



The Regional Municipality of Durham COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, January 12, 2024

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

	Pages
1. Information Reports	
There are no Information Reports.	
2. Early Release Reports	
There are no Early Release Reports.	
3. Confidential Reports Authorized for Release	
There are no Confidential Reports.	
4. Staff Correspondence	
4.1 Memorandum from Dr. R. J. Kyle, Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health	4
• Health Information Update – January 7, 2024	
5. Durham Municipalities Correspondence	
There are no Durham Municipalities Correspondence.	
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• Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on December 20, 2023, regarding the Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request	
6.2 Town of Aurora	10

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on December 12, 2023, regarding Community Safety and Inciteful Speech 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution passed at their Council meeting held on January 9, 2024, in support of the resolution by the Township of Clearview and Tay Township regarding Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration and Management Support Request 	
7.	Miscellaneous Correspondence	
7.1	Durham Region Residents	31
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form letter requesting Council to ask staff to provide information about the servicing costs of infill/intensification versus greenfield development; and that Durham Region Council reconsider last May's decision to expand the urban boundaries by more than 9000 acres before the proposed Durham Region Official Plan is approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing [Note: to date 183 form letters have been received on this matter. Copies have been retained on file in Legislative Services] 	
7.2	Greg Milosh, Oshawa Resident	32
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence dated January 8, 2024, to Regional Council requesting that Council pause the Durham Region Official Plan approval request to allow for a review of the servicing costs and impacts associated with the proposed Settlement Area Boundary Expansions (SABEs); and to request Council to direct staff to produce a comprehensive analysis of the servicing and financing costs for the proposed SABEs 	
7.3	Kathleen Ffolliott, Whitby Resident	33
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence dated January 8, 2024, to Regional Council requesting that Council pause the Durham Region Official Plan approval request to allow for a review of the servicing costs and impacts associated with the proposed Settlement Area Boundary Expansions (SABEs); and to request Council to direct staff to 	

produce a comprehensive analysis of the servicing and financing costs for the proposed SABEs

7.4 Helen Brenner and AbdullahMir on behalf of Stop Sprawl Durham

34

- Correspondence dated January 7, 2024, requesting that Council pause the Durham Region Official Plan approval request to allow for a review of the servicing costs and impacts associated with the proposed Settlement Area Boundary Expansions (SABEs); and to request Council to direct staff to produce a comprehensive analysis of the servicing and financing costs for the proposed SABEs

8. Advisory / Other Committee Minutes

There are no Advisory/Other 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 not later than noon the day 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: Written information (either paper or electronic) that you send to Durham Regional Council or Committees, including home address, phone numbers and email addresses, will become part of the public record. If you have any questions about the collection of information, please contact the Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services.



Interoffice Memorandum

Date: January 12, 2024

To: Health & Social Services Committee

From: Dr. Robert Kyle

Subject: Health Information Update – January 7, 2024

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
January 7, 2024

Health Department Media Releases/Publications

tinyurl.com/46tbe5rn

- Health Department encourages everyone to be safe if using alcohol or cannabis during the holidays (Dec 18)

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Employment and Social Development Canada

tinyurl.com/45s6xsh6

- Government of Canada helps more seniors age at home (Dec 19)

Environment and Climate Change Canada

tinyurl.com/5n6jbuze

- Partners working with municipalities across Canada to contribute to national conservation network, supporting nature and halting biodiversity loss (Dec 18)

tinyurl.com/yc44mhkb

- New Electric Vehicle Availability Standard will give Canadians better access to more affordable cars and cleaner air (Dec 19)

tinyurl.com/ycxatejp

- The Government of Canada is seeking feedback on developing a federal plastics registry to help tackle pollutions (Jan 2)

Health Canada

tinyurl.com/yeyhj246

- The Government of Canada announces the creation of the Canadian Drug Agency (Dec 18)

tinyurl.com/zhrt35an

- Statement from the Minister of Health to mark the first Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month (Jan 4)

Infrastructure Canada

tinyurl.com/bdhssrb5

- Helping communities respond to unsheltered homelessness this winter (Dec 22)

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

tinyurl.com/3msejfwu

- Government of Canada appoints new President of the National Research Council of Canada (Dec 20)

