



The Regional Municipality of Durham

COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

April 9, 2020

Information Reports

2020-INFO-30

Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – re: Monitoring of Growth Trends

2020-INFO-31

Commissioner of Finance – re: Economic Update – Updated Risks and Uncertainty as of April 7th, 2020

Early Release Reports

2020-COW-**

Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – re: Decision Meeting Report - Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Werrcroft Farms Ltd., to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels, in the Municipality of Clarington, File: OPA 2019-003

Early release reports will be considered at the April 29, 2020 Regional Council meeting.

Staff Correspondence

1. Memorandum from Dr. R. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health – re: Health Information Update – April 5, 2020

Durham Municipalities Correspondence

There are no Durham Municipalities Correspondence

Other Municipalities Correspondence/Resolutions

1. Town of Midland – re: Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on April 1, 2020, urging the Prime Minister of Canada to direct the payment of federal funds to municipalities to waive property taxes for the Year 2020 to alleviate the suffering from COVID-19 Pandemic

Miscellaneous Correspondence

1. **Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA)** -re: Resolution passed at their Board of Directors meeting held on April 3, 2020, regarding the closure of LSRCA's Conservation Area in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Advisory Committee Minutes

There are no Advisory Committee Minutes

Members of Council – Please advise the Regional Clerk at 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.

Notice regarding collection, use and disclosure of personal information:

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



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2020-INFO-30
Date: April 9, 2020

Subject:

Monitoring of Growth Trends, File: D01-02-01

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report is the first of two biannual reports monitoring Growth Trends in Durham. It presents historical population and household data for the Region and local municipalities for the 2015 to 2019 period.
- 1.2 The data is provided for the end of May (to correspond with the timing of a Census) and for December (calendar year-end). Information presented in this report is intended for use in various planning studies and programs as well as other Regional and agency initiatives.

2. Historical population and household estimates (2015-2019)

- 2.1 The population and household estimates presented in Attachment 1, are based on:

- Statistics Canada Census information for 2011 and 2016 including an estimate for net undercoverage¹; and
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) monthly housing completion data for non-Census years.

2.2 The semi-annual population estimates presented in Attachment 1, indicate that the Region's annual population growth increased by 7,880 persons in 2019, which is higher than the five-year average (7,760). The growth rate last year was 1.16%. Comparatively, the average annual population growth for the five-year period from 2015 to 2019 was 1.15%.

2.3 The semi-annual household estimates presented in Attachment 1, indicate that the Region's annual household growth increased by 3,060 households from 2018 to 2019, representing a growth rate of 1.38%. Comparatively, the annual household growth for the five-year period from 2015 to 2019 was 1.31%.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Committee will continue to be kept apprised of emerging population and household data and trends through regular updates of this information.

3.2 A copy of this report will be forwarded to the Area Municipalities, the Durham Regional Police Service, the Local Health Integration Network, Ontario Health Teams and School Boards in Durham.

4. Attachments

Attachment #1: Semi-annual Population Estimates, 2015-2019 and Semi-annual Household Estimates, 2015-2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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

1. Net undercoverage refers to the net population counts that are missed during the Census enumeration due to persons with no usual residence, incorrect questionnaires, missed dwellings, away from home, etc.

Table 1
Semi-annual Population Estimates, 2015-2019 (May and December)

Year	Ajax	Brock	Clarington	Oshawa	Pickering	Scugog	Uxbridge	Whitby	Durham
2015 (May)	122,895	12,030	94,210	162,730	94,810	22,475	21,830	132,370	663,345
2015 (Dec)	123,740	12,045	94,860	163,925	95,115	22,380	21,930	132,765	666,755
2016 (May)	124,230	12,085	95,515	165,525	95,265	22,440	21,980	133,265	670,310
2016 (Dec)	124,805	12,065	96,490	166,535	95,220	22,370	22,045	133,515	673,040
2017 (May)	125,505	12,050	97,395	167,430	95,765	22,320	22,265	134,400	677,125
2017 (Dec)	126,445	12,140	98,550	169,320	96,255	22,245	22,245	135,050	682,250
2018 (May)	127,840	12,130	99,215	170,120	96,585	22,195	22,345	135,280	685,710
2018 (Dec)	128,725	12,265	100,290	172,660	97,435	22,110	22,340	135,760	691,580
2019 (May)	129,210	12,305	100,815	174,460	97,950	22,080	22,330	135,955	695,105
2019 (Dec)	129,960	12,350	102,110	175,025	98,690	22,025	22,320	136,980	699,460

Note: All figures rounded

Source: Statistics Canada Census and CMHC monthly housing completions data.

Table 2
Semi-annual Household Estimates, 2015-2019 (May and December)

Year	Ajax	Brock	Clarington	Oshawa	Pickering	Scugog	Uxbridge	Whitby	Durham
2015 (May)	37,225	4,500	32,335	61,470	30,690	8,150	7,570	43,175	225,115
2015 (Dec)	37,450	4,520	32,580	61,980	30,815	8,175	7,635	43,325	226,480
2016 (May)	37,550	4,545	32,840	62,595	30,920	8,220	7,665	43,530	227,865
2016 (Dec)	37,655	4,550	33,225	62,990	30,985	8,225	7,705	43,670	229,005
2017 (May)	37,815	4,555	33,570	63,340	31,220	8,230	7,795	44,005	230,530
2017 (Dec)	38,030	4,600	34,020	64,065	31,465	8,235	7,805	44,275	232,495
2018 (May)	38,400	4,605	34,290	64,375	31,630	8,240	7,850	44,395	233,785
2018 (Dec)	38,595	4,670	34,710	65,355	31,990	8,240	7,870	44,615	236,040
2019 (May)	38,690	4,695	34,930	66,045	32,220	8,250	7,875	44,720	237,430
2019 (Dec)	38,845	4,725	35,435	66,270	32,550	8,260	7,890	45,120	239,100

Note: All figures rounded

Source: Statistics Canada Census and CMHC monthly housing completions data.



The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Finance
Report: #2020-INFO-31
Date: April 9, 2020

Subject:

Economic Update – Updated Risks and Uncertainty as of April 7th, 2020

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The Regional Finance Department monitors economic conditions on an ongoing basis and prepares periodic summary reports to Regional Council. The economy is undergoing a time of significant uncertainty with economic conditions and policies changing on a daily basis. The following summarizes the changes that have occurred over the period of April 1st – 7th, 2020.

2. Federal Government

2.1 On April 1st, the federal government released details on the new Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program. The government confirmed that the 75 per cent wage subsidy would be available to businesses of any size, as well as non-profit institutions, demonstrating a 30 per cent revenue loss as a result of COVID-19. The subsidy would be available for up to 12 weeks and will be retroactive to March 15th.

2.2 The government also confirmed that organizations that do not qualify for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy may continue to qualify for the previously announced wage subsidy of 10 per cent of remuneration, paid from March 18 to before June 20, up to a maximum subsidy of \$1,375 per employee and \$25,000 per employer.

2.3 The new Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program will cost the federal government approximately \$71 billion. This increases the total amount of direct stimulus spending, resulting from COVID-19, to an estimated \$111 billion, or 5.3 per cent of GDP.

- 2.4 The amount of indirect stimulus spending, through a combination of loan payment and tax deferrals, sits at \$144 billion, or approximately 7 per cent of GDP. The total amount of all stimulus spending, resulting from COVID-19, is now \$255 billion, or approximately 12 per cent of GDP. It is also expected that the stimulus spending will increase the federal deficit to approximately \$170 billion in 2021.
- 2.5 In order to assist the most economically vulnerable Canadians, the federal government announced an investment of \$100 million to improve access to food for Canadians facing social, economic, and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will flow through national, regional, and local organizations, such as food banks and the Salvation Army, and will be used to purchase food, basic necessities, and necessary equipment.
- 2.6 The federal government has also announced some partial relief for the airline industry. The government announced they will be waiving rent payments from March to December for 21 airport authorities. The government estimates that this will amount to approximately \$331 million in relief.

