registration links.
- Social media posts on January 4 to TRCA’s Twitter and Facebook feeds, retweeted by the Region of Durham and Town of Ajax.
- Email to 182 individuals on December 17, 2020 advising that Regional Council of Durham decided on December 16 to resume public engagement on the draft CCWP. This email list was provided by Region of Durham staff and contained individuals that had responded to a letter campaign initiated by Environmental Defence regarding the request for a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) in the headwaters of Carruthers Creek. The email distributed on December 17 by TRCA advised individuals to sign up for the subscribers lists for the CCWP if they would like to learn more about the project.

TRCA staff notified Region of Durham, City of Pickering and Town of Ajax staff of all virtual open houses advertisement efforts and encouraged cross promotion through municipal channels.

All notifications included the date to submit comments (March 19) and links to the [TRCA project webpage](#). A prerecorded presentation was available on the project webpage for those unable to attend either virtual open house.

### Virtual Open Houses Summary

Both virtual open houses followed the same format. Each virtual open house began with a presentation on the draft CCWP by TRCA project management staff. Following the presentation, TRCA project management staff moderated questions written in the chat or by attendees that had raised their hand. Questions were answered by a panel of TRCA or Region of Durham staff. Table 2 provides a summary of the questions and responses from the two virtual open houses grouped together by topic. A total of 20 questions were asked on Monday, February 1 and 24 questions were asked on Thursday, February 4. The most common questions related to flood mitigation/risk, headwater development and staying informed about planning proposals. Table 2 is not a comprehensive list of the questions and responses verbatim, but a general synopsis of both virtual open houses.

*Table 2 - Summary of Questions and Responses*

Topic	Questions	Responses
Flood Mitigation / Risk	<p>What flood mitigation measures are being considered for lower Carruthers (i.e. Flood Vulnerable Cluster)?</p> <p>How can watershed planning hope to mitigate downstream flooding in the future?</p> <p>Is there an example of flood mitigation being included in the modelling?</p>	<p>TRCA provided responses referencing the management recommendations in the plan (1.1.3) that would require additional studies, including a hydraulic analysis, for future headwater development. TRCA explained that the proposed mitigation arising from a previous environmental assessment was based on existing land use conditions.</p>

Summary of Virtual Open Houses – Draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan

Topic	Questions	Responses
	<p>Will decisions on flood controls in the headwaters be made before land use decisions?</p> <p>What about site specific flood concerns (i.e. bottlenecks for flows near Caldicott Court)?</p> <p>Could we expect a change to flood plain mapping from this plan?</p> <p>What can homeowners in the flood plain do?</p>	<p>For TRCA to be able to accept regional control there would need to be provincial approval, updated hydrology modelling and the establishment of regional control feature designs and standards and support from the relevant municipalities.</p> <p>TRCA staff explained that mitigation measures to reduce flood risk can include structural measures like dykes or berms, non-structural measures like site specific emergency planning and education. Additional mitigation measures for water quality and quantity, are Low Impact Development features that can be implemented on site, through conveyance (i.e. street design), or end-of-pipe stormwater management. This includes things like bioswales, green roofs, permeable pavement, which can improve water quality and reduce runoff. With newer tools (e.g. 2D models in the area), other mitigation opportunities like crossing improvements can be examined.</p> <p>Staff explained that the regulatory flood plain is based on current state of topography and land uses. Flood plain mapping is routinely updated as municipal Official Plans change and with the most recent topographical information. The watershed plan’s management recommendations speak to updated flood plain mapping as land use decisions are made.</p> <p>Residents can search addresses to find out if they are in the regulatory flood plain and what that means on TRCA’s website. TRCA’s Living City Policies outline what is allowed within the regulated area. Multiple factors like flood risk, erosion risk, and natural heritage features are considered.</p>

Summary of Virtual Open Houses – Draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan

Topic	Questions	Responses
<p>Headwater Development</p>	<p>Can you provide a synopsis of Pickering’s interest in development of the headwaters and MZO request?</p> <p>Could you discuss the Veraine plan specifically?</p> <p>Are there limits on what can be developed? Who, other than the municipality makes the decision?</p> <p>What impacts would the Veraine Plan have on watershed health and potential flooding?</p>	<p>Regional staff explained a development concept known as “Veraine”, which is a proposed Settlement Area Boundary Expansion that is proposed to allow for 60,000 residents [and 45,000 jobs] in NE Pickering. The Region has a public position that Settlement Area Boundary Expansions should not be approved through the use of an MZO and that this decision should only be made through a Municipal Comprehensive Review of the Regional Official Plan to allow appropriate studies and analysis.</p> <p>Regional staff also explained the Envision Durham (Municipal Comprehensive Review) process and encouraged participation in that to stay apprised of growth management planning. It was explained that the Town of Ajax and City of Pickering would be the planning authorities for their relevant parts of the watershed [for local planning matters and development applications], but that the Region is the planning authority [that would make recommendations] on Urban Area Boundary expansions in the headwaters of Carruthers Creek</p> <p>[For further clarification, while the Region makes recommendations on Urban Area Boundary expansions, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing makes the final decision through the review and approval, or through modifications, to the Region’s Official Plan. In the event that an Urban Area Boundary expansion is approved in the Region’s Official Plan, Area Municipalities would be required to conform with the Region’s Official Plan by updating their local Official Plans and potentially by preparing a Secondary Plan(s) for new urban land]</p> <p>TRCA staff explained that the watershed plan does not look at the Veraine</p>

Summary of Virtual Open Houses – Draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan

Topic	Questions	Responses
		<p>proposal specifically, but rather general urban development in the headwaters of Carruthers Creek, which would lead to an increase in peak flows, among other potential watershed impacts. Additional study would be needed to determine the appropriate mitigation if development is approved.</p>
<p>Planning Process</p>	<p>What can members of the community do to stay informed and raise concerns about upcoming developments?</p> <p>How can we prevent MZOs?</p> <p>What response can regional staff provide to indicate that protection will be considered over development?</p>	<p>Attendees were encouraged to stay apprised of municipal Committee and Council meetings, write to their local and provincial officials as well as the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.</p> <p>Regional staff explained that recommendations on any potential development would be tied to the recommendations in the watershed plan and direct local municipalities accordingly.</p>
<p>Bill 229, Schedule 6</p>	<p>With changes to TRCA's powers by the provincial government, what are the chances protecting the watershed will be foremost in regional government's mind?</p> <p>How will Bill 229, Schedule 6 affect this plan?</p>	<p>TRCA responded that Bill 229 changed the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i>. The watershed plan was developed to support provincial policies, so the changes to the Act do not affect the watershed plan.</p> <p>Regional staff indicated that the Region did provide comments on Bill 229, but does not see those changes directly affecting the watershed plan or its implementation.</p>
<p>Watershed Planning Process</p>	<p>Will the watershed plan be plain language?</p> <p>Who initiated the process?</p> <p>How is watershed plan development funded?</p>	<p>The watershed plan is written to be as plain language as possible. The online comment form for the draft CCWP contains requests for comments on sections that need additional clarity.</p> <p>Regional staff explained that the development of the watershed plan was requested by the Region of Durham in collaboration with TRCA. The Region of Durham is funding the watershed plan development.</p>

Summary of Virtual Open Houses – Draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan

Topic	Questions	Responses
Monitoring	<p>How often will data from various monitoring stations be published?</p> <p>How have turbidity levels changes with the 407 construction?</p> <p>How are toxins being monitored?</p>	<p>TRCA explained that it is in the process of developing a watershed and ecosystem Reporting Hub that will make data far more accessible, with links to TRCA's Open Data portal. The Reporting Hub will be updated as new data become available, for example some components will be updated annually, while others would be every three years (e.g. fisheries).</p> <p>The construction of the 407 would have increased turbidity which has likely gone down since then.</p> <p>The watershed has two water quality stations to monitor water chemistry.</p>
Natural Heritage System (NHS) Recommendations	<p>Pickering Council minutes from September 29 sought to have TRCA modify the recommendations regarding the proposed enhanced NHS. What is TRCA's perspective on this?</p> <p>How was the NHS derived and how do you intend to achieve it?</p>	<p>TRCA explained that any alternative NHS would need to meet the intent of the watershed plan and its goals.</p> <p>To develop the enhanced NHS, TRCA used several technical methods that look at climate vulnerabilities, ecological connectivity, and habitat quality modelling to prioritize areas for potential enhancements.</p>
Waterfront development	<p>There is a lot of talk of new waterfront development, how can residents learn about these proposals and protect the waterfront?</p> <p>Will increased development near the waterfront affect the severity of the flood vulnerable cluster?</p>	<p>TRCA/Regional staff explained that planning applications are publicly available and that residents can provide feedback to local councillors and view Committee/Council meeting agendas and minutes.</p> <p>It was explained that the waterfront neighbourhoods drain directly to Lake Ontario and that imperviousness in those neighbourhoods would affect local drainage but would not impact the flood flows from the lower Carruthers as those come from upstream areas.</p>
<p>TRCA and Regional Staff also provided numerous links to attendees to address particular questions, which are listed below:</p> <p><a href="#">TRCA Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan</a></p> <p><a href="#">Envision Durham – Municipal Comprehensive Review</a></p> <p><a href="#">Regional Council Meeting Minutes – July 29, 2020 – MZO Request in Northeast Pickering</a></p>		

Summary of Virtual Open Houses – Draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan

Topic	Questions	Responses
<a href="#"><u>Regional Council Report – November 25, 2020 – Bill 229 – Changes to the Conservation Authorities Act and Planning Act</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>Regional Council Meeting Minutes – November 25, 2020 – Bill 229</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>TRCA Response to Government Third Reading – Bill 229</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>TRCA Response to MZO – Durham Live (Duffins Wetland)</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>TRCA Regulated Area Search (Find out if your property is within the Regulated Area)</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>Subscribe for TRCA Flood Messages</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>TRCA Flood Warning and Forecasting Contact Form</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>TRCA Frequently Asked Questions – Planning and Permits</u></a>		
<a href="#"><u>TRCA Open Data Portal</u></a>		

Table 3 provides the results of the interactive poll questions asked during each virtual open house.