Public Health Agency of Canada

tinyurl.com/bdewy9ut

- Community-based projects help expand access to vaccinations and credible information on immunization (Dec 20)

tinyurl.com/3u46mth8

- Government of Canada invests in projects to help people in Canada address and adapt to the impacts of climate change to their health (Dec 21)

tinyurl.com/2s49v5mc

- Message from the Minister of Health – Alzheimer’s Awareness Month (Jan 3)

Transport Canada

tinyurl.com/3u9ut5w6

- Minister of Transport announces proposed changes to the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations* to enhance safety for transportation of dangerous goods across Canada (Dec 20)

tinyurl.com/3ymb6e27

- Minister of Transport announces modernized vessel construction and equipment regulations (Jan 3)

GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO

Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

tinyurl.com/yc8yjtz5

- 2022-23 Chief Drinking Water Inspector annual report (Dec 14)

tinyurl.com/t5mj6re5

- Minister’s Annual Report on Drinking Water (2023) (Dec 14)

Ministry of Health

tinyurl.com/bdhwd8jc

- Ontario Connecting Children and Youth in Durham Region to Care Close to Home (Dec 20)

Premier’s Office

tinyurl.com/2tx3hpwp

- Regulations and Statutes in Force as of January 1, 2024 (Dec 29)

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

tinyurl.com/y68ym3u4

- Dr. Arian Marellii appointed Scientific Director of CHIR Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (Dec 20)

Canadian Parks & Recreation Association

tinyurl.com/3cuc65en

- How Canada’s investment in sport, physical activity and recreation pays off (Dec 18)

Financial Accountability Office of Ontario

tinyurl.com/m94zs2au

- FAO releases Expenditure Monitor 2023-24: Q2 (Dec 19)

Statistics Canada

tinyurl.com/27efvs8p

- Statistics Canada's Disaggregated Data Action Plan Achievements Report 2022-23 highlights progress in statistical information for diverse population groups (Dec 19)

World Health Organization

tinyurl.com/3vktesz

- COVID-19 vaccinations shift to regular immunization as COVAX draws to a close (Dec 19)

tinyurl.com/mr3sx545


- COVID-19 variant of interest JN.1 (Dec 19)

tinyurl.com/j3kdc3js

- Global Health Achievements and Challenges: The year in review (Dec 21)

TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street
PO Box 100
Victoria Harbour, Ontario
L0K 2A0

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	January 02, 2024 9:14 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	



December 21, 2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

sent via email Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org

Dear Hon. Todd McCarthy,

Re: Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request – Tay Township

Tay Township Council passed the following resolution during the December 20, 2023 Council Meeting regarding the Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request:

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

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

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

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

TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street
PO Box 100
Victoria Harbour, Ontario
L0K 2A0



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

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

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

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

Sent on behalf of Tay Township Council.


Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katelyn Johns'.

Katelyn Johns, MPPA
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities/MPP, and all Ontario municipalities.



 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	January 02, 2024 9:17 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Legislative Services
 Jaclyn Grossi
 905-726-4768
 clerks@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
 100 John West Way, Box 1000
 Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

December 19, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
 Prime Minister of Canada
 80 Wellington Street
 Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Delivered by email
 justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

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

Delivered by email
 premier@ontario.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of December 12, 2023
 Motion 10.3 – Councillor Gilliland; Re: Community Safety and Inciteful Speech**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on December 12, 2023, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

Whereas there has been an escalation in terrorist activity and unrest around the world that has triggered homeland rallies and advocacy that supports inciteful actions, which are causing uncertainty and unsafe feelings in our own country; and

Whereas inciteful speech is knowingly being utilized to create division, manipulation and spread misinformation, which could be defined as violent extremist propaganda and encouraging violent crimes; and

Whereas any loss of innocent civilian life is unacceptable and tragic; and

Whereas other local municipal councils and residents in Aurora have expressed concerns of uncertainty and safety who are asking for peace, protection and security; and

Whereas law exists to help maintain public safety, security, peace and order in society, and in Canada, where the responsibility for criminal justice is shared between the Federal, Provincial and territorial governments; and

Whereas it is important to protect our general freedoms of speech, while respecting the principles to protect and respect human rights, whether in

person or in a free, open and secure internet, and to ensure transparency and accountability;