3. Ontario Government

- 3.1 The provincial government has taken further action to contain the spread of COVID-19 by reducing the number of “essential” businesses that can remain open during the emergency declaration. The government has reduced the list of essential workplace categories from 74 to 44, which will further reduce economic activity in the province.
- 3.2 As the number of COVID-19 cases continues to increase in Ontario, the provincial government launched a new \$50 million Ontario Together Fund, which will help businesses retool their operations toward producing essential medical equipment and supplies.
- 3.3 The provincial government is also working to attract workers to the agri-food sector to ensure a stable food supply chain. On April 4th, the government announced the launch of a new web portal (Ontario.ca/AgFoodJobs) connecting workers with employers looking to fill positions in this sector.
- 3.4 In terms of supports for Ontario’s vulnerable population, the government announced an additional funding allocation of \$20 million to increase infection control and active screening measures in long-term care homes. The government also launched a \$40 million Residential Relief Fund to support organizations that provide residential services for children and youth, people with developmental disabilities and emergency shelters for women and families fleeing domestic violence. This doubles the \$20 million commitment announced in Ontario’s Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19.
- 3.5 On April 2nd, the government announced an emergency payment of more than \$2.7 million to support services for victims of domestic violence and other violent crimes. According to the government, funds will help front-line staff respond to

challenges caused by the COVID-19 crisis by enhancing access to immediate supports for victims, including extended hotels stays and transportation and meal vouchers available through the Victim Quick Response Program Plus (VQRP+).

- 3.6 Ontario also announced \$12 million in emergency funding for the expansion of online and virtual mental health supports, such as Kids Help Phone, as well as \$2.6 million to hire new psychologists and other mental health workers to support Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) personnel.

4. Financial Markets

- 4.1 The U.S equities market experienced another decline over the week of March 30th – April 3rd, with the S&P 500 Index declining 2.1 per cent, the Dow Jones Industrial Average declining 2.7 per cent, and the Nasdaq Composite dropping 1.7 per cent. The declines were due in large part to weaker than expected labour market data on jobless claims and employment.
- 4.2 The Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) was the only developed market to post a gain last week (March 30th – April 3rd) with a rise of 2 per cent. Despite the rise, the TSX has fallen further than its U.S counterpart as it remains down over 20 per cent, on a year over year basis, as opposed to 14 per cent for the S&P 500. The steeper decline in the Canadian equities market is largely due to the falling price of oil. Oil exports account for approximately 10 per cent of Canadian GDP.
- 4.3 Although oil prices have generally caused the Canadian equities market to underperform relative to the U.S market, oil prices are also the reason Canadian equities outperformed U.S equities last week. Oil prices surged 32 per cent over the week of March 30th – April 3rd, sending the price of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) up above US\$28 per barrel. The price of Alberta's Western Canadian Select (WCS) also rose to nearly US\$12 per barrel.
- 4.4 The price of oil rose on the news that Russia and Saudi Arabia were nearing an agreement to significantly reduce oil production. A meeting to confirm the agreement was scheduled to take place on Monday April 6th, however, the meeting has since been postponed due to escalating tensions between the two sides. The renewed tension is causing oil prices to fall once again, with WTI and WCS closing at US\$26.38 and US\$8.92 per barrel, respectively, on Monday April 6th.
- 4.5 The recent rise in oil prices helped the price of the Canadian dollar stabilize around US\$0.70. Although the Canadian dollar has bounced back off its COVID-19 low of US\$0.68, the loonie remains approximately 8 per cent lower than the pre-COVID-19 level of US\$0.76 in January.

5. Global Economy

- 5.1 Economic conditions continue to deteriorate in the United States as evidenced by recently released labour market data. On April 2nd, the U.S Department of Labour announced that a record 6.6 million (seasonally adjusted) people filed initial

claims for unemployment insurance for the week ending March 28th. This new record doubles the previous record of 3.3 million, which was just set during the prior week (week ending March 21st).

- 5.2 On April 3rd, the U.S Bureau of Labour Statistics announced that non-farm payroll employment declined by 701,000 in March 2020. This represents the first decline in employment since September 2010 and comes close to the financial crisis peak of 800,000 in May 2009. This decline in employment increased the unemployment rate from the record low of 3.5 per cent to 4.4 per cent.
- 5.3 The United Kingdom is also experiencing large increases in the amount of unemployment benefit claims. During the week of March 16th – 31st, the U.K saw 950,000 applications for universal credit. The U.K would normally process approximately 100,000 applications over a two-week period.
- 5.4 On April 7th, Japan declared a state of emergency and unveiled a ¥108 trillion stimulus package, worth approximately 20 per cent of GDP. The package includes ¥39.5 trillion in direct fiscal spending.
- 5.5 On April 2nd, the European Union announced a new stimulus package, called the SURE initiative, worth €100 billion. The funds will be provided in the form of loans granted on favourable terms to all member states to ensure workers receive an income and businesses keep their staff. Although funds are available to all member states, funds will be directed to the region's most significantly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.
- 5.6 France is also extending its own stimulus package by guaranteeing up to €300 billion in bank loans to companies threatened by the COVID-19 outbreak. This is in addition to the previously announced €45 billion provided to businesses to continue paying their employees during the lockdown.
- 5.7 The COVID-19 crisis appears to be hitting the European services sector particularly hard, especially in the most severely impacted countries. Service sector PMI (Purchasing Managers Index) in Spain fell to a record low of 23 in March, down from 52.1 in February. In Italy, the service sector PMI fell to an all-time low of just 17.4 in March. A PMI below 50 represents economic contraction.
- 5.8 Australia has increased its supports for families with children by making childcare free for roughly one million families. The childcare industry will receive AUD\$1.6 billion, over the next three months, in taxpayer subsidies, and the government will pay 50 per cent of the industry's fee revenue up to an existing hourly rate cap.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 The economy is experiencing increasing volatility with uncertainty around the spread of COVID-19. Economic conditions are changing on a daily basis as policy makers continue to navigate this uncharted territory.

6.2 The Regional Finance Department will continue to monitor economic conditions and provide timely updates as required.

Respectfully submitted,

Original Signed By

Nancy Taylor, BBA, CPA, CA
Commissioner of Finance and Treasurer

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



EARLY RELEASE OF REPORT

**The Regional Municipality of Durham
Report**

To: Regional Council
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2020-COW-**
Date: April 29, 2020

Subject:

Decision Meeting Report

Application to Amend the Durham Regional Official Plan, submitted by Werrcroft Farms Ltd., to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels, in the Municipality of Clarington, File: OPA 2019-003.

Recommendation:

That the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development Department recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That Amendment #178 to the Durham Regional Official Plan, to permit the severance of a dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels, be adopted as contained in Attachment #3 to Commissioner's Report #2020-COW-**; and
 - B) That "Notice of Adoption" be sent to the applicant, the applicant's agent, the Municipality of Clarington, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and all other persons or public bodies who requested notification of this decision.
-

Report:**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 On July 10, 2019, Clark Consulting Services Ltd., on behalf of Werrcroft Farms Ltd., submitted an application to amend the Regional Official Plan (ROP) to permit the severance of a 0.39 ha (0.98 acre) parcel of land containing an existing farm dwelling, from a 22 ha (55 acre) agricultural parcel.

2. Site Location/Description

- 2.1 The subject site is located on the south side of Regional Road 20, west of Middle Road, just northeast of the Hamlet of Haydon. The parcel is municipally known as 8800 Middle Road, Part of Lot 13, Concession 8, in the Municipality of Clarington (refer to Attachment #1).
- 2.2 The agricultural parcel is primarily flat and rectangular in shape and contains an existing dwelling. A woodlot and hydro corridor are located on the proposed retained property. A stream and a woodlot are located just west of the proposed severance.
- 2.3 The applicant is a private farm corporation which owns a total of seven farm properties that encompasses over 207 hectares, or 511 acres of agricultural land.
- 2.4 The uses surrounding the subject site include:
- a. North – Regional Road 20, woodlands, wetlands and agricultural lands;
 - b. East – Middle Road, agricultural lands, woodlands and wetlands;
 - c. South – agricultural lands; and
 - d. West – agricultural lands, woodlands and wetlands.