Table 3 - Interactive Poll Results

Poll Question	Monday, February 1	Thursday, February 4
<b>1. After reading the draft CCWP and/or listening to this presentation, is the purpose of watershed planning clear?</b>		
Very clear	45%	41%
Sort of clear	45%	47%
Not very clear	10%	12%
<b>2. What is your biggest concern in the Carruthers Creek watershed?</b>		
Water quality	7%	12%
Flooding	18%	35%
Increased urban development	56%	35%
Not enough natural cover	11%	12%
Other	9%	6%
<b>3. Which goal in the draft CCWP is the most important to you?</b>		
Goal 1: Land Use	24%	19%
Goal 2: Water Resource System	9%	3%

Summary of Virtual Open Houses – Draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan

Poll Question	Monday, February 1	Thursday, February 4
Goal 3: Natural Heritage System	7%	23%
All are equally important	59%	55%
<b>4. Which method listed below would be an effective way to keep you informed of plan implementation, if approved?</b>		
Email subscriber list / social media	31%	56%
Annual reports posted online	6%	N/A*
Establishment of a Stakeholder Advisory Committee	13%	6%
All of the above should be considered	50%	38%
<b>5. Municipalities and TRCA should _____ to implement watershed plans.</b>		
Do more than currently	79%	74%
About the same as currently	21%	11%
Less than currently	0%	15%
<b>6. How did you hear about this Virtual Open House?</b>		
Email	25%	10%
Social media	21%	10%
Newspaper	10%	21%
Direct mailout	13%	34%
Other (e.g. word of mouth)	31%	24%
*Note: there was an error in this poll that did not include Annual Reports Posted Online as one of the options for Thursday, February 4.		

**Background**

The draft CCWP was publicly released in March 2020 for a 90-day public review period with an open house in April. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic the public review period was paused by Regional Council on April 8, 2020. Regional Council directed that:

- The public comment period for the CCWP be paused until the Covid-19 emergency state is lifted by all levels of government, at which time the public comment period would restart.
- An in-person Public Open House be rescheduled once the emergency state is lifted by all levels of government to ensure proper due process and meaningful consultation.
- The public be provided a minimum of three weeks notification of an in-person Public Open House, and a minimum of six weeks after the Public Open House meeting to provide written comments, consistent with the pre-COVID-19 timing.

Due to the continued Covid-19 pandemic, Regional Council directed on December 16, 2020 to resume public engagement on the draft CCWP virtually with the public comment period closing March 19, 2021.

Appendix A

## NOTICE OF VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE: DRAFT CARRUTHERS CREEK WATERSHED PLAN

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, in collaboration with Durham Region, is hosting two virtual open houses on the draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan.

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**Monday, February 1**  
from 7pm to 8pm

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**Thursday, February 4**  
from 7pm to 8pm

*\*Phone in option available*

Please submit comments or any requests for additional information about this process to [carruthers@trca.ca](mailto:carruthers@trca.ca).

### LEARN MORE AND REGISTER FOR THE EVENTS

Please visit [trca.ca/carruthers-creek-watershed-plan](http://trca.ca/carruthers-creek-watershed-plan) to view all available material, including the Draft Watershed Plan, and to register for either of the two upcoming virtual events. Staff will be available on the dates above to answer any questions and to receive comments.

Comments on the Draft Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan can also be submitted online or by email until March 19, 2021.



*Figure 1 - Copy of Newspaper Ad*



If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2564



# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
Report: #2021-INFO-23  
Date: February 26, 2021

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**Subject:**

Economic Development and Tourism Annual Report 2020

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a brief overview of the Region's Economic Development and Tourism Division's 2020 activities and programs. Included as Attachment #1 is The Durham Region Economic Development and Tourism Annual Report 2020.

**2. Background**

2.1 The Economic Development and Tourism Division provides updates on its activities and programming to the Planning and Economic Development Committee regularly. The Annual Activity Report is presented as a high-level summary in addition to these regular, more detailed updates.

2.2 The Annual Report summarizes activities undertaken by the various sections of the Division which include Business Development and Investment, Agri-Business and Rural Economic Development, Marketing and Cluster Development, Tourism, Broadband, and the Local Immigration Partnership.

- 2.3 In addition, the Annual Report provides an economic snapshot, and spotlights on entrepreneurship and innovation initiatives, sector development initiatives, highlights from special programs and activities, as well as awards and recognized achievements.
- 2.4 In 2020 the activities of the Economic Development and Tourism Division were significantly adjusted from the original work plan both as a result of, and in response to, the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 Economic Development and Tourism Annual Report provides a high-level overview of COVID-19 business impacts and response.

### **3. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

3.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

a. Goal 2: Community Vitality.

- 2.5: Build a healthy, inclusive, age-friendly community where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

b. Goal 3: Economic Prosperity.

- 3.1: Position Durham Region as the location of choice for business
- 3.2: Leverage Durham's prime geography, social infrastructure, and strong partnerships to foster economic growth
- 3.3: Enhance communication and transportation networks to better connect people and move goods more effectively
- 3.4: Capitalize on Durham's strengths in key economic sectors to attract high-quality jobs
- 3.5: Provide a supportive environment for agriculture and agri-food industries.

c. Goal 5: Service Excellence.

- 5.3: Demonstrate commitment to continuous quality improvement and communicating results.

### **4. Conclusion**

4.1 The Economic Development and Tourism Division Annual Report will continue to be produced on an annual basis.

**5. Attachments**

Attachment #1: Durham Region Economic Development and Tourism Annual  
Report 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development



# 2020 Durham Region

## Economic Development and Tourism Annual Report



### 2020 Year in Review

- Economic Snapshot
- COVID Response
- Business Investment and Attraction
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Tourism
- Sport Tourism
- Rural and Agriculture
- Film Durham
- Broadband
- Local Immigration Partnership
- Marketing
- Awards



**The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our communities have been significant in 2020. While there have been heartbreaking stories along the way from our business community, there have also been stories of innovation, strength and perseverance.**

Small businesses have demonstrated incredible resilience. Many have launched e-commerce and curbside pick-up, while others have created entirely new products and services. All have been focused on enhanced safety protocols. In Clarington, a Virtual Farmers Market was launched featuring a collection of local agri-food businesses, which provides access to high-quality, fresh, local food. ConnexHealth Inc., a client of Durham College's AI/HUB, partnered with Pharmalinx Medical Centre to offer free prescription delivery, ensuring safe access to this important service. Breweries and distilleries across Durham pivoted their operations very early on to produce hand sanitizer when there was a major shortage. These are just a few of the many stories of business innovation that have emerged in Durham Region in 2020.

In the Economic Development and Tourism Division, we gathered our colleagues from around the region to form the Durham Economic Task Force (DETF). We have been working together to collaborate on dozens of projects since the pandemic was declared in March 2020. We've surveyed businesses, delivered webinars and roundtables, produced online local business directories, and created information websites for businesses and residents alike.

While financial stress continues to be the top impact and concern for businesses, we are seeing signs that our economy will emerge stronger from this crisis. Commercial and industrial development is growing. Investment inquiries are picking up. Some significant and impactful investments are coming soon in our community, including the new Ontario Power Generation Headquarters in Clarington, as well as the first grid-tied Small Modular Reactor in the world, General Motors' vehicle assembly returning to Oshawa, and the opening of the Pickering Casino Resort and Thermëa Spa Resort in Whitby.

We are planning projects for 2021 that will help our business community build back a strong, innovative, resilient local economy. We will promote the region for new investment, assist businesses to grow and create jobs, and support innovation in our technology sector. We will enable agri-food businesses to grow and diversify; promoting our local food producers, retailers and the culinary sector. We'll continue the important work of bringing high-speed broadband connectivity to our underserved communities.



At the heart of what we do—and why we do it—is supporting the growth and prosperity of our community. And I'm full of optimism about what we'll do next.

**Simon Gill**  
Director, Economic Development and Tourism

## Economic Snapshot

Durham Region is one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Ontario, experiencing an estimated 8% growth between 2016 and 2019.



# 1,300,000

Durham Region's expected population by 2051



# 12,666

Businesses in Durham Region



# \$899.3 million

of non-residential investment in Durham Region in 2019 – 54.9 per cent increase above 2018



# 79%

of Durham businesses surveyed indicate that financial challenges remain the top concern in responding to the pandemic



# 58%

of companies in the Greater Toronto Area report shrinking

## COVID Response

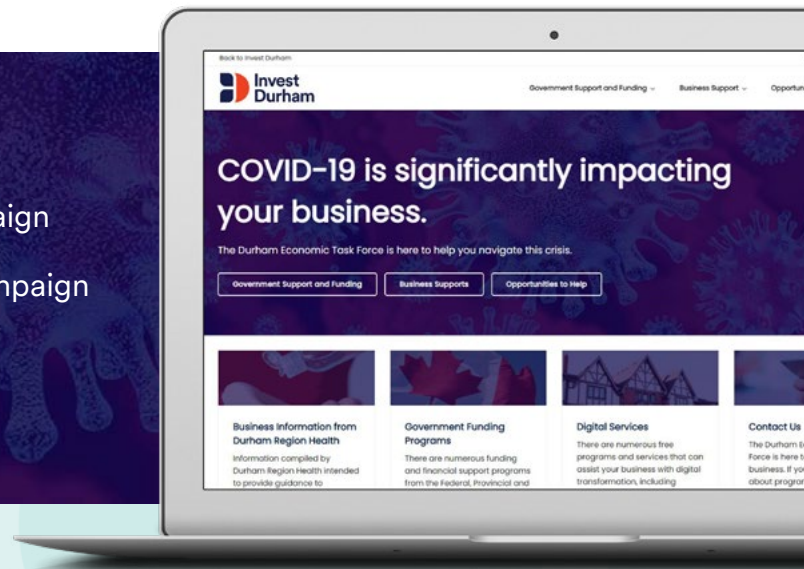
2020 was incredibly challenging for business. In immediate response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Durham Economic Task Force (DETF) was formed.

Made up of Regional and local area economic development teams, our Boards of Trade, Chambers of Commerce and Business Improvement Areas (BIAs), the group also includes the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Rural and Agriculture and the Business Advisory Centre of Durham.

Leading numerous projects in coordination with the DETF was a major area of focus for Invest Durham in 2020.

### Major Projects:

- COVID-19 Response Website and Campaign
- Downtowns of Durham Website and Campaign
- Shop in Durham – Shop Local Campaign
- Shop Durham Region Marketplace



### By the Numbers:



26

community partner organizations in the DETF



1,225

businesses supported through COVID response local directory websites



1,040

businesses supported through Digital Main Street and Digital Durham



1,792

responses to four Business Surveys



40,437

residents visited DowntownsOfDurham.ca



68,162

people accessed resources on the COVID Response Website

## Business Investment Highlights

The following non-exhaustive list details some key new businesses, strategic investments and retained/expanded businesses in Durham Region in 2020. Please note that this list does not include any retail or franchise opportunities and may include opportunities that our team did not directly support.