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora acknowledges that residents in the community have expressed feelings of uncertainty and safety concerns, due to the recent global unrest, and condemns all acts of terror and violence resulting in loss of life or injury; and**
- 2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora call on all levels of government to acknowledge this uncertainty and safety concerns in Canada and look to strengthening their available tools to deny inciteful speech that encourages violent extremists the ability to publicly manipulate, advocate, and incite violence or physical harm to another human being, whether it be online or in person; and**
- 3. Be It Further Resolved That Council encourages our community and diverse local leaders of faith to bring the community together to promote peace, healing and understanding during this difficult time; and**
- 4. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be provided to both the Federal and Provincial government and all municipalities in Ontario.**

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

Sincerely,



Jaclyn Grossi
Deputy Town Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

JG/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: All Ontario Municipalities



10. Motions

10.3 Councillor Gilliland; Re: Community Safety and Inciteful Speech

Moved by Councillor Gilliland

Seconded by Councillor Gaertner

Whereas there has been an escalation in terrorist activity and unrest around the world that has triggered homeland rallies and advocacy that supports inciteful actions, which are causing uncertainty and unsafe feelings in our own country; and

Whereas inciteful speech is knowingly being utilized to create division, manipulation and spread misinformation, which could be defined as violent extremist propaganda and encouraging violent crimes; and

Whereas any loss of innocent civilian life is unacceptable and tragic; and

Whereas other local municipal councils and residents in Aurora have expressed concerns of uncertainty and safety who are asking for peace, protection and security; and

Whereas law exists to help maintain public safety, security, peace and order in society, and in Canada, where the responsibility for criminal justice is shared between the Federal, Provincial and territorial governments; and

Whereas it is important to protect our general freedoms of speech, while respecting the principles to protect and respect human rights, whether in person or in a free, open and secure internet, and to ensure transparency and accountability;

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speech that encourages violent extremists the ability to publicly manipulate, advocate, and incite violence or physical harm to another human being, whether it be online or in person; and

3. Be It Further Resolved That Council encourages our community and diverse local leaders of faith to bring the community together to promote peace, healing and understanding during this difficult time; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be provided to both the Federal and Provincial government and all municipalities in Ontario.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)



 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	January 02, 2024 9:20 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Legislative Services
 Jaclyn Grossi
 905-726-4768
 clerks@aurora.ca
 Town of Aurora
 100 John West Way, Box 1000
 Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

December 19, 2023

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

Delivered by email
 premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of December 12, 2023
 Motion 10.1 – Councillor Gilliland; Re: Homelessness Crisis**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on December 12, 2023, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

Whereas the homelessness crisis is taking a devastating toll on families and communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, and that Council accepts that the responsibility to address these challenges rests with community stakeholders, partners, and residents as well as regional, federal, and provincial governments and agencies; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora recognizes the challenges of mental health, addictions, and homelessness, which are complex issues that have a significant and detrimental impact on the residents of the Town of Aurora and surrounding areas within Ontario; and

Whereas addressing and responding to these issues has placed extreme stress on all levels of regional, municipal, and non-municipal programs and services, including various not-for-profit organizations and provincially funded health services within the Town of Aurora and surrounding areas;

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora acknowledge that homelessness in Ontario is a social, economic and health crisis, including people with substance use disorders; and**
- 2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora commits to ending homelessness in the community in collaboration with the Region, and both the Provincial and Federal governments; and**

3. **Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora call on the Region, the Province and Federal governments to increase action and supports on the following:**
 - a. **Commit to ending homelessness in Ontario; and**
 - b. **Work with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and a broad range of community, health, and economic partners to develop, resource, and implement an action plan to achieve this goal; and**
 - c. **Provide a long-term financial commitment to assist in the creation of more affordable and supportive housing for people in need, in York Region, including people with substance use disorders; and**
 - d. **Increase investments in evidence informed substance use prevention and mental health promotion initiatives that provide foundational support for the health, safety and well-being of individuals, families, and neighbourhoods, beginning from early childhood; and**
4. **Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; the Minister of Health; the Minister of the Solicitor General; the Minister of Finance; the Chief Medical Officer of Health; Town of Aurora local MPs and MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and all Ontario municipalities.**