3. Background

- 3.1 A Planning Justification Report prepared by Clark Consulting Services has been submitted in support of the application. The Planning Justification Report concluded that the proposed amendment complies with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan, and the Regional Official Plan. The report also concluded the proposed severance will comply with Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) requirements. The Site Phase One Environmental Site Assessment completed by GHD identified no environmental concerns on the subject site.

4. Provincial Plans

- 4.1 The PPS, the Greenbelt Plan and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan permit lot creation in prime agricultural areas for a residence surplus to a farming operation as a result of a farm consolidation, provided that the planning authority ensures that no new residential dwellings are permitted on the retained farm parcel to be created by the severance.
- 4.2 The PPS and the Greenbelt Plan also require the creation of lots to comply with MDS requirements.

5. Durham Regional Official Plan

- 5.1 The subject site is located within the limits of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan (ORMCP) and is designated as “Countryside Area” and “Prime Agriculture” on Schedule ‘B’ – Map ‘B3’ of the Regional Official Plan. Severance applications for agricultural uses may be considered in accordance with the relevant policies of Sub-Section 9A of the ROP.
- 5.2 The Regional Official Plan requires agricultural parcels to have a minimum lot area of 40 hectares. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that agricultural lands remain viable for farming operations. This application is requesting to sever a 0.4 hectare parcel from a 22 hectare parcel. The existing farm parcel is smaller than the typical farm parcel size.
- 5.3 The subject site has been farmed for over 50 years and was formally acquired in 2017. The farming of this property supports the Werry Farms Ltd. dairy operation.
- 5.4 The subject site will continue to be used as active agricultural land, just as it was prior to this application, as the proposed severance does not encompass any active farmland. As the parcel’s use will not be altered in any way through this application, this parcel will continue to be a viable farm parcel.
- 5.5 Policy 9A.2.10 of the ROP permits the severance of a farm dwelling rendered surplus as a result of a farmer acquiring a non-abutting farm, provided that:
- a. The dwelling is not needed for a farm employee;
 - b. The farm parcel is a size which is viable for farm operations;
 - c. For sites within the Protected Countryside of the Greenbelt Plan, the dwelling was in existence as of December 16, 2004;

- d. The farm parcel is zoned to prohibit any further severances or the establishment of any residential dwelling; and
- e. No further severances shall be permitted from the acquired farm parcel.

6. Planning Analysis

- 6.1 Werrcroft Farms Ltd. owns a total of seven farm properties in the Municipality of Clarington and the City of Oshawa (refer to Attachment #2). Three properties contain six existing dwellings. The owners live in one house, four of the houses are occupied by family or tenants and one is vacant. The residence on the subject site is currently rented by a tenant having no ties to the farming operation. The proposed retained agricultural parcel is of a size that will remain viable for farming.
- 6.2 The dwelling located on the subject site was built in 1970's. The proposed amendment complies with the provisions of the PPS, the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan, and the ROP. The proposed severed parcel will be limited in size to accommodate the surplus farm dwelling and the existing private well and septic systems.
- 6.3 The proposed severed parcel complies with MDS requirements. The subject site has been rezoned to prohibit the development of a new residential dwelling on the proposed retained agricultural parcel. Any further severances and/or new residential dwellings on the retained farm parcel will be prohibited in accordance with Provincial and Regional policies.

7. Public Meeting and Submissions

- 7.1 In accordance with the Planning Act, a notice of public meeting regarding this application was published in the appropriate newspaper, mailed to those who own land within 120 metres (400 feet) of the subject site, and a public meeting was held on September 3, 2019. Commissioner's Report #2019-P-32 provides information on the application.
- 7.2 The Region did not receive any written submissions from the public concerning the application.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 On October 31, 2019, the Council of the Municipality of Clarington adopted a resolution supporting the approval of the application to amend the ROP and the related Area Municipal Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment

applications. The proposed Zoning By-law Amendment prohibits the development of a residential dwelling on the retained agricultural parcel.

- 8.2 The Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, the Regional Health Department, the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Regional Works Department have no concerns with the approval of the amendment application.

9. Notice of Meeting

- 9.1 Written notification of the meeting time and location of the Council meeting was sent to all that requested notification, in accordance with Regional Council procedure.
- 9.2 The recommendation of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development is scheduled to be considered by Regional Council on April 29, 2020. If Council adopts the proposed Amendment, notice will be given by the Regional Clerk and Council's decision will be final unless appealed to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT).

10. Conclusion

- 10.1 The proposed amendment is consistent with the PPS and conforms with the policies of the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan and the ROP. It has been demonstrated that the dwelling is surplus to the needs of the farming operation. The proposed Zoning By-law Amendment will set restrictions to prohibit any further severance and/or a new dwelling to be constructed and the proposal maintains the intent of the ROP in protecting agricultural lands for agricultural purposes. Accordingly, it is recommended that Amendment #178 to the ROP, as shown in Attachment #3, be adopted.