### Amazon Distribution Facility, Ajax

Construction underway in Ajax on 1,000,000 sq ft

### Amazon Fulfillment Facility, Whitby

Facility opened in Whitby, 354,000 sq ft

### Ontario Power Generation, Pickering

Centre for Canadian Nuclear Sustainability

### Durham Live, Entertainment Facility, Pickering

Construction continues - Pickering Casino Resort

### Thermæa Spa, Whitby

Construction resumes on a world-class spa destination

### General Motors, Oshawa

Announced \$1-1.3 billion investment and return of truck assembly

### Downtown Oshawa Farmers Market, Oshawa

Renovations begin on historic property to transform to year-round indoor market

### Panattoni Development, Oshawa

Occupancy in Q1, 2021 at 1121 and 1147 Thornton Road South

### Olympia Steel, Clarington

Construction underway on new facility

### Downtown Uxbridge Revitalization

Rural Economic Development (RED) Grant received



Responded to 65 Business Investment Inquiries

## Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Invest Durham supported a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship organizations and initiatives, including:

- 1855 Whitby and the 1855 Masterclass Series
- Business Advisory Centre Durham (BACD)
- Collision Conference and Websummit
- Durham Entrepreneurship Ecosystem
- Digital Main Street
- SiberXChange and SiberX Canadian Women in Cybersecurity
- Spark Centre and Spark Angels
- Synergy Pioneer Program
- World Artificial Intelligence Summit



## Tourism Activities



**7,844**

Monthly consumer e-newsletter subscribers



**4,181**

Monthly industry e-newsletter subscribers



**89,784**

Engagements on Social Media



### Twitter

7,878 followers  
7,008 engagements  
8.7% follower growth



### Instagram

4,883 followers  
14,555 engagements  
9.9% follower growth



### Facebook

5,061 followers  
68,221 engagements  
6.9% follower growth



## Durham Tourism Brand Redesign

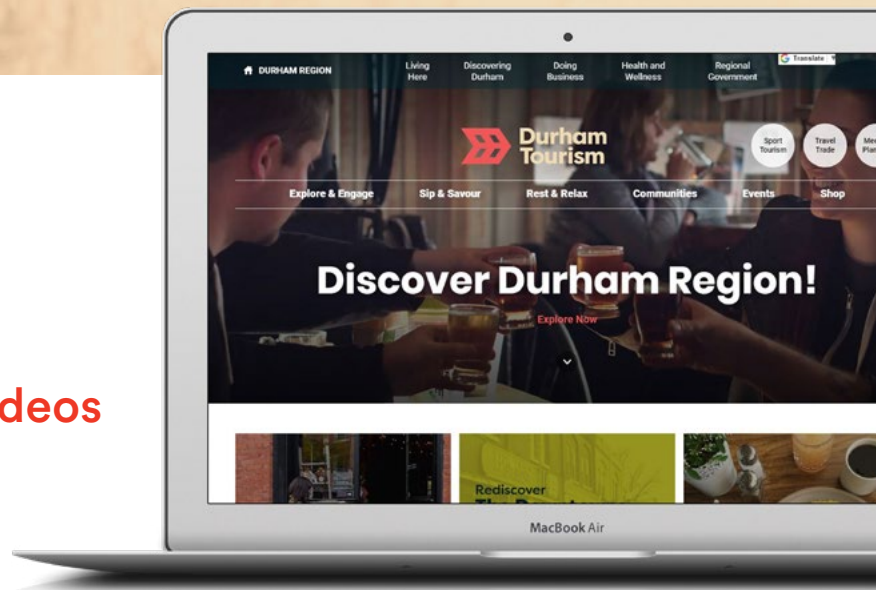
The new Durham Tourism brand was approved by Regional Council in May 2020. Completed in house, the brand launched to the public in fall 2020. Fourteen Industry and Community Roundtables were hosted by Durham Tourism to engage local communities in the brand process.



**95,415 Page Views**  
DurhamTourism.ca



**13 Support Local Videos**  
154,000 views





### Tourism Initiative: Canada Day the Durham Way

With support from Canadian Heritage, Durham Tourism—in partnership with all eight local area municipalities—presented Canada Day the Durham Way; a live, interactive, virtual event. This presentation included nine musical performances and a diverse offering of presentations for all ages. The audience was able to engage on social media and resulted in nearly 10,000 views of the Facebook live stream.

## Sport Tourism

### Durham Region Sport Tourism COVID-19 Response



97

respondents to Sport Community COVID-19 impact survey



40

attendees at 3 Sport Community COVID-19 impact round tables



228

respondents to Local Sport Parent survey



Organized a return-to-play webinar hosted by Pickering Football Club

### Sport Event Bidding and Hosting

- Secured the Field Hockey Ontario U18 May Meltdown - Tentatively Scheduled or May 2021
- Secured the 2021 Futsal Canadian Championship - subsequently cancelled

## Rural and Agriculture



**708**

bimonthly industry e-newsletter subscribers



**112%**

growth in number of social media followers



**352**

total attendees at Agriculture and Rural workshops

## 12,771 Page Views of Invest Durham Local Food Directory

## Film Durham



**14.5%**

increase in Film and Television production in Ontario from 2019 to 2020



**19%**

increase in Film and Television production in Durham Region from 2019 to 2020

DURHAM REGION



**DRIFF**



INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

**100**

domestic and international films submitted at the 2020 Durham Region International Film Festival (DRIFF)

## Broadband

In 2020, the Region of Durham launched a survey for residents and businesses to quantify the broadband needs across our communities. The survey gathered more than 2,600 respondents. COVID-19 has put a spotlight on the challenges faced by people who don't have access to adequate broadband, and in 2020 the Region began exploring grant opportunities from the Provincial and Federal government to build on a vision for a Regional Broadband Network.

## Local Immigration Partnership

In mid-2020 the activities and resources dedicated to the Durham Local Immigration Partnership Council (DLIP) transferred to the Economic Development and Tourism Division.

## Marketing Activities

### Invest Durham



#### Twitter

738 followers  
7,379 interactions  
180% follower growth\*



#### LinkedIn

1,282 followers  
3,548 page views  
564% follower growth\*



#### Instagram

830 followers  
1,755 interactions  
Launched June 11, 2020

\*2020 was first full year of account activity

## Invest Durham Marketing Initiatives



**503,373**

impressions from campaign to promote post-secondary reskilling programs



**22 episodes**

Dnext podcast



**72,473**

campaign impressions from Collision Conference Virtual Partnership #DurhamAtCollision



## 3 Papers Launched

“Durham Region: Accelerating Energy Innovation”  
“Durham Region: Energy Talent Factsheet”  
and “Artificial Intelligence in Durham Region”



## Awards

### **Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) Annual Marketing Canada Awards**

1. Downtowns of Durham – Category: Recovery Project/Plan in the \$600,000+ size category
2. Vertical Farming Campaign – Category: Social Media/APP in the \$600,000+ size category
3. Invest Durham Annual Report 2019 – Category: Single Publication, Less than 5 Pages in the \$600,000+ size category

### **AVA Digital Awards:**

Gold Award – COVID Response Website

### **Sport Tourism Canada 2020 PRESTIGE Awards:**

Finalist for Canadian Sport Event of the Year Award [Group B, budget less than \$1 million] and Sport Event Legacy of the Year Award – Durham Region 2019 Ontario Parasport Games. The 2020 PRESTIGE awards will be presented in April 2021.

### **Tourism Industry Association of Ontario 2020 Tourism Awards of Excellence**

Finalist for Tourism Event of the Year Award – Durham Region 2019 Ontario Parasport Games

### **Durham Region Awards of Excellence**

Kristyn Chambers & Lisa MacKenzie: For outstanding innovation in development of the Gates Open events to generate awareness, support, and growth of the Agri-Food sector and local farms.

Kristyn Chambers, Lori Talling & Brandon Pickard: For innovation and collaboration in development and launch of modern and multi-level Tourism communication plans and marketing platforms.

Eileen Kennedy: For dedicated service to continued development and continued growth of the Region’s film and television sector.



**Economic Development and Tourism Office**

 **Durham Region, Ontario, Canada**

**605 Rossland Road East, Fifth Floor**

**Whitby, Ontario L1N 6A3**

**+1-905-668-7711**



**InvestDurham.ca**

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact Economic Development and Tourism at 1-800-706-9857, ext. 2619.

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2564



# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
Report: [#2021-INFO-24](#)  
Date: February 26, 2021

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**Subject:**

Proposed Federal Clean Fuel Standard Regulations - Land Use and Biodiversity,  
File:C07-02

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 On February 2, 2020, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) Committee Chair, Zac Cohoon presented DAAC's 2020 Annual Report and 2021 Workplan ([#2021-P-2](#)) to the Planning and Economic Development Committee. Following Mr. Cohoon's presentation, Regional staff committed to providing additional information to Committee and Council on the proposed Federal Clean Fuel Standard (CFS) Regulations which Mr. Cohoon referenced in his presentation.

**2. Overview of the Federal Clean Fuel Standard**

2.1 On November 25, 2016 the Federal government announced its plan to develop a regulation under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 to reduce Canada's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the increased use of lower carbon fuels and alternative technologies as part of the Pan-Canadian Framework

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on Clean Growth and Climate Change. This framework was part of a larger effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement<sup>1</sup>.

- 2.2 The goals for a CFS is to reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions through the increased use of lower carbon fuels, energy sources and technologies. The CFS will be directed at fuel producers and suppliers to reduce our carbon footprint by incentivizing the use of low carbon fuels.
- 2.3 The CFS is part of Canada's climate plan. Compliance by fuel producers or suppliers can be achieved through reducing emissions associated with their own production of fuel or by purchasing credits. Producers of low carbon fuels, including biofuels are eligible for carbon credits, which then can be sold. These biofuels are derived from agricultural products such as corn, soy, canola, or sugarcane; hence, farmers are in the category of producers and eligible for clean fuel carbon credits.
- 2.4 At its October 2020 meeting, DAAC members expressed interest in the proposed regulatory approach for a CFS. DAAC formed a sub-committee to examine the issue further.
- 2.5 In October of 2020, the DAAC sub-committee heard a presentation from Paul Hoekstra, Vice President, Strategic Development, with the Grain Farmers of Ontario detailing their association's concerns with the proposed regulatory approach for the CFS. The most significant concern that the Grain Farmers of Ontario had with the approach is that the biofuels produced on ineligible lands would not qualify for a carbon credit under the CFS. Ineligible lands were defined as areas within the setback of a riparian zone for a stream or a wetland, or any land in an area that had been a protected area under environmental legislation on or after January 1, 2008.
- 2.6 Following receipt of the presentation from the Grain Farmers of Ontario and a review of the documentation released by the Federal government on the Regulatory Approach for the CFS, the DAAC subcommittee raised three areas of concern:
  - a. the suggested setback requirement from riparian zones and water bodies where biofuel crops would not be accepted for clean fuel carbon credits is too large and would exclude large amounts of land which are currently farmed

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<sup>1</sup> The Paris Agreement is an international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 countries, including Canada, on December 12, 2015 at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The goal of the treaty is to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit the rise in global average temperature to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to aim to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. As part of its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution commitment under the Paris Agreement, Canada pledged to reduce national GHG emissions by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030.

from being considered for inclusion for credits. The setback is established from the high watermark. For streams wider than 3 metres, the setback was proposed to be 30 metres, and for waterbodies the setback was 10 metres.