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

Sincerely,



Jaclyn Grossi

Deputy Town Clerk

The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

JG/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, MPP
Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
Hon. Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General
Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora
Tony Van Bynen, MP Newmarket—Aurora
Leah Taylor Roy, MP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



10. Motions

10.1 Councillor Gilliland; Re: Homelessness Crisis

Moved by Councillor Gilliland

Seconded by Councillor Gaertner

Whereas the homelessness crisis is taking a devastating toll on families and communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, and that Council accepts that the responsibility to address these challenges rests with community stakeholders, partners, and residents as well as regional, federal, and provincial governments and agencies; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora recognizes the challenges of mental health, addictions, and homelessness, which are complex issues that have a significant and detrimental impact on the residents of the Town of Aurora and surrounding areas within Ontario; and

Whereas addressing and responding to these issues has placed extreme stress on all levels of regional, municipal, and non-municipal programs and services, including various not-for-profit organizations and provincially funded health services within the Town of Aurora and surrounding areas;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora acknowledge that homelessness in Ontario is a social, economic and health crisis, including people with substance use disorders; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora commits to ending homelessness in the community in collaboration with the Region, and both the Provincial and Federal governments; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora call on the Region, the Province and Federal governments to increase action and supports on the following:
 - a. Commit to ending homelessness in Ontario; and
 - b. Work with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and a broad range of community, health, and economic partners to

develop, resource, and implement an action plan to achieve this goal; and

- c. Provide a long-term financial commitment to assist in the creation of more affordable and supportive housing for people in need, in York Region, including people with substance use disorders; and
- d. Increase investments in evidence informed substance use prevention and mental health promotion initiatives that provide foundational support for the health, safety and well-being of individuals, families, and neighbourhoods, beginning from early childhood; and

4. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; the Minister of Health; the Minister of the Solicitor General; the Minister of Finance; the Chief Medical Officer of Health; Town of Aurora local MPs and MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and all Ontario municipalities.


Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)

January 10, 2024

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

SENT ELECTRONICALLY
Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	January 11, 2024 8:36 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Re: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support Request

Please be advised that at its meeting of January 9, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet passed the following motion:

“**THAT** the Township of Wainfleet receive C-2023-430 from the Township of Clearview and C -2023-442 from the Township of Tay regarding cemeteries and that we send a resolution of support for their correspondences to all appropriate parties.”

Should you have any questions, please contact me at achrastina@wainfleet.ca or 905-899-3463 ext. 224.

Regards,



Amber Chrastina
Deputy Clerk

Cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar
MPP Niagara West, Sam Oosterhoff
Ontario Municipalities



Staff Report

To: Mayor and Council

From: Sasha Helmkey, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

Date: December 11, 2023

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

Recommendation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Background

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

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

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

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

Township Owned Cemeteries

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

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

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

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

Comments and Analysis

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

Administrative Impact

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

- **Incomplete records**

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

- **Lack of human resources**

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

- Increased regulatory processes

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

- Inconsistent cemetery regulations

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

Operational Impact

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

- High maintenance costs

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

- Cost of cemetery management software

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

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

- **Inadequate Care and Maintenance funds**

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

Support Request

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

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

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

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

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

Clearview's Strategic Plan

The above initiative supports the following strategic pillars:

- Governance

Financial Implications

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

Report Appendices

Not applicable.

Approvals

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



CLEARVIEW
TOWNSHIP

Clerk's Department
Township of Clearview
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0
clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca
Phone: 705-428-6230

December 12, 2023

File: C00.2023

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

Sent by Email

RE: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

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

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

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

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

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

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

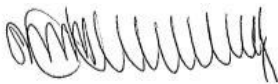
Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

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

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

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

Regards,



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

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

TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street
PO Box 100
Victoria Harbour, Ontario
L0K 2A0



Received December 21, 2023
C-2023-442

December 21, 2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

sent via email Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org

Dear Hon. Todd McCarthy,

Re: Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request – Tay Township

Tay Township Council passed the following resolution during the December 20, 2023 Council Meeting regarding the Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request:

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

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

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

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

TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street
PO Box 100
Victoria Harbour, Ontario
L0K 2A0



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

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

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

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

Sent on behalf of Tay Township Council.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katelyn Johns'.

Katelyn Johns, MPPA
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities/MPP, and all Ontario municipalities.