11. Attachments

Attachment #1: Location Sketch

Attachment #2: Werrcroft Farms Ltd. Agricultural Land Holdings

Attachment #3: Amendment #178 to the Regional Official Plan

Respectfully submitted,

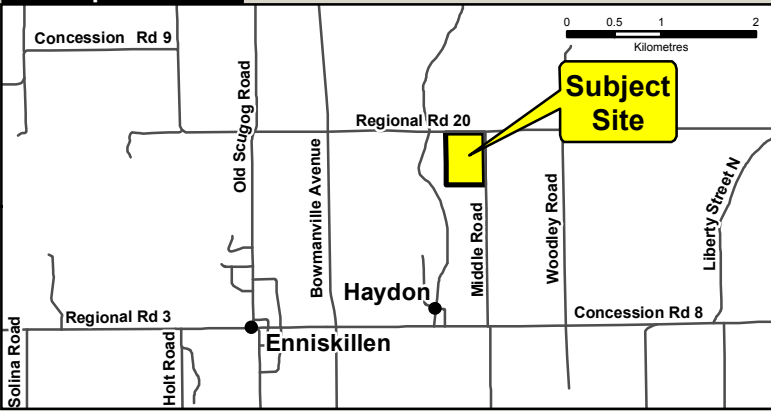
Original signed by

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

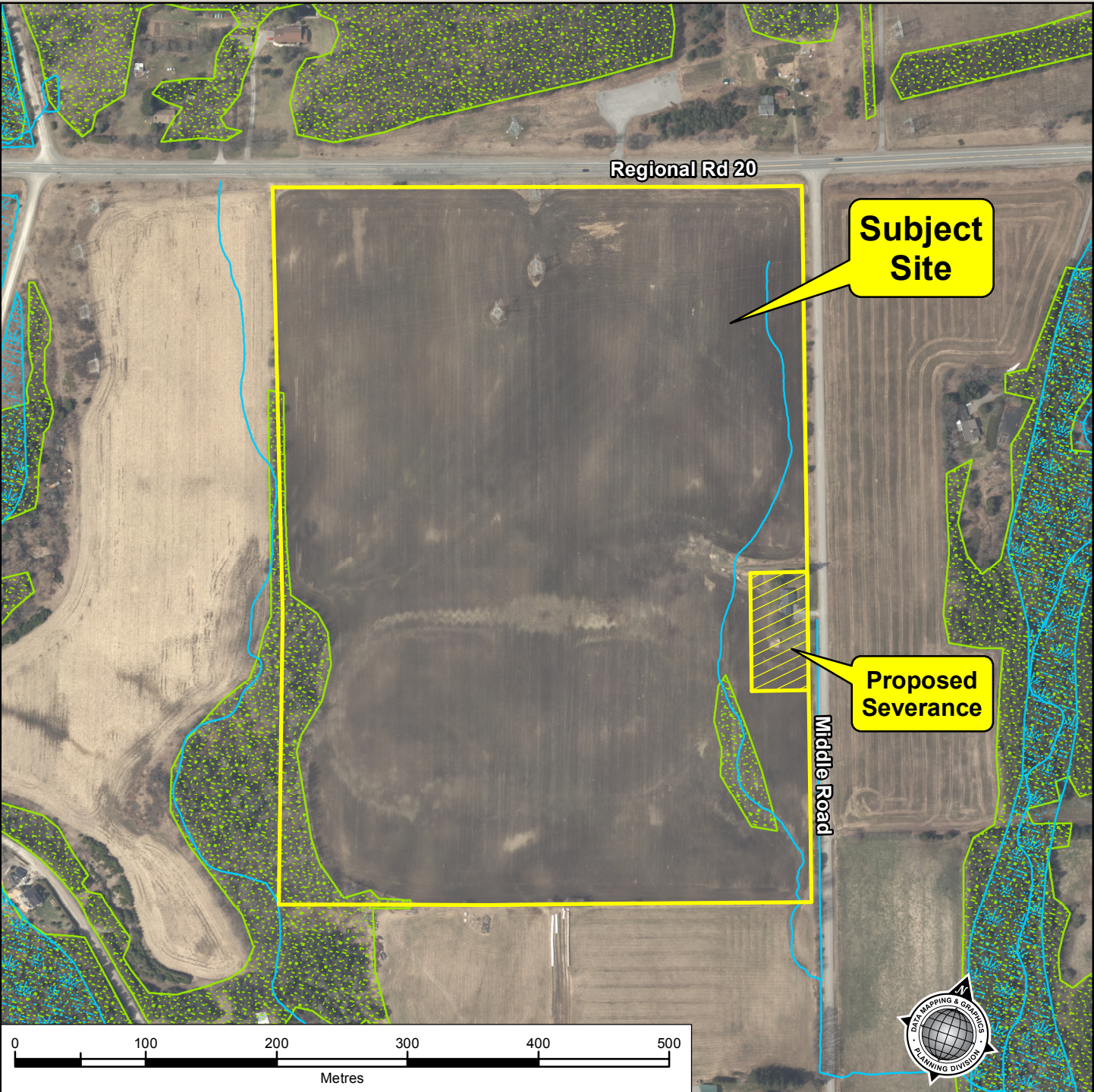
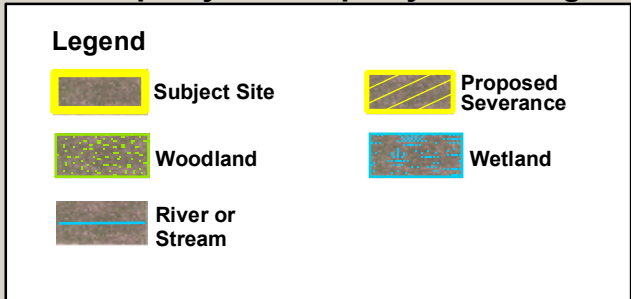
Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

Municipal Context



Attachment #1
Commissioner's Report: #2020-COW-**
File: OPA 2019-003
Municipality: Municipality of Clarington



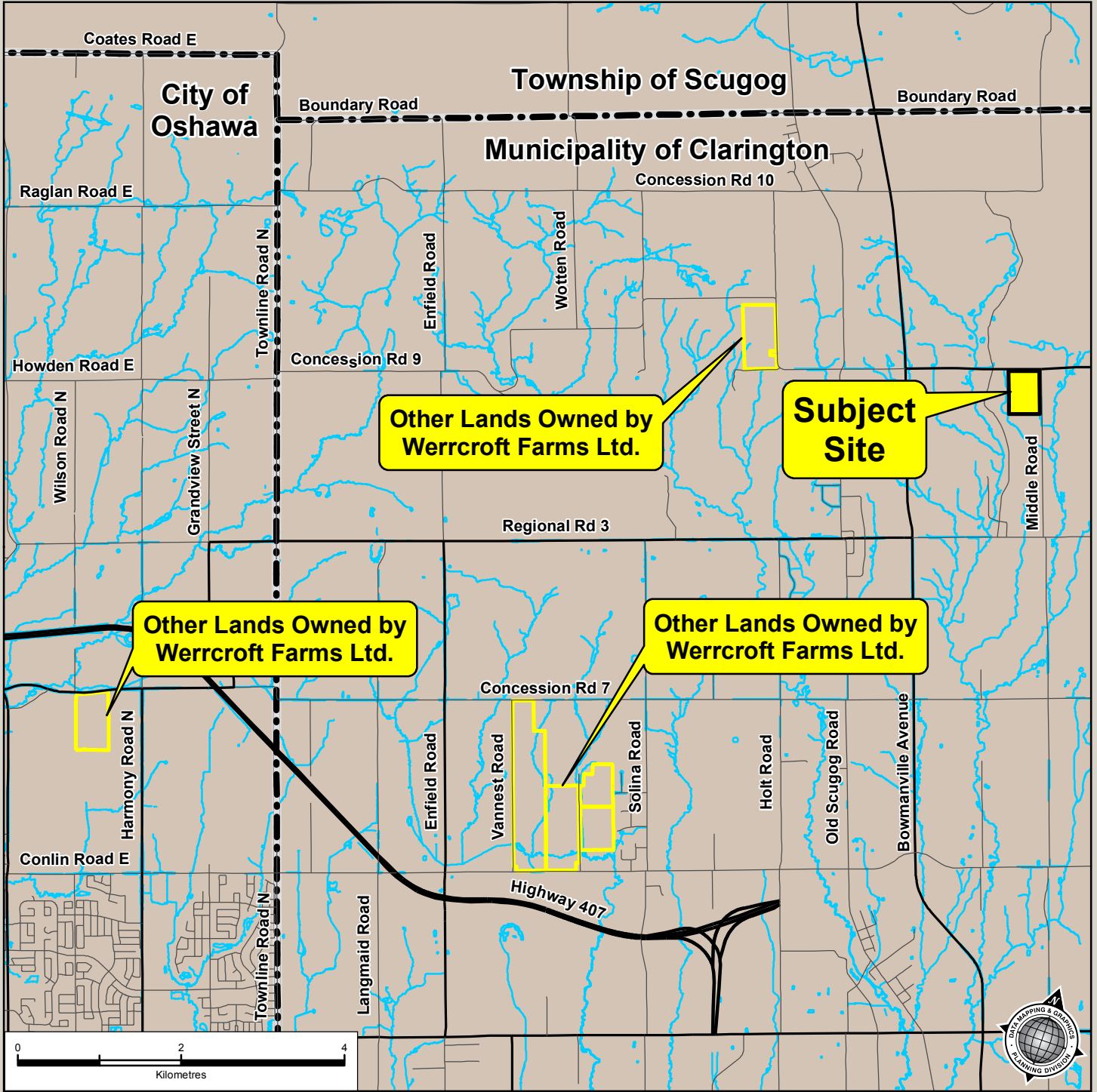
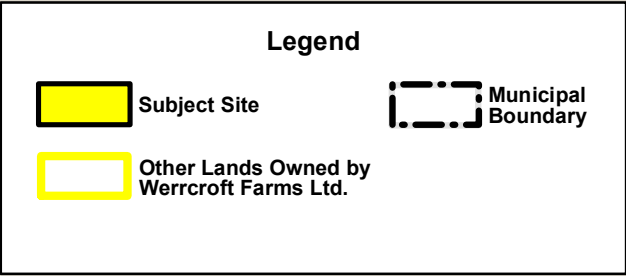
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Municipal Context