- b. land use changes to previously protected areas (i.e. lands that have been cleared since 2008) are a concern as these lands may have been historically cleared, or cleared in good faith with the approval of local conservation authorities, but would disallow biofuel crops from these areas being accepted for clean fuel carbon credits. These changes would have occurred prior to the standards being implemented, and represent an unfair burden to farmers.
- c. The verification of individual farms for the above would be an onerous task and it would be difficult for individual farmers to show compliance with the Land Use Criteria of the Standards due to the complexity related to land use restrictions.

2.7 The proposed CFS regulations were published on December 21, 2020 and are subject to a 75-day public comment period. Comments are due March 4, 2021. They are expected to be finalized in late 2021 and come into force on December 1, 2022.

2.8 The proposed regulations have addressed the concerns of DAAC related to:

- a. The migration to a national compliance model means that farmers will not need to meet setback requirements from waterbodies and riparian zones, allowing for crops grown in those areas to be eligible for clean fuel carbon credits.
- b. the reference year for land use changes<sup>2</sup> has been changed from 2008 to 2020, meaning that the industry will not be penalized for land use changes prior to the CFS regulations being implemented.
- c. Compliance with the land use change requirements will now be demonstrated on a national level by the federal Ministry. The Ministry will undertake an annual analysis using satellite data, aerial photography, census data, and agricultural survey data to determine the net increase in cropland. Provided there is no net increase of cropland through land use changes above 2% nationally, clean fuel carbon credits can be issued for these areas. It was

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<sup>2</sup> The CFS Proposed Regulations define direct land use change as the conversion of a parcel of land to grow crops for biofuel production. Indirect land use change is defined as the displacement of traditional food and animal feed crops by crops grown for biofuels. This leads to a demand to produce the displaced food crop elsewhere. Both direct and indirect land use changes could result in land with high carbon stock such as forests, wetlands and peat land being converted, leading to the creation of additional greenhouse gas emissions.



understood that through the proposed regulatory approach released in 2019, individual farmers may have been required to demonstrate their own land use change compliance.

- 2.9 On January 20, 2021 the Ministry of the Environment, and Climate Change Canada held a webinar detailing proposed regulations. Zac Cohoon was in attendance on behalf of DAAC.
- 2.10 On February 22, 2021 Regional Staff met with staff from the federal Ministry of the Environment, and Climate Change to discuss the regulations. At this meeting, Ministry staff raised an additional issue related to the harvesting of biofuel crops in environmentally protected areas. The regulations, as drafted, state that crops harvested in an area for the protection of any rare, vulnerable or threatened species or its habitat, or in a vulnerable ecosystem would not be eligible for clean fuel carbon credits, with some exceptions.
- 2.11 Through the Ontario Provincial Policy Statement, natural features and areas are to be protected, however agricultural uses are permitted to continue in these areas. The process for receiving applications from the provinces related to protected areas and assessing the respective frameworks is under development, and is expected to be released as part of the final regulations.
- 2.12 While DAAC had raised concerns with what was put forward in the 2019 Regulatory Approach for the Federal Clean Fuel Standards, the proposed December 2020 draft regulations have addressed their concerns.

### **3. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

- 3.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
  - a. Under Goal 3; Economic Prosperity, Objective 3.5, Provide a supportive environment for agriculture and agri-food industries.

### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The CFS regulations aim to reduce Canada's greenhouse gas emissions and increase the use of lower carbon fuels. Regional staff and DAAC will continue to monitor this issue, and any subsequent changes to the regulations, once finalized, that could result from ongoing consultation.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2564



# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
Report: #2021-INFO-25  
Date: February 26, 2021

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**Subject:**

Provincial consultation on growing the size of the Greenbelt, ERO#: [019-3136](#), File D07-69

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 On February 17, 2021 the province announced that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is seeking feedback on ways to grow the size of the Greenbelt, with a particular focus on the Paris-Galt Moraine in Wellington County, and further protections for Urban River Valleys, (ERO posting [019-3136](#)). The deadline for comments is April 19, 2021.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to summarize previous Regional positions on growing the Greenbelt, and to provide additional background information on this current review process.
- 1.3 Envision Durham, the Region's municipal comprehensive review (MCR) is looking at future land needs to accommodate the Region's population and employment forecasts to 2051. The MCR process may identify the need to designate portions of existing whitebelt lands for urban purposes. Regional planning staff feel it would be premature for the Region to take a position on growing the Greenbelt at this time given the active status of the Region's MCR.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The *Greenbelt Act* came into effect on June 24, 2004. This legislation allowed the Province to designate a Greenbelt Area and establish the Greenbelt Plan. The Greenbelt Plan came into effect on February 28, 2005. The Durham Regional Official Plan (ROP) was amended to conform to the Greenbelt Plan through Amendment #114, which was approved in January of 2008.
- 2.2 The Greenbelt Plan provides policies to permanently protect the Greater Golden Horseshoe's agricultural land base, and the ecological features and functions occurring on this landscape. As a protection measure, the Greenbelt Plan does not allow for urban-type development, or for expansions to settlement areas that are within the Greenbelt, (e.g. Uxbridge, Port Perry, Cannington, Sunderland, Beaverton, Orono) greater than 10 hectares. Settlement area expansions to a maximum of 10 hectares, may only be considered through a municipal comprehensive review exercise.
- 2.3 In 2009, through its deliberations on Regional Official Plan Amendment #128, (Durham's previous Growth Plan conformity exercise), Regional Council directed staff to review the Greenbelt Plan prior to its 10-year legislated review. The Region's Greenbelt Plan consultation exercise was completed in 2014 as input to the province's 10-year review process (Commissioner's Report #2014-P-41). This exercise did not recommend a further expansion of the Greenbelt within Durham.
- 2.4 The Greenbelt Plan was updated in 2017 through the province's co-ordinated review of its land use plans, which included both policy and mapping changes. Changes made through that process that will be reflected through the Region's MCR will include the addition of new policies for key hydrologic areas, and the introduction of policies and mapping for Urban River Valleys.

## **3. Previous Reports and Decisions**

- 3.1 Over the years there have been several planning reports that have provided information on the Greenbelt Plan, from various perspectives. This is the first report dealing with the current provincial initiative on growing the Greenbelt.

## **4. Growing the size of the Greenbelt**

- 4.1 The Ministry's priorities for consideration are:
- a. Lands focused on the Paris-Galt Moraine (Attachment #2); and

- b. Ideas for adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys (Attachment #3).
- 4.2 The Paris-Galt Moraine is a natural heritage feature that runs roughly from Caledon (Peel Region) in the northeast, to Brantford in the southwest, similar to the Oak Ridges Moraine. The Paris-Galt Moraine includes sand and gravel deposits and helps to protect and recharge groundwater aquifers that provide the basis for a broad range of needs, including drinking water supply for many of the communities. There is no portion of the Paris-Galt Moraine within Durham Region.
- 4.3 The province is planning for a new four-to-six lane 400-series highway and transit corridor across York, Peel and Halton regions that would traverse the eastern portion of the Paris-Galt Moraine and connect Highways 400, 27, 410, 407 and 401. The Environmental Assessment for the “GTA West Corridor” is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.
- 4.4 The Greenbelt Plan’s “Urban River Valley” designation applies to lands in river valleys within an urban context, connecting the Greenbelt’s Protected Countryside to the Great Lakes and inland lakes. At present, there are 21 Urban River Valleys that have been so designated.
- 4.5 Through the 2017 Greenbelt Plan review, portions of the following watercourses in Durham Region inside urban area boundaries, are now designated in the Greenbelt Plan as Urban River Valleys:
- Duffins Creek;
  - Carruthers Creek;
  - Lynde Creek;
  - Oshawa Creek;
  - Farewell/Harmony Creeks;
  - Soper Creek/Bowmanville Creek;
  - Wilmot Creek; and
  - Graham Creek.

### **Principles for expansions to the Greenbelt**

- 4.6 In undertaking this exercise, the Ministry is:
- a. Not considering removal requests or land exchanges;

- 
- b. Not considering changes to any Greenbelt Plan policies - any potential expansions will be considered within the context of the in-force policies of the Greenbelt Plan;
  - c. Supporting Greenbelt Plan objectives, vision and goals - lands to be considered for addition are to support the Greenbelt Plan's objectives, vision and goals of providing permanent protection to the agricultural land base and the ecological and hydrological features, areas and functions occurring on this landscape and providing for the inclusion of publicly owned lands in urban river valleys;
  - d. Following the existing Amendment process within the *Greenbelt Act* including:
    - consultation with affected public bodies such as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Greenbelt Council, and municipalities in the Greenbelt Area;
    - consultation with general public;
    - engagement with Indigenous communities; and
    - ensuring any proposed amendment does not reduce the total land area within the Greenbelt Plan.
  - e. Seeking expansions which connect physically and/or functionally to the current Greenbelt, building upon the systems approach of the Greenbelt Plan, and should be directly connected or have a strong functional connection through the Greenbelt's natural heritage, water resource or agricultural systems;
  - f. Considering impacts on existing provincial priorities – considering the effects of the expansion on other key provincial priorities outlined in the Provincial Policy Statement and the Growth Plan.

### **Other Provincial Priorities**

- 4.7 The province has indicated that other key provincial priorities that could be impacted should also be considered, including:
- a. Growth Management – Greenbelt expansion needs to be considered in the context of the ongoing growth management exercises being completed by the upper and single-tier municipalities within the Growth Plan Area;
  - b. Natural Heritage and Water Resource Systems – supporting and protecting a Natural Heritage System that is made up of these natural features and areas along with the linkages that connect them together, as well as protection of water resource systems on a watershed basis, including significant

headwaters, river corridors, wetlands and other features is another key priority;

- c. Agriculture – the GGH’s Agricultural System that is comprised of an agricultural land base (prime agricultural areas, including specialty crop areas, and other productive lands that form a continuous land base for agriculture) and an agri-food network (infrastructure, services and assets that support the agri-food sector) should also be considered; and
- d. Infrastructure – new infrastructure and upgrades to existing infrastructure will be needed to serve the substantial growth projected for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Infrastructure, including highways to sewage and water treatment plants to corridors for transit and utilities, is permitted in within these areas, subject to certain conditions.