From: Dennis Sallans <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: January 5, 2024 1:25 PM
To: Clerks <Clerks@durham.ca>
Subject: Reconsider the Durham Region Official Plan land needs now!

You don't often get email from noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Clerk Clerk Clerk,

I am writing today to ask that you consider your residents and the financial burden that expanding Durham's urban boundaries by more than 9000 acres of land will have on us as taxpayers. I urge you to act now, before the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing approves the proposed Durham Region Official Plan (DROP).

We have more than enough land within our current urban boundaries to accommodate new people and new growth. We must use our finite land resources efficiently and avoid unsustainable and costly sprawl into greenfield areas.

Taxpayers are struggling with the rising costs of living. The 7.4% increase in Water and Sewage rates and the 7.5% budget guideline increase that Regional Council approved on December 20 have, in large part, been driven by land-use decisions of past Regional Councils. Adding 9000 acres beyond Durham's already bloated urban boundary will exacerbate the current affordability crisis by requiring additional property tax dollars to service these lands, which are not needed to accommodate growth to 2051.

I urge you to recommend that Regional Council follow up with the request that Councillor Nicholson made at the December 6 Works Committee meeting for staff to provide information about the servicing costs of infill/intensification versus greenfield development. Please also recommend that Regional Council reconsider last May's decision to expand our urban boundaries by more than 9000 acres before our region's flawed council-approved proposed Official Plan gets approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

The cost of servicing existing sprawl is already too high. Durham taxpayers cannot afford to subsidize inefficient and unsustainable development patterns that do not result in "affordable housing."

Dennis Sallans

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Whitby, Ontario [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Greg Milosh

Sent: January 8, 2024 10:34 AM

To: Clerks <Clerks@durham.ca>

Subject: Correspondence for January 9/24 planning committee meeting agenda addendum

> Clerk:

> please ensure the following correspondence is added to the Jan. 9/24 Planning Committee meeting agenda addendum:

> You will have seen the costs of providing and maintaining infrastructure, and servicing growth areas, in several December staff reports, which included the Water and Sewer budget and the proposed Budget Guideline increases. I addressed Finance and Administration about some of my concerns on December 12th.

> Many Durham homeowners are facing a real affordability crisis and are already struggling with increasing costs for utilities, insurance, home repair & maintenance, transportation and food.

>

> Many Durham homeowners are on fixed incomes and will be challenged to afford higher user rates and property taxes. Should they find themselves having to sell, there is a shortage of affordable rental accommodation.

>

> It is long past time that Regional Council directed staff to undertake a comprehensive servicing costs analysis of the proposed Settlement Area Boundary Expansions (SABEs) in Durham Region's proposed Official Plan (DROP) and consider the fiscal impacts.

>

> The council approved DROP has been on the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing's (MMAH) desk for months, with a decision possibly imminent.

>

> I respectfully request that:

>

> Planning Committee recommend to Council that Council should immediately advise the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing that Durham wishes to "pause" their DROP approval request to allow time for Council to thoroughly review and consider the servicing costs and impacts associated with the SABEs, these costs being in addition to the fiscal pressures of servicing lands within the current urban boundary.

>

> and,

>

> Planning Committee recommend to Council that they direct staff to produce a comprehensive analysis of the servicing and financing costs for the proposed SABEs.

>

> Thank you.

> Greg Milosh

> Oshawa

Via email to: clerks@durham.ca

January 8, 2024

Re: Durham Region is becoming unaffordable to live in!

As a taxpayer, I am alarmed at the staggering user rate and budget guideline increases that have already been approved by Regional Council. I'm even more scared about the impact of adding 9000 more acres of land to our urban boundaries will have on my tax bills, as proposed in the Durham Region Official Plan.

While some of this year's increases are due to inflationary pressures, I am aware they are also due to past decisions by councils to recklessly sprawl our urban boundaries outward without considering the financial implications to taxpayers.

Taxpayers expect leadership in our region to be fiscally responsible. Given that the Region is already struggling to meet the costs of servicing existing communities within existing budgets and the new realities caused by Bills 23 and 134, and taxpayers are struggling to meet basic costs of living, why would Regional Council seek to lock in boundary expansions that would cost taxpayers more?