Attachment #2
Commissioner's Report: #2020-COW-**
File: OPA 2019-003
Municipality: Municipality of Clarington



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Amendment 178 to the Regional Official Plan

- Purpose and Effect:** The purpose of this Amendment is to permit the severance of a residential dwelling rendered surplus as a result of the consolidation of non-abutting farm parcels on lands designated “Countryside Area” and “Prime Agriculture,” in the Municipality of Clarington and to permit the retained farm parcel to be less than 40 hectares in size.
- Location:** The subject site is located on the on the south side of Regional Road 20 west of Middle Road. The parcel is municipally known as 8800 Middle Road, Part of Lot 13, Concession 8, in the Municipality of Clarington.
- Basis:** The subject site has been consolidated with other non-abutting farm parcels owned by the applicant. The residential dwelling on the subject site is not required by, and is surplus to, the farm operation. This amendment conforms to the Durham Regional Official Plan, the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Plan and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement.
- Amendment:** The Durham Regional Official Plan is hereby amended by adding the following policy exception to Section 9A.3.2:
- “9A.3.2 xx) A surplus dwelling is severed from the 21.6 hectare parcel identified as Assessment No. 18-17-010-150-08900 located in Part of Lot 13, Concession 8, in the Municipality of Clarington, subject to the inclusion of provisions in the zoning by-law to prohibit further severances, the construction of any dwelling on the retained parcel.”*
- Implementation:** The provisions set forth in the Durham Regional Official Plan regarding the implementation of the Plan shall apply in regards to the Amendment.
- Interpretation:** The provisions set forth in the Durham Regional Official Plan regarding the interpretation of the Plan shall apply in regards to this Amendment.



Interoffice Memorandum

Date: April 10, 2020

To: Health & Social Services Committee

From: Dr. Robert Kyle

Subject: Health Information Update – April 5, 2020

Health
Department

Please find attached the latest links to health information from the Health Department and other key sources that you may find of interest. Links may need to be copied and pasted directly in your web browser to open, including the link below.

You may also wish to browse the online Health Department Reference Manual available at [Board of Health Manual](#), which is continually updated.

Boards of health are required to “superintend, provide or ensure the provision of the health programs and services required by the [Health Protection and Promotion] Act and the regulations to the persons who reside in the health unit served by the board” (section 4, clause a, HPPA). In addition, medical officers of health are required to “[report] directly to the board of health on issues relating to public health concerns and to public health programs and services under this or any other Act” (sub-section 67.(1), HPPA).

Accordingly, the Health Information Update is a component of the Health Department’s ‘Accountability Framework’, which also may include program and other reports, Health Plans, Quality Enhancement Plans, Durham Health Check-Ups, business plans and budgets; provincial performance indicators and targets, monitoring, compliance audits and assessments; RDPS certification; and accreditation by Accreditation Canada.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

R.J. Kyle, BSc, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health

*“Service Excellence
for our Communities*

UPDATES FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
April 5, 2020

Health Department Media Releases/Publications

<https://tinyurl.com/s6o4ujf>

- COVID-19 Update #9 (Mar 11)

<https://tinyurl.com/uvvp7cm>

- COVID-19 Update #10 (Mar 13)

<https://tinyurl.com/uh8gz32>

- COVID-19 Update #11 (Mar 18)

<https://tinyurl.com/uznobqq>

- Durham Region Health Department confirms COVID-19-related death of local resident (Mar 24)

<https://tinyurl.com/wevccl4>

- Durham Region Health Department confirms second and third cases of COVID-19-related deaths (Mar 26)

<https://tinyurl.com/vv598vb>

- COVID-19 Update #12 (Mar 27)

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Canada Border Services Agency

<https://tinyurl.com/w9rknrk>

- Statement from the President of the Canada Border Services Agency (Mar 18)

Employment and Social Development Canada

<https://tinyurl.com/wob97bx>

- Statement by the Honourable Filomena Tassi, Minister of Labour, in support of Canadian workers (Mar 21)

<https://tinyurl.com/s9k7ut3>

- COVID-19: In person Service Canada Centres to be closed (Mar 26)

<https://tinyurl.com/uwsa4h5>

- Canada Emergency Response Benefit to Launch on April 6 (Apr 1)

<https://tinyurl.com/rxpa9ov>

- Canada announces support to those experiencing homelessness and women fleeing gender-based violence during coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic (Apr 4)

Global Affairs Canada

<https://tinyurl.com/sz4399n>

- Government of Canada repatriates Canadians from Grand Princess cruise ship (Mar 10)

Governor General of Canada

<https://tinyurl.com/yxx5bedz>

- Transcript of the Video Message from the Governor General of Canada during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Mar 25)

<https://tinyurl.com/tzwoclm>

- Governor General Launches New Online Platform: Caring Nation (Apr 3)

Health Canada

<https://tinyurl.com/toutc2x>

- Health Canada expedites access to COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory test kits and other medical devices (Mar 18)

<https://tinyurl.com/sewjj2c>

- Expedited access to disinfectants, hand sanitizers and personal protective equipment to help limit spread of COVID-19, as well as swabs for testing (Mar 18)

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

<https://tinyurl.com/qv7kek8>

- Government of Canada partners with the telecommunications sector to ensure Canadians abroad receive text messages containing key Global Affairs Canada information during the COVID-19 outbreak (Mar 18)

Prime Minister's Office

<https://tinyurl.com/wjnnlmz>

- Prime Minister outlines Canada's COVID-19 response (Mar 11)

<https://tinyurl.com/tjtfy9o>

- Prime Minister announces new actions under Canada's COVID-19 response (Mar 16)

<https://tinyurl.com/srprdy5>

- Prime Minister announces more support for workers and businesses through Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan (Mar 18)

<https://tinyurl.com/vuuma8r>

- Prime Minister announces Canada's Plan to Mobilize Industry to fight COVID-19 (Mar 20)

<https://tinyurl.com/ue8oml7>

- Prime Minister announces temporary border agreement with the United States (Mar 20)

<https://tinyurl.com/wahcfbt>

- Prime Minister announces efforts to bring Canadians home from abroad (Mar 21)

<https://tinyurl.com/qvjld79>

- Canada's plan to mobilize science to fight COVID-19 (Mar 23)

<https://tinyurl.com/wb8cqs9>

- Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit statement on COVID-19 (Mar 26)

<https://tinyurl.com/ugnj4ao>

- Prime Minister announces support for vulnerable Canadians affected by COVID-19 (Mar 29)

<https://tinyurl.com/r79qw7z>

- Prime Minister announces support for food banks and local food organizations (Apr 3)

Public Health Agency of Canada

<https://tinyurl.com/yx582hr2>

- Statement on a case of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in a passenger from the Grand Princess (Mar 11)

<https://tinyurl.com/ro3ma8x>

- New Order Makes Self-Isolation Mandatory for Individuals Entering Canada (Mar 25)

Public Safety Canada

<https://tinyurl.com/qo9ltls>

- U.S.-Canada Joint Initiative: Temporary Restriction of Travelers Crossing the U.S.-Canada Border for Non-Essential Purposes (Mar 20)

<https://tinyurl.com/rxaatsm>

- Government of Canada provides guidance on services and functions deemed essential to Canada's critical infrastructure (Apr 2)

Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat

<https://tinyurl.com/tto793p>

- Federal public servants to telework wherever and whenever possible (Mar 16)

Transport Canada

<https://tinyurl.com/vnvv5qb>

- Government of Canada announces new domestic transportation measures (Mar 28)

<https://tinyurl.com/wp2on3h>

- Minister of Transport issues Orders to reduce derailments and improve rail safety (Apr 3)

<https://tinyurl.com/rxe2ye4>

- The Government of Canada announces new measures for ferries and commercial passenger vessels capable of carrying more than 12 passengers (Apr 5)