## **5. Durham Context**

- 5.1 In Durham, the Greenbelt covers over 80 per cent of the Region’s land area (refer to Attachment #1). The Region’s northern municipalities of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge are completely within the boundaries of the Greenbelt Plan Area.
- 5.2 The Greenbelt Plan includes an existing process for the province to consider requests from municipalities to grow the Greenbelt within the Protected Countryside, that is outside of the current ERO proposal. Area municipalities would be free to initiate requests to grow the Greenbelt within their respective jurisdictions following this process at any time.
- 5.3 Through the ongoing Growth Management Study of Envision Durham, the Region will determine whether there is a need for any settlement area boundary expansions to accommodate population and employment growth to 2051. In addition, the Region is undertaking a Natural Heritage System mapping exercise. Once established, the identification of additional areas for designation as future Urban River Valleys could be considered. Inclusion of additional Urban River Valleys could form a recommendation to the province through the review and approval of the new ROP, once completed.

## **6. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

- 6.1 This report aligns with the goals and priorities of Environmental Sustainability in the Durham Region Strategic Plan.

**7. Conclusion**

7.1 Regional staff will continue to monitor the provincial growing the size of the Greenbelt exercise and report to Committee and Council on any future impacts to Durham Region.

**8. Attachments**

Attachment #1: Schedule 1 of the Greenbelt Plan depicting the Greenbelt Plan Area

Attachment #2: Paris-Galt Moraine Location

Attachment #3: Urban River Valleys across the Greenbelt Plan Area

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development

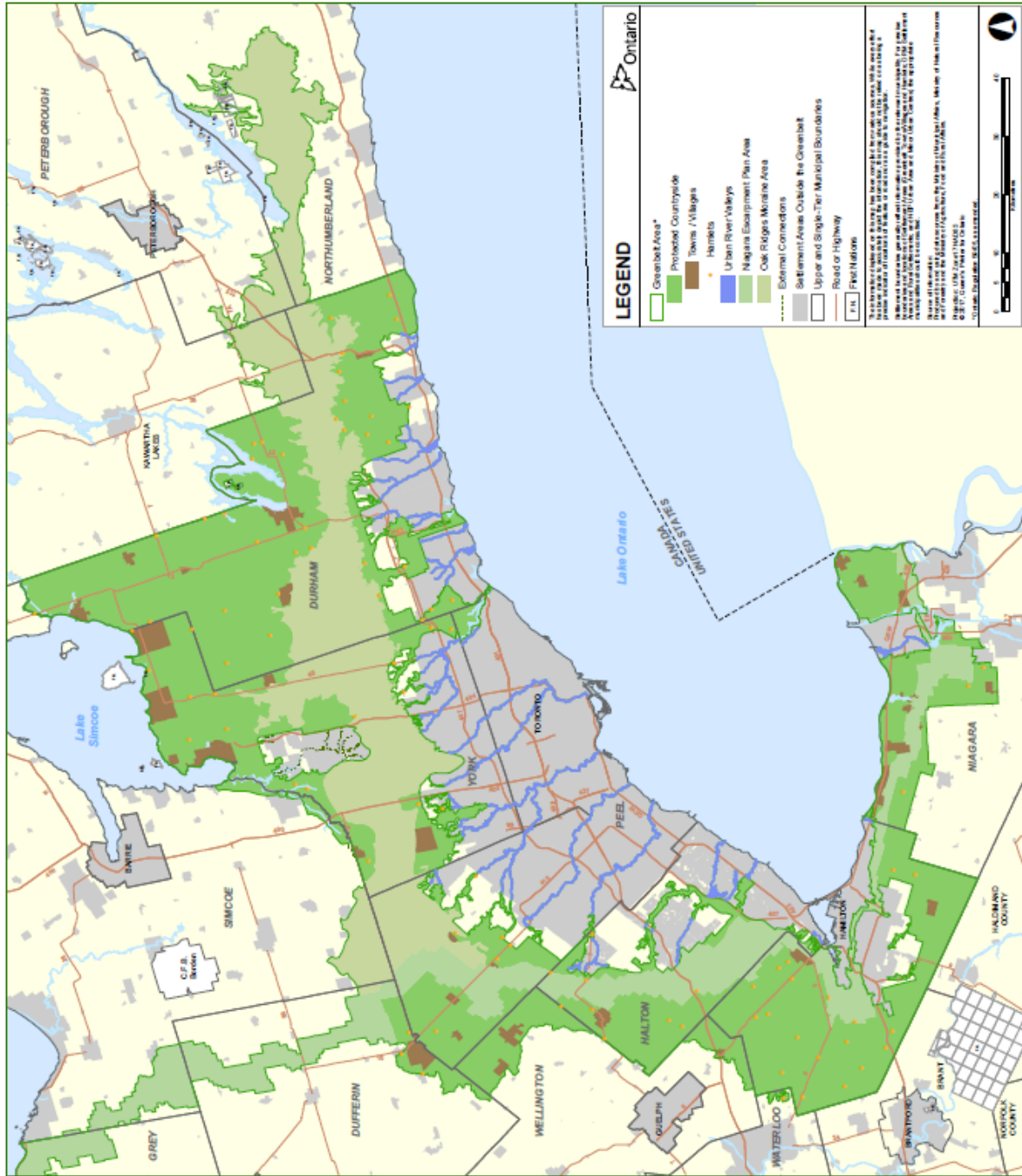


# Attachment #1

## Schedule 1: Greenbelt Area

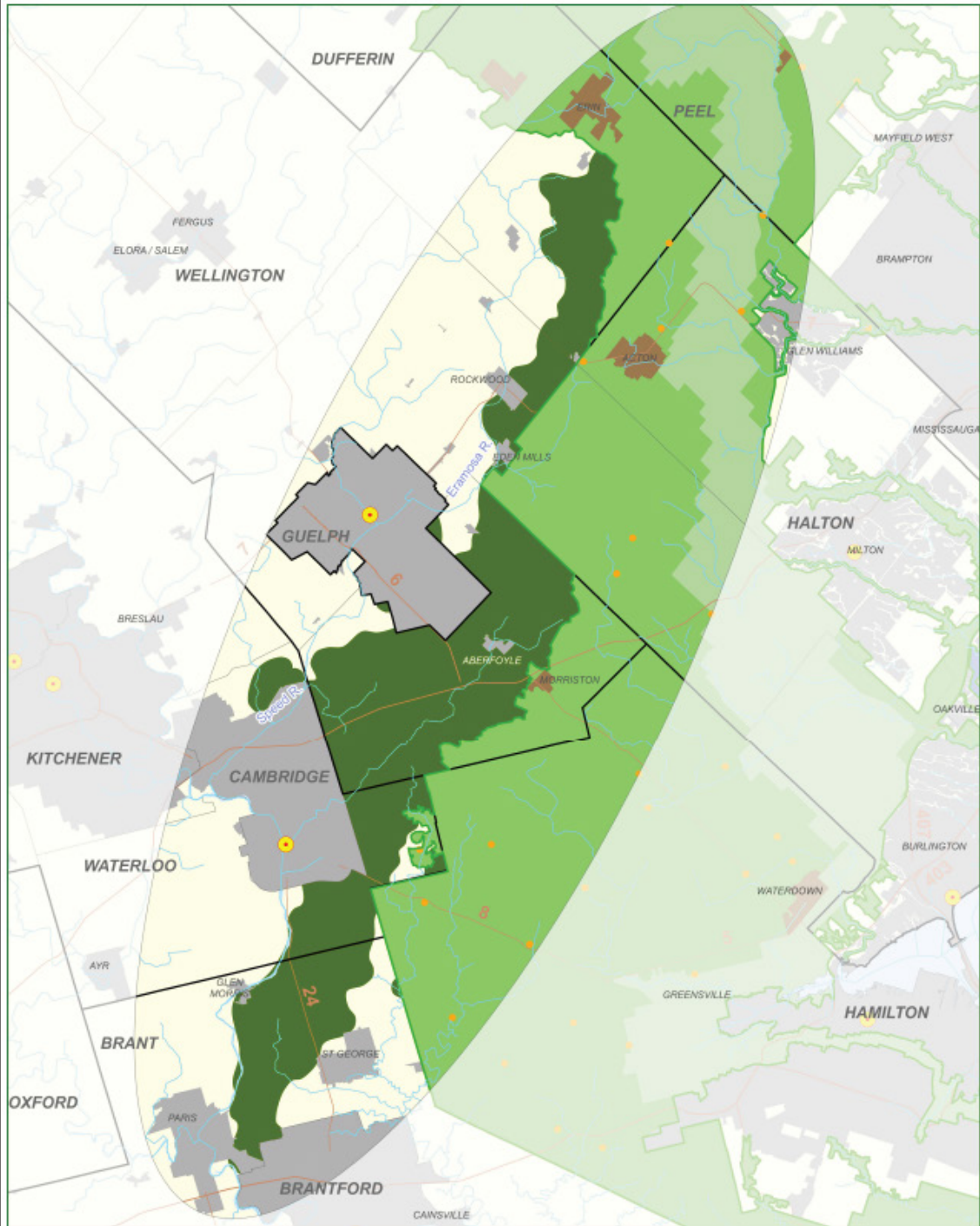
# greenbelt

## PLAN 2017



# Attachment #2

## Growing the Greenbelt Study Area – Paris Galt Moraine



### LEGEND

- Greenbelt Area (O.Reg. 59/05, as amended)
- Protected Countryside
- Towns / Villages
- Hamlets
- Urban River Valleys
- Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
- Paris Galt Moraine Study Area
- GGH Settlement Areas Outside the Greenbelt (incl. Brantford/Brant Annexation)
- Urban Growth Centres
- Major Road or Highway
- Municipal Boundary
- Water

This map is for illustrative purposes only to seek feedback on a Study Area of lands focused on the Paris Galt Moraine, growing the Greenbelt. The Paris Galt Moraine Study Area does not constitute a Greenbelt boundary.

Settlement boundaries generally reflect information provided by the relevant municipality. For precise boundaries and locations of Settlement Areas (e.g. Settlements Areas Outside the Greenbelt and Greenbelt Towns/Villages and Hamlets), the appropriate municipalities should be consulted.

Source of Information:  
Produced by and using data sources from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines.