As Councillor Nicolson suggested at the December 6, 2023, Works Committee meeting, Regional Council should be directing staff to determine the servicing costs associated with sprawling outside our urban boundaries and whether taxpayers and the Region can afford these additional costs. Until these servicing costs are known and considered, the Region should ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for a pause in the approval process for the Official Plan concerning the Settlement Area Boundary Expansions (SABEs).

The 2024 budget process that is underway is clearly demonstrating how costly servicing is. Council needs to consider its residents and taxpayers on this ticket. As it is, many taxpayers will struggle to pay the increased water and sewage user rates and property taxes to service already approved urban areas. Taxpayers do not want to be burdened further with the costs of servicing beyond our present urban boundaries.

I ask that you recommend to Regional Council that it ask staff to conduct a financial analysis of the servicing costs for the land needs contained in the Durham Region Official Plan in order to understand how servicing the settlement area boundary expansions would impact regional property taxes and water/sewer user rates.

Sincerely,

Kathleen ffolliott



Whitby



January 8, 2024

Planning and Economic Development Committee
Region of Durham
605 Rossland Road East
Whitby, Ontario
L1N 6A3

Via Email to: Clerks@Durham.ca

Re: Pause the Durham Region Official Plan approval request and determine the servicing and financing costs for the proposed urban boundary expansions

Stop Sprawl Durham has long advocated that our regional leaders deliver sustainable neighbourhoods that benefit ALL residents, both current and future. We have advocated for complete communities that would provide affordable housing options where people want to live, be serviced by transit, strengthen our region's climate resilience, and protect residents from the costly impacts of sprawling growth.

In [Report 2022 P-11](#), staff recommended that only 2348 acres were required for future housing needs and the Region's Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, Brian Bridgeman, said that the land needs approved by Council both "detract[ed] from the achievement of Regional sustainability policies and obligations" and "deemphasize[d] Regional priorities that focus growth on existing communities, where services and infrastructure are either already in place or can be provided more efficiently" ([May 24, 2022, Planning Staff memo to Council](#), p. 17 of 18). Regional Council's decision last May to pass a proposed Official Plan that would add 9000 acres to our existing urban boundaries was not in the best interests of residents and taxpayers and will have costly implications for years to come.

Now it's budget time. And what we are seeing is that the Region cannot afford to service the lands Council already designated as living areas, and is expecting taxpayers to bear the costs of past decisions to build more and more costly infrastructure beyond our current urban boundaries into rural areas. Regional Council has already passed a [7.4% increase in Water and Sewage user rates](#) and a [7.5% budget guideline increase](#) for 2024. At the December 6, 2024, Works Committee meeting we learned that even with a 7.4% increase in Water and Sewage rates, the Region's reserves and reserve funds will be fully depleted over the next ten years, and that user rates will increase for years to come. Staff presentations at the December 12, 2023, Finance & Administration Committee meeting additionally pointed out the substantial costs associated with servicing "new communities."

Taxpayers are already struggling with rising costs of living and cannot take further financial hits linked to property tax and user rate increases. We cannot afford the substantial additional costs of servicing new lands outside our existing urban boundaries. We will not only have a housing

affordability crisis but we will see a *property tax affordability crisis* if Durham pursues unnecessary urban area expansions.

If the land needs contained within the proposed Durham Region Official Plan are approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, taxpayers will be burdened with the impacts of building costly infrastructure and providing services beyond our existing urban boundaries.

You have seen the costs of servicing growth areas in multiple December staff reports, the Water and Sewer budget, and the proposed Budget Guideline increases. NOW is the time for the Planning and Economic Development Committee and Regional Council to consider the fiscal impacts of servicing the Council-approved urban boundary expansions in Durham Region's proposed Official Plan (DROP) and the impact that will have on taxpayers in the region.

We ask that the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommend to Regional Council that:

1. Council immediately ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to pause his review and approval of the Durham Regional Official Plan to allow Council time to determine and consider the servicing costs and financial impacts associated with the substantial land needs included in the plan.
2. Council direct staff to determine the servicing costs and financial implications of expanding our urban boundaries by more than 9000 acres.

Yours truly,

On behalf of Stop Sprawl Durham
Abdullah Mir, co-lead
Helen Brenner, co-lead

StopSprawlDurham@gmail.com