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

<https://tinyurl.com/sejkb5t>

- Statement from Minister Elliott and Minister Hardeman related to grocery buying habits and COVID-19 in Ontario (Mar 14)

<https://tinyurl.com/wdmxqyw>

- Ontario Takes Steps to Keep Food on the Table during COVID-19 (Apr 4)

Ministry of the Attorney General

<https://tinyurl.com/uugx7nk>

- Ontario Protecting Critical Front-Line Justice Services in Response to COVID-19 (Mar 19)

<https://tinyurl.com/tsoj6um>

- Ontario Strengthening Victim Services in Response to COVID-19 (Apr 2)

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

<https://tinyurl.com/rr44cd7>

- Statement of Minister Elliott and Minister Smith of the Social Services Sector's Response to COVID-19 (Mar 16)

<https://tinyurl.com/royqmm4>

- Ontario Protecting Vulnerable Ontarians During COVID-19 Outbreak (Apr 4)

Ministry of College and Universities

<https://tinyurl.com/t4yd5rf>

- Statement from Minister Elliott and Minister Romano on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (Mar 13)

<https://tinyurl.com/vxsf3uj>

- Province Supports Postsecondary Students During COVID-19 (Mar 31)

Ministry of Education

<https://tinyurl.com/ssfhfmy>

- Province Takes Steps to Ensure Frontline Staff Can Continue to Work (Mar 22)

Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

<https://tinyurl.com/u82v9ug>

- Statement from Minister Elliott and Minister Yurek Related to Ontario Parks Operations in Response to COVID-19 (Mar 15)

<https://tinyurl.com/scg5qof>

- Ontario Update on Ontario Parks Operations in Response to COVID-19 (Mar 18)

Ministry of Finance

<https://tinyurl.com/utokd82>

- Ontario's Action Plan: Responding to COVID-19 (Mar 25)

Ministry of Government and Consumer Services

<https://tinyurl.com/u59ffg4>

- Ontario Protecting Supply Chains To Support COVID-19 Emergency Response (Mar 28)

Ministry of Health

<https://tinyurl.com/sam4lds>

- Ontario Confirms New Positive Cases of COVID-19 (Mar 8)

<https://tinyurl.com/rrlalq4>

- Ontario Confirms New Positive Cases of COVID-19 (Mar 8)

<https://tinyurl.com/s6cn7d5>

- Ontario Making It Easier for Public to Stay Informed of COVID-19 (Mar 9)

<https://tinyurl.com/upkxact>

- Province Implementing Enhanced Measures to Protect Ontarians from COVID-19 (Mar 12)

<https://tinyurl.com/qo5eb2c>

- Ontario Hospitals Asked to Take a Planned Approach to Ramping Down Elective Surgeries (Mar 15)

<https://tinyurl.com/yx63fap2>

- Province Expanding Telehealth Ontario Resources (Mar 16)

<https://tinyurl.com/up3hdfn>

- Enhanced Measures to Protect Ontarians from COVID-19 (Mar 16)

<https://tinyurl.com/ske264k>

- Death in Ontario Potentially Related to COVID-19 (Mar 17)

<https://tinyurl.com/sb6ozsb>

- Ontario Taking Another Step to Integrate Health Care (Mar 18)

<https://tinyurl.com/s4srrjp>

- Ontario Expands Coverage for Care (Mar 20)

<https://tinyurl.com/rd2w53c>

- Ontario Takes Extraordinary Steps to Ensure Health Care Resources are Available to Contain COVID-19 (Mar 21)

<https://tinyurl.com/stalkf3>

- Ontario Significantly Enhancing COVID-19 Screening Measures and Supports (Mar 23)

<https://tinyurl.com/sqtu3cu>

- Ontario Enhancing Public Reporting about COVID-19 (Mar 30)

<https://tinyurl.com/qv67ajr>

- Statement from the Chief Medical Officer of Health (Mar 30)

<https://tinyurl.com/sl9uweo>

- Ontario Increasing Public Health Units' Capacity to Stop COVID-19 (Apr 3)

Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

<https://tinyurl.com/vyhr5jq>

- Statement from Minister Elliott and Minister MacLeod on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (Mar 13)

<https://tinyurl.com/uf5lknc>

- Statement from Minister Elliott and Minister MacLeod on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (Mar 13)

Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

<https://tinyurl.com/rsnqyot>

- Ontario Enabling Financial Relief for Businesses (Mar 26)

<https://tinyurl.com/wteyvvyz>

- Ontario Stepping Up Measures to Limit the Spread of COVID-19 on Construction Sites (Mar 29)

Ministry of Long-Term Care

<https://tinyurl.com/wf7cmas>

- Ontario Enhancing COVID-19 Protections for Long-Term Care Residents, Families and Staff (Mar 11)

<https://tinyurl.com/rptua7u>

- Ontario Committed to Protecting Long-Term Care Residents, Families and Staff (Mar 16)

<https://tinyurl.com/rfgvtua>

- Ontario Implements Enhances Measures to Protect the Safety of Residents in Long-Term Care Homes (Mar 24)

<https://tinyurl.com/vtrmluu>

- Two Deaths in Ontario Long-Term Care Homes Related to COVID-19 (Mar 24)

<https://tinyurl.com/uyzzxl6>

- Ontario Taking Emergency Measures to Support Long-Term Care Homes During COVID-19 (Mar 28)

<https://tinyurl.com/rnelc7m>

- Ontario Increasing Health and Safety Measures to Better Protect Frontline Nurses from COVID-19 (Mar 30)

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

<https://tinyurl.com/usmhtfh>

- Ontario Working to Protect People and Property (Mar 9)

Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility

<https://tinyurl.com/qrk9soo>

- Ontario is Protecting Seniors' Health and Safety (Mar 18)

<https://tinyurl.com/sxlwd8o>

- Ontario Protecting Seniors in Retirement Homes During COVID-19 Outbreak (Apr 3)

Ministry of the Solicitor General

<https://tinyurl.com/u4ktg2p>

- Statement from Minister Elliott and Solicitor General Jones regarding Ontario's adult correctional facilities in response to COVID-19 (Mar 13)

<https://tinyurl.com/rl57hhw>

- Ontario Stepping Up Measures to Limit the Spread of COVID-19 in Correctional System (Mar 20)

<https://tinyurl.com/rlxoucc>

- Public Required to Identify Themselves If Charged with Breaching an Emergency Order During the COVID-19 Outbreak (Mar 31)

Ministry of Transportation

<https://tinyurl.com/vc6enrd>

- Ontario's Increased Speed Limit Pilot Finds Wide Public Support (Mar 11)

<https://tinyurl.com/v8djxym>

- Ontario Extending Validation Periods for Driver, Vehicle and Carrier Products, Services and Health Cards (Mar 19)

<https://tinyurl.com/qnhq8m4>

- Statement by Minister Elliott and Minister Mulroney on How Ontario is Protecting Ontario Drivers During COVID-19 (Mar 20)

<https://tinyurl.com/wqtuw63>

- Closure of Drive Test Centres In Response to COVID-19 (Mar 22)

<https://tinyurl.com/r4nu58t>

- Ontario Supports Trucking Sector for Keeping Goods Moving (Apr 2)

Office of the Premier

<https://tinyurl.com/wttsfpx>

- Statement from Premier Ford, Minister Elliott, and Minister Lecce on 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (Mar 12)

<https://tinyurl.com/vzg5l4v>

- Premier Doug Ford Calls for a Strong, United Response to COVID-19 (Mar 13)

<https://tinyurl.com/vnhv8b5>

- Premier Ford Announces Job Protection for Workers during the COVID-19 Situation (Mar 16)

<https://tinyurl.com/r9g9ars>

- Ontario Takes Further Action to Contain the Spread of COVID-19 (Mar 16)

<https://tinyurl.com/sses89b>

- Ontario Enacts Declaration of Emergency to Protect the Public (Mar 17)