Projection: UTM Zone17 NAD83

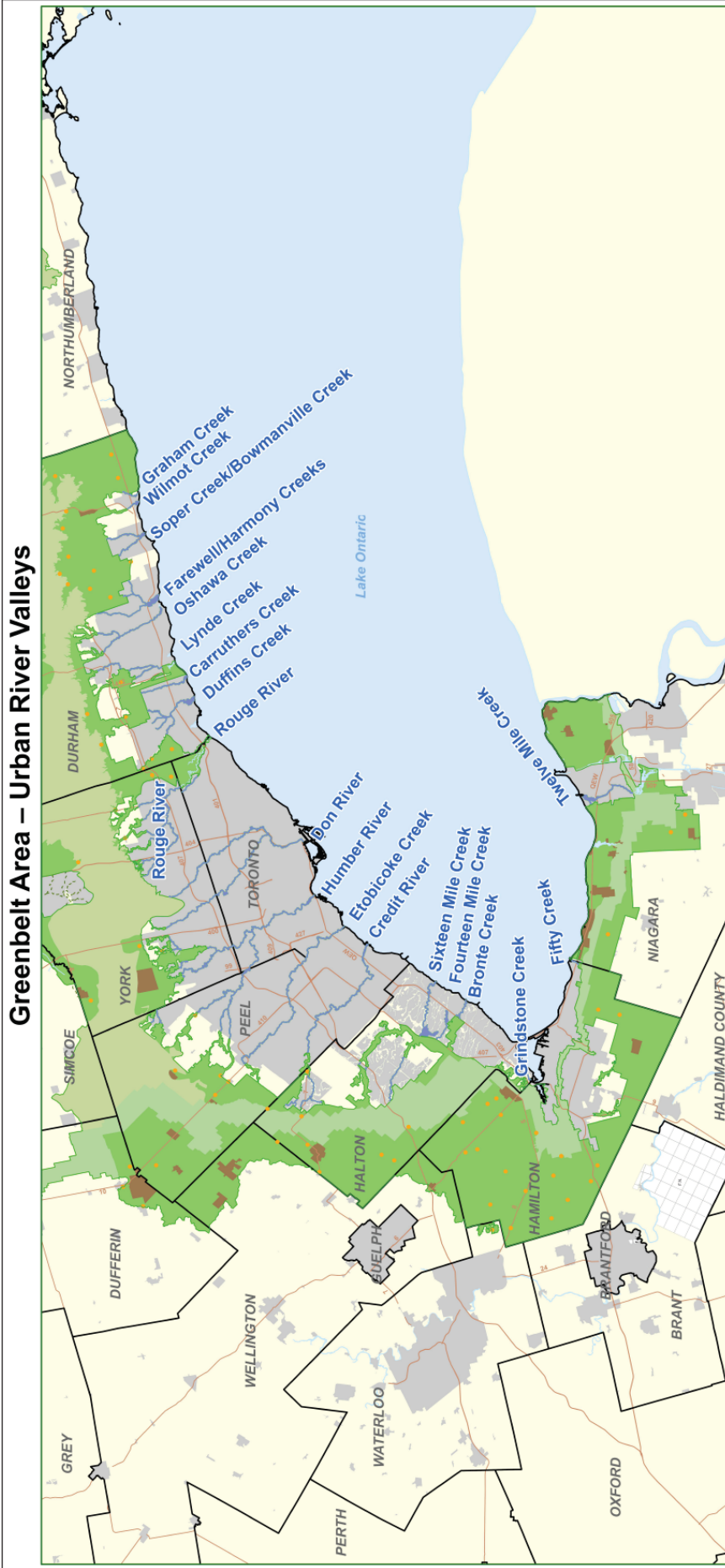
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Date: 2/16/2021

# Attachment #3

## Greenbelt Area – Urban River Valleys



### LEGEND

- Greenbelt Area (O.Reg 59/05, as amended)
- Protected Countryside
- Towns / Villages
- Hamlets
- Urban River Valleys
- Niagara Escarpment Plan Area
- Oak Ridges Moraine Area
- External Connections
- Municipal Boundary
- Major Road or Highway
- Water
- F.N. First Nations

This map is for illustrative purposes only to seek ideas for adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys. Settlement boundaries generally reflect information provided by the relevant municipality. For precise boundaries and locations of Settlement Areas (e.g. Settlements Areas Outside the Greenbelt and Greenbelt Towns/Villages and Hamlets), the appropriate municipalities should be consulted.

Source of Information:  
Produced by and using data sources from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Projection: UTM Zone17 NAD83  
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Date: 2/16/2021





## Township of The Archipelago

9 James Street, Parry Sound ON P2A 1T4

Tel: 705-746-4243/Fax: 705-746-7301

[www.thearchipelago.on.ca](http://www.thearchipelago.on.ca)

February 19, 2021

21-033

Moved by Councillor Manners  
Seconded by Councillor Andrews

**RE: Request that Minister Clark review the Municipal Elections Act and provide amendments to provide clearer, stronger wording to assist Municipal Clerks in addressing issues to allow for a more definitive decision to be made when adding names to the voters' list**

**WHEREAS** the Township of The Archipelago recognizes that the current language in the Municipal Elections Act with regards to non-resident electors, is weak and ambiguous;

**AND WHEREAS** the Township of The Archipelago wishes to ensure the integrity of the election process;

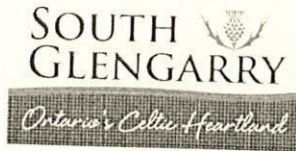
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Council of the Corporation of the Township of The Archipelago hereby request that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Steve Clark, initiate a review of the Municipal Elections Act and make amendments to provide such clearer, stronger wording, to assist Municipal Clerks in addressing issues related to non-resident electors, and to allow for a more definitive decision to be made when adding names to the voters' list;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that Council of the Corporation of the Township of The Archipelago request that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Steve Clark, ensure that there is a clear and accessible way to enforce the rules described in the Municipal Elections Act;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Norm Miller MPP, all Ontario Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

 <b>Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division</b>	
Date & Time Received:	February 22, 2021 11:56 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**Carried.**



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH GLENGARRY

MOVED BY Stephanie Jaworski

RESOLUTION NO 55-2021


SECONDED BY Lyle WARDEN DATE February 16, 2021

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of South Glengarry hereby supports the letter by the Township of South-West Oxford, attached hereto, in support of the use of Automatic Speed Enforcement (photo radar) by municipalities and that this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, MPP Ernie Hardeman, AMO and all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED       DEFEATED       POSTPONED

*Frank Prevost*  
Mayor Frank Prevost

Recorded Vote:	Yes	No
Mayor Prevost	—	—
Deputy Mayor Warden	—	—
Councillor Lang	—	—
Councillor Jaworski	—	—
Councillor McDonell	—	—

 <b>Corporate Services Department</b> <b>Legislative Services Division</b>	
Date & Time Received:	February 22, 2021 1:26 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> <span style="margin-left: 100px;">File</span> <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	



312915 Dereham Line  
R. R. # 1, Mount Elgin, ON N0J 1N0  
Phone: (519) 877-2702; (519) 485-0477;  
Fax: (519) 485-2932  
www.swox.org

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January 11, 2021

Premier Doug Ford  
Legislative Building, Queens Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Speeding on provincial, county and municipal roadways continues to put the lives of Ontarians at risk. While we have access to several tools to help mitigate speeding traffic, the one tool that is currently not fully available to us is Automatic Speed Enforcement (ASE) (aka Photo Radar). Over the past decade, in South West Oxford the vast majority of charges laid are for drivers travelling well in excess of the posted speed limit. The cost of providing police time for something that could be done through the use of technology is disturbing to our council. The Council feels that it would be far more effective to have police concentrate on other problems such as Break and Enters, illegal drugs and domestic problems.

We need a way to address the poor behaviours and habits that are putting our citizens at risk and tying up much needed first responder resources that could be better utilized to improve the well-being of our communities. Speeding, particularly through our small villages, creates community concerns for the safety and wellbeing of our children and other vulnerable members. We need your help.

In keeping with this The Council of the Township of South-West Oxford duly moved and carried the following resolution at the regular meeting held on January 5, 2021:

*...RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of South-West Oxford provide direction to the Clerk to send a letter to the Premier, MPP Ernie Hardeman, AMO and all Ontario municipalities in support of the use of Automatic Speed Enforcement (photo radar) by municipalities.*

Please help municipalities in the Province by passing the necessary regulations for municipalities to use ASE (if they choose) that will bring about the driving behavioural changes we need.

We look forward to your help with this issue.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Mary Ellen Greb'.

Mary Ellen Greb, CAO

c.c. AMO, Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Ontario Municipalities

**CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH GLENGARRY**

MOVED BY Martin Lang

RESOLUTION NO 56-2021

SECONDED BY Lyle WARDEN

DATE February 16, 2021

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of South Glengarry hereby supports the resolution passed by the Township of Guelph/Eramosa, attached hereto, and urges the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services to review the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and consider the recommendations as presented by the Township of Guelph/Eramosa and furthermore that this resolution be forwarded to MPP Jim McDonell, Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Government and Consumer Services, the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED       DEFEATED       POSTPONED

  
Mayor Frank Prevost

Recorded Vote:	Yes	No
Mayor Prevost	___	___
Deputy Mayor Warden	___	___
Councillor Lang	___	___
Councillor Jaworski	___	___
Councillor McDonell	___	___

 <b>Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division</b>	
Date & Time Received:	February 22, 2021 1:26 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	



La Corporation de la Municipalité de / The Corporation of the Municipality of  
**ST. CHARLES**

C.P. / Box 70, 2 King Street East St.-Charles ON  
Tel: 705-867-2032 Fax: 705-867-5789

P0M 2W0  
[www.stcharlesontario.ca](http://www.stcharlesontario.ca)



**Corporate Services Department  
Legislative Services Division**

**MOVED BY: Councillor Monica Loftus**  
**SECONDED BY: Councillor Richard Lemieux**


Date & Time Received:	February 22, 2021 3:38 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-255**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the Resolution passed by the Municipality of Tweed on August 25, 2020 regarding Cannabis Production Facilities, the *Cannabis Act*, and Health Canada Guideline.

**CARRIED**

I, Tammy Godden, Clerk of the Municipality of St.-Charles, do certify the foregoing to be a true copy of Resolution No. 2020-255 passed in a Regular Meeting of Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Godden  
Clerk  
Municipality of St.-Charles

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2021.



## Municipality of Tweed Council Meeting



**Resolution No.**

343.

**Title:**

County of Hastings and County of Lennox & Addington

**Date:**

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

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**Moved by**

J. Flieler

**Seconded by**

J. Palmateer

WHEREAS the Government of Canada passed the *Cannabis Act S.C. 2018, c. 16* legislation legalizing properties to grow a maximum of 4 plants without a licence; and

WHEREAS Health Canada issues licences for medicinal cannabis production that are specific to set properties without municipal consultation and regardless of land use zoning by-laws; and

WHEREAS pharmaceutical companies and industries are required to follow strict regulations and governing legislation to produce medicinal products including *Narcotic Control Regulations C.R.C., c 1041* and *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (Police Enforcement) Regulations SOR/9-234*; and

WHEREAS Municipalities are authorized under the *Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, C. P 13* to pass a comprehensive zoning by-law that is in compliance with the appropriate County Official Plan which must be in compliance with the Provincial Policy Statement, Under *The Planning Act, 2020*; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Policy Statement, Official Plan and Zoning By-Law in effect for each area is designed to secure the long-term safety and best use of the land, water and other natural resources found in that area's natural landscape; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Tweed has passed *Comprehensive Zoning By-Law 2012-30* and further amended it by the *Cannabis Production By-Law 2018-42*, limiting cannabis production facilities to rural industrial zoned lands with required setbacks from residential zoned properties; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Tweed has not been consulted by Health Canada prior to the issuance of licences for properties not in compliance with the Municipal zoning by-laws for a cannabis production facility; and

WHEREAS the Province needs to amend legislation to establish a new Provincial Offence Act fine regime that creates an offence(s) when unlicensed cannabis operations break planning and environmental regulations, ignore Building Code requirements and build without a permit at a fine of at least \$100,000 per offence;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Tweed requests that immediate action be taken by all levels of government for medical cannabis licencing to follow similar regulations and guidelines as all other pharmaceutical industries;

AND FURTHER, that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario advocate with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities for advocacy to the Government of Canada for similar regulations and guidelines for medical cannabis licencing in alignment with other pharmaceutical industries;

AND FURTHER, that the distribution of medical cannabis be controlled through pharmacies in consistency of all other medications;

AND FURTHER, that Health Canada withhold licencing until the potential licence holder can provide evidence of acceptable zoning of the intended property in question;

AND FURTHER, that licenced locations be disclosed in advance to the municipalities hosting the licenced locations; and

AND FURTHER, that this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada, Health Canada, the Premier of the Province of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Provincial Police, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all upper, lower and single tier municipalities within the Province of Ontario.

**Carried**

**Defeated by a Tie**

**Defeated**

Mayor

*Jo Anne Allard*

February 8, 2021

**Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

17<sup>th</sup> Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2J3

**Attention: The Hon. Steve Clark**

**Re: Advocacy for Reform – MFIPPA Legislation**

At the Township of Guelph/Eramosa's Regular Meeting of Council held on Monday February 1, 2021, the following resolution was put forward and passed:

Be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Guelph/Eramosa has received Clerk's Department Report 21/03 regarding Advocacy for Reform – MFIPPA Legislation; and

That that the following motions be passed in support of a request to review and reform of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

WHEREAS the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act R.S.O. 1990 (MFIPPA) dates back 30 years;

AND WHEREAS municipalities, including the Township of Guelph/Eramosa, practice and continue to promote open and transparent government operations, actively disseminate information and routinely disclose public documents upon request outside of the MFIPPA process;

AND WHEREAS government operations, public expectations, technologies, and legislation surrounding accountability and transparency have dramatically changed and MFIPPA has not advanced in line with these changes;

AND WHEREAS the creation, storage and utilization of records has changed significantly, and the Municipal Clerk of the Municipality is responsible for records and information management programs as prescribed by the Municipal Act, 2001;

AND WHEREAS regulation 823 under MFIPPA continues to reference antiquated technology and does not adequately provide for cost recovery, and these financial shortfalls are borne by the municipal taxpayer;

AND WHEREAS the threshold to establish frivolous and/or vexatious requests is unreasonably high and allows for harassment of staff and members of municipal councils, and unreasonably affects the operations of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Act fails to recognize how multiple requests from an individual, shortage of staff resources or the expense of producing a record due to its size, number or physical location does not allow for time extensions to deliver requests and unreasonably affects the operations of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the name of the requestor is not permitted to be disclosed to anyone other than the person processing the access request, and this anonymity is used by requesters to abuse the MFIPPA process and does not align with the spirit of openness and transparency embraced by municipalities;

AND WHEREAS legal professionals use MFIPPA to gain access to information launch litigation against institutions, where other remedies exist;

AND WHEREAS there are limited resources to assist administrators or requestors to navigate the legislative process;

AND WHEREAS reform is needed to address societal and technological changes in addition to global privacy concerns and consistency across provincial legislation;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services be requested to review the MFIPPA, and consider recommendations as follows:

1. That MFIPPA assign the Municipal Clerk, or designate to be the Head under the Act;
2. That MFIPPA be updated to address current and emerging technologies;
3. That MFIPPA regulate the need for consistent routine disclosure practices across institutions;
4. That the threshold for frivolous and/or vexatious actions be reviewed, and take into consideration the community and available resources in which it is applied;
5. That the threshold for frivolous and/or vexatious also consider the anonymity of requesters, their abusive nature and language in

requests to ensure protection from harassment as provided for in Occupational Health and Safety Act;

6. That the application and scalability of fees be designed to ensure taxpayers are protected from persons abusing the access to information process;
7. That administrative practices implied or required under the Act, including those of the IPC, be reviewed and modernized;
8. That the integrity of the Act be maintained to protect personal privacy and transparent governments.


Please accept this for your information and any necessary action.

Sincerely,



Jenni Spies  
Deputy Clerk

Cc. Ted Arnott, MPP Wellington-Halton Hills  
Michael Chong, MP Wellington-Halton Hills  
Minister of Consumer Services  
Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Association of Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario  
Ontario Clerks

 <b>Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division</b>	
Date & Time Received:	February 23, 2021 12:27 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

February 19, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

**Re: Closure of the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst**

The Township of Tiny Council recently reviewed correspondence dated January 14, 2021, from the Office of the Fire Marshal regarding the pending closure of the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst, Ontario.

The Ontario Fire College provided fire service training to hundreds of municipal fire departments, like ours, who do not have the capacity or resources to provide their own in-house training for specialized programs.

Should the Office of the Fire Marshal continue to develop fire fighter training curriculum, municipalities will now bear the cost for its use and delivery. The alternative use of Regional Training Centres, for specialized training, will be at a significant cost to municipal fire departments, including room and boarding expenses.

With the closure of the Ontario Fire College and the lack of provincial or federal funding for volunteer fire departments for much needed training, it puts municipalities at risk.

We ask that reconsideration be given to the closure of the Ontario Fire College, at the very least, until a plan is in place to support municipalities with the resources and funding that is required to adequately train and support its fire fighters.

**The Corporation of the Township of Tiny**



George Cornell  
Mayor

cc. The Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services  
Ontario Municipalities  
Jill Dunlop, MPP, Simcoe North

Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing



Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor  
Toronto ON M5G 2E5  
Tel.: 416 585-7000

Ministère des  
Affaires municipales  
et du Logement

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M5G 2E5  
Tél. : 416 585-7000

234-2021-813

17 février, 2021

Aux présidents de conseil,

**OBJET : Consultation sur l'expansion de la ceinture de verdure**

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Je vous écris aujourd'hui pour annoncer que mon ministère a lancé une consultation sur l'**expansion de la ceinture de verdure**.

Le gouvernement a indiqué clairement que nous allons protéger la ceinture de verdure au bénéfice des générations futures. Nous sommes déterminés à procéder à l'expansion de la ceinture de verdure et n'envisagerons aucune proposition de retrait de terres de la ceinture de verdure ou de changements aux politiques existantes du Plan de la ceinture de verdure.

Le ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement cherche à obtenir le point de vue des gens à propos des façons d'élargir la ceinture de verdure et d'accroître encore davantage la qualité de ses composantes, en accordant la priorité :

- i. à une zone de terres à l'étude, axée sur la moraine de Paris Galt, qui compte des ressources essentielles en eau souterraine
- ii. aux idées sur l'ajout, l'expansion et la protection accrue des vallées urbaines fluviales.

Les cartes utilisées dans le cadre de cette consultation sont offertes à des fins de discussion seulement et ne représentent pas de nouvelles limites proposées.

Pour en savoir davantage sur la consultation, veuillez vous rendre à <https://ero.ontario.ca/fr/notice/019-3136> où vous trouverez des informations sur l'expansion de la ceinture de verdure :

- principes proposés d'expansion de la ceinture de verdure
- questions de discussion
- carte contextuelle de la zone de la moraine de Paris Galt.

La consultation durera 61 jours et se terminera le 19 avril 2021.

Je serai heureux de connaître votre point de vue sur cette proposition. Si vous avez des questions sur la consultation, veuillez communiquer avec le ministère, à l'adresse : [greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca](mailto:greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca).

Acceptez mes salutations distinguées.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Clark".

Le ministre,  
Steve Clark

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M5G 2E5  
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des  
Affaires municipales  
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M5G 2E5  
Tél. : 416 585-7000



234-2021-813

February 17, 2021

Dear Head of Council,

**RE: Consulting on growing the size of the Greenbelt**

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I am writing today to announce that my ministry is launching a consultation on **growing the size of the Greenbelt**.

The government has been clear that we are protecting the Greenbelt for future generations. We are committed to growing the Greenbelt and will not consider any proposals to remove any lands or changes to the existing Greenbelt Plan policies.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is seeking feedback on ways to grow the size and further enhance the quality of the Greenbelt, with a priority of:

- i. A study area of lands focused on the Paris Galt Moraine, which is home to critical groundwater resources.
- ii. Ideas for adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys.

The maps available for this consultation are for discussion purposes only and do not represent a proposed boundary.