<https://tinyurl.com/tmmebj9>

- Ontario Helping Students Learn from the Safety of Their Own Home (Mar 20)

<https://tinyurl.com/w9h4y9m>

- Ontario Urges Business to Join the Fight Against COVID-19 (Mar 21)

<https://tinyurl.com/rjox5d6>

- Ontario Protecting the Most Vulnerable During COVID-19 (Mar 23)

<https://tinyurl.com/r5nqgzb>

- Ontario Orders the Mandatory Closure of All Non-Essential Workplaces to Fight Spread of COVID-19 (Mar 23)
- **<https://tinyurl.com/s86xjmb>**
- Ontario Closing At-Risk Workplaces to Protect Health and Safety (Mar 23)

<https://tinyurl.com/utnvv68>

- Ontario Providing Electricity Relief to Families, Small Businesses and Farms During COVID-19 (Mar 24)

<https://tinyurl.com/w8xvgu9>

- Stop the Spread Business Information Line Now Open at 1-888-444-3659 (Mar 25)

<https://tinyurl.com/uvgxzvw>

- Ontario Provides \$3.3 Billion More to Increase Health Care Capacity (Mar 26)

<https://tinyurl.com/u6phkq2>

- Ontario Protecting Consumers from Price Gouging (Mar 28)

<https://tinyurl.com/shp2ju5>

- Ontario Prohibits Gatherings of More Than Five People with Strict Exceptions (Mar 28)

<https://tinyurl.com/saz4vv4>

- Ontario Protecting Seniors During the COVID-19 Outbreak (Mar 30)

<https://tinyurl.com/qs5bfw9>

- Ontario Extends Emergency Declaration to Stop the Spread of COVID-19 (Mar 30)

<https://tinyurl.com/vu9zqsg>

- Ontario Extends School and Child Care Closures to Fight Spread of COVID-19 (Mar 30)

<https://tinyurl.com/tf34qmr>

- Ontario Joins Forces with the Private Sector to Fight COVID-19 (Apr 1)

<https://tinyurl.com/vpo928r>

- Ontario Increasing Mental Health Support During COVID-19 (Apr 2)

<https://tinyurl.com/trolbjr>

- Ontario Extends Business Closures to Stop the Spread of COVID-19 (Apr 3)

<https://tinyurl.com/wfobm6g>

- Ontario Provides Full Transparency by Releasing COVID-19 Modelling (Apr 3)

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Local Public Health Agencies

<https://tinyurl.com/tuejpx9>

- Board Meetings Letter (Mar 17)

<https://tinyurl.com/rbf5zrn>

- COVID-19 Communication (Mar 24)

<https://tinyurl.com/toc6vdb>

- COVID-19 Action Plan Letter (Mar 27)

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

<https://tinyurl.com/uvmqowp>

- Government of Canada funds 49 additional COVID-19 research projects (Mar 19)

Canadian Medical Association

<https://tinyurl.com/twu3tle>

- Time to work together to help stop the spread – COVID-19 knows no boundaries (Mar 18)

<https://tinyurl.com/t23sjwd>

- Physician poll reveals lack of masks and supplies much starker than portrayed; health providers at risk today – CMA (Apr 2)

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

<https://tinyurl.com/w4mtwhm>

- CNSC comments on the article published in The Toronto Star on February 16, 2020 (Mar 9)

Financial Accountability Office of Ontario

<https://tinyurl.com/wvpnnea>

- FAO releases Long-Term Budget Outlook: 2020-2050 (Mar 11)

<https://tinyurl.com/w4kydow>

- FAO Releases Report Highlighting Ontario Service Fees in 2019-20 (Mar 17)

Heart and Stroke Foundation

<https://tinyurl.com/r66scxf>

- New guideline: ASA no longer recommended to prevent first stroke, heart disease (Mar 23)

ICES

<https://tinyurl.com/wsijnqff>

- Physician psychotherapy unavailable to ninety-seven percent of people with urgent mental health needs in Ontario (Mar 11)

<https://tinyurl.com/wuarexd>

- Class of medication used for overactive bladder linked to new onset of dementia (Mar 12)

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario

<https://tinyurl.com/qwlvox0>

- Impact of COVID-19 (Mar 16)

Ontario Hospital Association

<https://tinyurl.com/vpu7dkw>

- Statement from the Ontario Hospital Association re: Critical Care Capacity and the COVID-19 Pandemic (Mar 21)

<https://tinyurl.com/u6sdwkt>

- OHA Media Statement re: Continuing the Fight Against COVID-19 (Apr 3)

Ontario Medical Association

<https://tinyurl.com/umxko19>

- RNAO & OMA Stress Personal Protective Equipment for Frontline Workers is an Urgent Priority (Mar 22)

<https://tinyurl.com/vnktlx2>

- OMA Urges Governments to Distribute Personal Protective Equipment and Critical Care Supplies Now (Apr 2)

Ontario Power Generation

<https://tinyurl.com/w9x4gbm>

- OPG donating over half a million masks to support frontline COVID-19 crisis (Mar 25)

<https://tinyurl.com/wjwdx8m>

- OPG partners with Feed Ontario to launch innovative COVID-19 Emergency Food Box program (Apr 4)

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

<https://tinyurl.com/w4tctso>

- RNAO Public Statement on COVID-19: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Ventilators (Mar 25)

Good morning,

Council of the Town of Midland at its Regular Meeting of Council on April 1, 2020, passed the following Recommendation by Council Resolution 2020-88:

“That Council confirms its support of letter dated March 23, 2020 from the Town of Midland's Mayor and Chief Administrative Officer (Interim) urging the Prime Minister of Canada to direct the payment of federal funds to municipalities to waive property taxes for the Year 2020 to alleviate the suffering from COVID-19 Pandemic; and

That a copy of the letter be forwarded to Simcoe North MP Bruce Stanton, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities for their support.”

I have attached a copy of the letter dated March 23, 2020 to The Prime Minister, for your reference.

Thank you.

Karen Desroches, DPA
Municipal Clerk
Town of Midland
575 Dominion Avenue
Midland, ON L4R 1R2
(705) 526-4275, ext.2208

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Scent Sensitivity in our Workplace

The Town of Midland is a scent sensitive environment and we ask those who will be entering our facilities to please refrain from using or wearing scented products. Thank you for your cooperation.

This message is intended for the individual to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is confidential and exempt from disclosure under the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please do not forward, copy or disclose this message to anyone and delete all copies and attachments received. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately.

NOTICE

Due to the evolving public health situation (COVID-19), effective March 18, 2020 at 4:30pm the Town of Midland Administration Office is closed to the general public until further notice. Staff will be available on a rotating schedule, and can provide assistance by phone and email. If this is an urgent matter, please call the Town at 705-526-4275. For the after hours Emergency Line, including water & line breaks please call 705-527-8274.



March 23, 2020

By Fax to: 613.941.6900 & Twitter @CanadianPM, @JustinTrudeau

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Direct Payment of Federal Funds to Municipalities to Waive Property Taxes for the Year 2020 - Financial help to alleviate the suffering from COVID-19 Pandemic

It is trite to repeat the human and financial toll of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Similarly, the commitment of the federal, provincial and municipal governments toward alleviating the suffering of Canadians does not require repeating.

We, at the Town of Midland, in the Province of Ontario, are proposing what we believe to be a simple but effective solution to facilitate the delivery of our common and shared commitment to the financial and psychological well-being of all Canadians.

Proposal:

1. Residential Properties (primary residence only)

- a. Waive 100% of the 2020 property taxes for all residential properties currently assessed at or below \$ 500,000.00 by each governing provincial property assessment body; and
- b. Waive 50% of the 2020 property taxes for all residential properties currently assessed below \$ 1,000,000.00; and
- c. Waive 25% of the 2020 property taxes for all residential properties currently assessed above \$1,000,000.00.