For more information on this consultation, please visit <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-3136> where you will find information about growing the Greenbelt:

- Proposed principles for growing the Greenbelt
- Discussion questions for consideration
- Context map of the Paris Galt Moraine area

The consultation is open for 61 days and ends on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

I look forward to receiving your input on this proposal. If you have any questions about the consultation, please contact the ministry at [greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca](mailto:greenbeltconsultation@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

Steve Clark  
Minister

c: Planning Head and/or Clerks

 <b>Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division</b>	
Date & Time Received:	February 17, 2021 11:39 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	BB,GM, EB-T, TF
Take Appropriate Action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	For your information and appropriate action



## Lydia Gerritsen

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**From:** Ralph Walton  
**Sent:** February 18, 2021 10:42 AM  
**To:** Lydia Gerritsen; Eamonn Rodgers  
**Subject:** FW: An Open Letter to Ontario Municipal Councils

 <b>Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division</b>	
Date & Time Received:	February 18, 2021 10:53 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

CIP please

Ralph Walton, Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services  
Office of the Regional Clerk  
Regional Municipality of Durham | Corporate Services  
905.668.7711 ext 2100 | 1.800.372.1102  
Corporate Values: • Ethical Leadership • Accountability • Service Excellence • Continuous Learning and Improvement • Inclusion

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**From:** AMCTO President <president@amcto.com>  
**Sent:** February 18, 2021 8:28 AM  
**To:** Ralph Walton <Ralph.Walton@durham.ca>  
**Subject:** An Open Letter to Ontario Municipal Councils

Dear Ralph Walton,

We would appreciate your support in sharing the below open letter and for this letter to be included on your municipal council agenda:

February 18, 2021



### **AN OPEN LETTER TO ONTARIO MUNICIPAL COUNCILS**

Dear Council,

As a vital municipal association with membership roots that reach deep into each and every part of Ontario, we know the challenges you have faced in continuing to provide essential municipal services within your community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As elected officials, we know that you recognize the contribution made by your municipal staff, many of whom are members of AMCTO. Municipal professionals across this entire province have been at the forefront of service delivery, applying their knowledge and skills to innovate processes and procedures to meet the evolving needs of residents and businesses.

One key point that is often overlooked in this pandemic is that many municipal staff were prepared to act and innovate BECAUSE of the professional municipal training and development they receive from organizations like AMCTO. The leadership skills, education and technical training prepare your staff in getting ahead of immediate community needs, reacting and responding to new challenges brought on by COVID-19. This unique and sought-after skillset has allowed your staff to provide council with options and solutions for keeping your municipality running.

In these challenging financial times, there will be temptation to divert operational funding away from staff training budgets. Now more than ever, it is crucial that municipalities continue to invest in your most valuable resource – your staff.

In addition to increased levels of employee retention, engagement and empowerment, investments in staff professional development strengthens your council's ability to provide reliable, effective and efficient services to your community, both today and in the future. The question is no longer "if" you innovate but "when". Innovation comes with knowledge, training, and exposing municipal staff to new opportunities to grow and develop professionally.

On behalf of AMCTO and its over 2,200 members, please accept my heartfelt thank you for your service during these difficult times. As "Municipal Experts", AMCTO will continue to be at your service to help you and your staff meet the needs of your community.

Sincerely,



Robert Tremblay, MPA, CMO, AOMC  
President  
AMCTO

CC: Graydon Smith, President, AMO

###

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**Robert Tremblay, MPA, CMO, AOMC**  
President



2680 Skymark Ave. # 610  
Mississauga, ON L4W 5L6  
[president@amcto.com](mailto:president@amcto.com)  
[www.amcto.com](http://www.amcto.com)

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### DURHAM ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 18, 2021

A regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, February 18, 2021 in Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:15 PM. In accordance with Provincial legislation, electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: O. Chaudhry, Pickering  
S. Clearwater, Whitby  
J. Cuthbertson, Clarington, Second Vice-Chair  
C. Doody-Hamilton, Member at Large attended the meeting at 8:15 PM  
G. Layton, Oshawa  
K. Lui, Member at Large, First Vice-Chair  
K. Murray, Member at Large  
B. Shipp, Member at Large  
D. Stathopoulos, Member at Large  
M. Thompson, Ajax  
S. Yamada, Regional Councillor, Town of Whitby  
**\*all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: G. Carpentier, Scugog, Chair  
R. Dickinson, Brock  
B. Foxton, Uxbridge

#### Staff

Present: S. Glover, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
A. Luqman, Project Planner, Planning & Economic Development Department

In the absence of the Chair, J. Cuthbertson, Second Vice-Chair, assumed the Chair.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by K. Murray, Seconded by D. Stathopoulos,  
That the agenda for the February 18, 2021 DEAC meeting, as  
presented, be approved.

CARRIED

#### 3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by K. Lui,  
That the minutes of the regular DEAC meeting held on Thursday,  
January 21, 2021, be adopted.  
CARRIED

**5. Presentations**

A) The Seed Exchange Library at Durham College/Ontario Tech University  
Library, (Nathalie Zhou, Librarian, School of the Hospitality and Horticultural  
Science and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies)

Natalie Zhou, Librarian, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the  
Seed Exchange Library at Durham College/Ontario Tech University Library.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Overview
- Why We Started the Program?
- How Did We Start?
- Thanks to Donors
- Letters to Donors
- Some Fruits and Vegetables
- Gardens at Durham College (Whitby Campus)
- Donation from Urban Harvest
- Seed Exchange Procedure
- Our Message to Growers
- Subsequent Development
- Seed Exchange Library Website
- Promotions

N. Zhou responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether the  
Seed Exchange Library is available to the public or just students; and when  
the Seed Exchange Library would be open for in-person attendance.

**6. Items for Discussion/Input**

A) Town of Whitby Bridge and Culvert Master Plan Environmental Study Report  
– Notice of Completion

Antony Manoharan, Water Resources Engineer, Town of Whitby provided an  
overview of the Bridge and Culvert Master Plan and advised that the priority  
was to stop flooding in order to prevent having to close or lose the road and  
determine what the capacity issues were with the culverts. He advised that staff  
studied many creeks and culverts and identified downstream erosion locations  
and sized the culverts accordingly.

A. Manoharan responded to questions from the Committee regarding if planting medium and large size native trees throughout the study area to assist in water uptake was considered; identifying a range of design alternatives at each of the high risk crossings to reduce flood risk; the environmental impacts of enlarging culverts on downstream flooding; erosion, habitat destruction and sedimentation in the downstream wetland, and potential mitigation strategies; whether consideration was made to implement green infrastructure; how to protect the culverts from large storm events; natural features that would allow for the infrastructure to not be overwhelmed and not require a large investment; and, whether tile treatment wetlands that would allow for settling and that are placed 50-100 meters away from the creek itself, have been considered.

Discussion ensued regarding the legends in the study report including main crossroads including Hwy 12; and a series of check dams to slow down storm flows that could eliminate the need to enlarge all of the culverts.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding whether the Region is going to look into studies on best practices to mitigate impacts of flooding and whether the Region is protecting itself with the developments being allowed, A. Luqman advised that she would forward this question to the Works Department specifically with regards to Regional jurisdiction.

B) Notice of Study Commencement and Step-down, Highway 407 East – New Maintenance Patrol Yard

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A copy of the Notice of Study Commencement and Step-down, Highway 407 East – New Maintenance Patrol Yard was received as Attachment #2 to the agenda.

A. Luqman advised that comments can be submitted by March 12, 2021.

C) DEAC Youth and Student Membership Replacement Update

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A. Luqman advised that the Planning and Economic Development Committee considered and approved Report #2021-P-3 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development appointing the post-secondary member and the two youth members. She advised that Report #2021-P-3 will be considered by Regional Council on February 24, 2021.

D) Update from Climate Change Resiliency Homeowner's Guide Subcommittee

A. Luqman requested that any final comments be submitted to her by the end of day on Friday, February 19, 2021 for consideration in the final copy of the Climate Change Resiliency Homeowner's Guide.

E) Update from DEAC Environmental Awards Subcommittee

G. Layton advised that the DEAC Environmental Awards Subcommittee met on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 to discuss next steps. She advised that advertisements will be in print and via social media in March with applications being due by April 30, 2021 where the winners will be selected in time for the June DEAC meeting.

F) Spring Bee Pollinator Seedling Distribution Project

Discussion ensued regarding next steps for the Spring Bee Pollinator Seedling Distribution Project. A. Luqman advised that she anticipates hearing back from the Works Department shortly to see if they will be proceeding with their Spring compost days as a possible option to distribute seeds during those events. She advised that next steps would be to reach out to suppliers and obtain prices for the seed packets.

**7. For Information**

A) Commissioner's Report #2021-P-3 – Durham Environmental Advisory Committee 2020 Annual Report and 2020 Workplan

A copy of Report #2021-P-3 of the Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development was received.

B) Commissioner's Report #2021-INFO-10 – 2020 Source Water Protection Annual Report

A copy of Report #2021-INFO-10 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

Concerns were raised by S. Clearwater regarding the seven remaining significant threats in Durham Region noted in Report #2021-INFO-10 of the Commissioner of Works, and that the DEAC should be keeping an eye on those threats.

C) Commissioner's Report #2021-INFO-11 – Odour Mitigation Strategies for the Mixed Waste Pre-Sort and Anaerobic Digestion Facility

A copy of Report #2021-INFO-11 of the Commissioner of Works was received.

A question was raised regarding district heating opportunities and low-quality heat being utilized for commercial, industrial and residential purposes, and whether this would be considered as it relates to the anaerobic digestion facility. A. Luqman advised that she would forward the question to the Waste Services division.

D) DAAC minutes from January 12, 2021 Meeting

A copy of the January 12, 2021 DAAC meeting minutes was received.

E) Central Lake Ontario Conservation's 2020 Annual Report

A copy of the Central Lake Ontario Conservation's 2020 Annual Report was received.

F) Ontario on the Rocks: A Report on the Economic, Social and Environmental Consequences of Resource Extraction

A copy of Ontario on the Rocks: A Report on the Economic, Social and Environmental Consequences of Resource Extraction was received as Attachment #3 to the agenda.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding the nature of this attachment, A. Luqman advised that it was received from a group called Gravel Watch Ontario, whose focus is on aggregate use.

Moved by S. Clearwater, Seconded by D. Stathopoulos,  
That Information Items 7A) and 7F) inclusive, be received for information.

CARRIED

**8. Other Business**

A) Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant Committee

S. Clearwater advised that she attended the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant Committee meeting on February 4, 2021. She advised that there was a presentation by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) regarding what would happen if 8% of agricultural land was changed to forest (importance of reforestation on water quality), and a presentation regarding the engineering of the long outfall pipes that go out into the water, with a focus on phosphorus.

S. Clearwater advised that she would forward the presenters' information to A. Luqman.

B) Potential Webinar Series by DEAC members

Discussion ensued regarding DEAC members developing a webinar series for the public that would highlight different topics of interest and inviting different speakers to participate in the webinars. Suggested topics included a presentation on Green Infrastructure and a presentation by Krista Chomicki, a Great Lakes Scientist from the TRCA.

Moved by C. Doody-Hamilton, Seconded by S. Clearwater,  
That an Educational Webinar Series Subcommittee be established;  
and that C. Doody-Hamilton and J. Cuthbertson be appointed to the  
subcommittee.

CARRIED

**9. Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2021 starting at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**10. Adjournment**

Moved by O. Chaudhry, Seconded by K. Murray,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

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J. Cuthbertson, Second Vice-Chair,  
Durham Environmental Advisory  
Committee

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S. Glover, Committee Clerk