2. Industrial, Commercial and Farm Properties

- a. Waive 100% of the 2020 property taxes for all; industrial, commercial and farm properties currently assessed at under \$ 10,000,000.00; and
- b. Waive 50% of the property taxes for the year 2020 for all industrial, commercial and farm properties currently assessed between \$10,000,000.00 and \$ 50,000,000.00; and
- c. Waive 25% of the property taxes for the year 2020 for all industrial, commercial and farm properties assessed above \$50,000,000.00.

3. Federal Transfer Payment to Canadian Municipalities

- a. In lieu of the annual municipal property taxes, the Federal Government transfers funds to municipalities across Canada, as a one-time grant.

Advantages of the Proposal:

1. Quick and timely relief;
2. Direct relief to all Canadian homeowners and the business community;
3. Directly protects Canadians who although may be solvent, are unable to easily meet the financial pressures beyond their personal capacity due to COVID-19;
4. No additional resources required to assess individual need and delivery of the relief;
5. Negligible overhead costs for the disbursement of the relief. In fact, it may cut-down on some of the work for municipal staff; and
6. The financial stimulus received from the federal government will come into circulation immediately and will stay in the community.

There are a multitude of other direct and indirect financial and non-financial benefits that will result from the implementation of this proposal. The biggest non-financial impact is that Canadians will see an immediate financial relief respecting the pressures to make their property tax payments and be better positioned to address other essential needs. In turn, removing this added stress will provide some relief to the already strained financial and health systems.

As you are aware, Canadians are entering this time of crisis with a very high amount of house-hold debt and a great deal of financial fragility. Taking this simple step should alleviate some of those pressures. At the same time, it will keep your municipal governments, and school boards primed for continued productivity and forward momentum to address the fallout from COVID-19.

Thanking you in anticipation of a favourable response.

Sincerely,

The Corporation of the Town of Midland



Stewart Strathearn,
Mayor
ssrathearn@midland.ca



Amanpreet Singh Sidhu,
Chief Administrative Officer
asidhu@midland.ca

- c: Town of Midland Council
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Province of Ontario

Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Board of Directors' Meeting BOD-04-20
April 3, 2020 – Excerpt from Minutes
Resolution No. BOD-050-20

Closure of LSRCA's Conservation Areas - Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Moved by: D. Bath-Hadden

Seconded by: M. Quirk

BOD-050-20 **RESOLVED THAT Staff Report No. 18-20-BOD regarding the closure of LSRCA's Conservation Areas in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic be received; and**

FURTHER THAT the recommendations provided in the report be supported. CARRIED



TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Brian R. Kemp
General Manager – Conservation Lands

DATE: April 2, 2020

SUBJECT: Closure of LSRCA’s Conservation Areas - Response to COVID-19
Pandemic

RECOMMENDATION: THAT Staff Report No. 18-20-BOD regarding the closure of LSRCA’s Conservation Areas in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic be received; and

FURTHER THAT the recommendations provided in the report be supported.

Purpose of this Staff Report:

The purpose of Staff Report No. 18-20-BOD is to provide the Board of Directors with an update on the status of LSRCA’s Conservation Areas and associated amenities during the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Background:

On March 19, 2020, after dialogue with the Executive Leadership Team and consultation with Conservation Authority partners, staff made the decision to proceed with the following actions regarding Conservation Area use:

- post conservation areas with signage regarding COVID-19 etiquette while using the trails,
- close all facilities (washrooms, pavilions, Discovery Play Garden, etc.),
- close the Scanlon Creek Bark Park,
- develop associated social media postings and web updates, and
- notify all municipal partners (operations and parks) of these actions.

Over the course of the weekend that followed, March 21st and 22nd, LSRCA staff patrolled a number of conservation areas and associated parking lots/access points and noted considerable

use and a number of incidents of gathering/congregating. This was also noted as a trend at a number of conservation areas across the GTA, which led to complete closures by a few of our partner Conservation Authorities (Halton, Credit, Grand, etc.).

On March 23rd, staff began discussions regarding the full closure of all conservation areas and Durham Regional Forest (which LSRCA manages). Staff followed up with local and upper tier municipal staff seeking support (barricades, site monitoring, etc.) to assist in the event of full closures. Staff at many local municipalities supported this potential direction and offered their assistance. The Province then announced on March 23rd what was deemed as essential and non-essential services, and the maintenance of conservation areas was identified as non-essential at this point (trail maintenance, facility repairs, hazard tree inspections). This direction meant that LSRCA staff involved in the ongoing maintenance of our conservation areas would no longer be completing these tasks, which could potentially lead to unsafe conditions at our conservation areas and associated trails. Further dialogue with our risk advisor and insurance provider (Marsh) seeking advice on our risk of liability identified concerns for public safety and the potential for future legal claims should we continue to keep our sites open and accessible.

It was decided, based on current situations, that it was in the best interest of LSRCA and the community at large if we closed all conservation areas until further notice, reducing service levels to the inspection and maintenance of the closures including the barricades and signage. While closing our Conservation Areas was a difficult decision during a time when we need to get outside and connect with nature, we felt it was a necessary action that supports the direction of our municipal partners, as well as the federal and provincial government asking for people to stay at home in order to “flatten the curve”. At a time when we must put the health and well-being of our staff and communities first, LSRCA believes we all need to work together to minimize the spread of COVID-19. This decision was made in support of the recent legislation put in place by the Province of Ontario to help impede the spread of COVID-19 and to keep LSRCA staff and watershed residents as safe as possible throughout this difficult time.

Status of Other Agencies Closures

Conservation Area Closures Across the Province

- 14 Conservation Authorities have closed their properties and/or trails specifically due to pandemic
- Rationale for closures: public concerns; staff concerns; over-crowding and public safety; poor behaviour; reduced staff resources; prevention of social gatherings; promotion of social distancing; and compliance with March 30, 2020 Provincial declaration to close all shared, public or private, outdoor recreational amenities

- Some Conservation Authorities have kept left properties and/or trails open, but facilities are closed – washrooms and privies, visitor centres, meeting spaces, rental spaces, campgrounds, etc.

County/Regional Forest Closures

- Data provided to LSRCA staff as of March 31, 2020;
 - Most Upper tier municipalities have properties open; however, amenities have been closed
 - Northumberland County closed
 - Bruce County closed
 - Halton Region anticipates closure soon

Other Closures

- Parks Canada, Ontario Parks and the Bruce Trail have closed all parks, facilities and trails where possible. Messages have been posted on websites asking visitors to stay home, stay safe and flatten the curve
- Some lower tier municipalities have closed outdoor recreation facilities including dog parks, basketball and tennis courts, playgrounds, skateboard parks, trails and sports fields.

Issues:

The decision to close our Conservation Areas was difficult and one that staff have not taken lightly. Staff will continue to monitor properties to ensure signage and barriers are in place and will continue to respond to questions from our communities and ensure messages are kept up to date and provided in a timely manner.

Relevance to Authority Policy:

The mandate and mission of conservation authorities is the protection of people and property within respective watersheds. Closing conservation areas at this time amid the COVID-19 pandemic is consistent with that mandate.

Impact on Authority Finances:

The closure of LSRCA's conservation areas will have minimal impact on revenues over the next two months; however, it may start impacting revenues during the peak season of June – October. Staff will continue to monitor revenue trends and provide an update to the Board of Directors as part of the broader corporate financial reports that are presented quarterly.

Summary and Recommendations:

It is therefore RECOMMENDED THAT Staff Report No. 18-20-BOD regarding the closure of LSRCA's Conservation Areas in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic be received; and FURTHER THAT the recommendations provided in the report be supported.

Pre-Submission Review:

This Staff Report has been reviewed by the Chief Administrative Officer.



Brian R. Kemp
General Manager – Conservation Lands



Michael Walters
Chief Administrative Officer