



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Planning and Economic Development Committee Revised Agenda

Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Regional Council Chambers

Regional Headquarters Building

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

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

Note: This meeting will be held in a hybrid meeting format with electronic and in-person participation. Committee meetings may be [viewed via live streaming](#).

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9. **Advisory Committee Resolutions**

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- a. Backyard Chickens within Urban and Rural Settlement Areas

10. **Confidential Matters**

There are no confidential matters to be considered

11. **Other Business**

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 9:30 AM

13. **Adjournment**

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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

A regular meeting of the Planning & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair
Councillor Collier
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Neal*
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Wotten* left the meeting at 10:30 AM
Regional Chair Henry*
*** denotes Councillors participating electronically**

Absent: Councillor Chapman, Chair

Also
Present: Councillor Crawford
Councillor Dies*
*** denotes visiting Councillors participating electronically**

Staff
Present: E. Baxter-Trahair*, Chief Administrative Officer
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
A. Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
D. Culp, Project Planner, Transportation Planning
H. Finlay*, Manager, Transit on Demand (TOD)
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development and Tourism
C. Goodchild, Director, Planning
B. Holmes*, General Manager, Transit
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
S. Jibb, Manager, Economic Development, Agriculture and Rural Affairs
A. Luqman*, Senior Planner, Special Studies
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning
K. Ryan*, Senior Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services
M. Scott, Project Planner, Policy & Special Studies

J. Severs, Manager, Economic Development, Marketing and Cluster Development
N. Taylor*, Commissioner of Finance
L. Trombino, Manager, Plan Implementation
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

In the absence of Chair Chapman, Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair chaired the meeting.

B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development introduced C. Goodchild as the new Director of Planning.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Collier,
(1) That the minutes of the regular Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Statutory Public Meetings

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. Presentations

5.1 Danielle Culp, Project Planner, Planning and Economic Development, re: Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2022-2023 (2024-P-5)

Danielle Culp, Project Planner, Transportation Planning, appeared before the Committee to provide a PowerPoint presentation with respect to the Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2022-2023.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Active Transportation Vision
- Active Transportation Snapshot
- Growing the Network
- Increasing Cycling Mode Share
- Enhancing Education and Awareness
- Next Steps

D. Culp responded to questions with regards to what other modes of transportation are being accessed during the morning peak travel time; how active transportation will be affected with the implementation of 4 new GO Transit

stations throughout the Region; how the \$100,000 of federal grant funding is being allocated to support the cycling strategy implementation throughout the Region; who would be responsible for improving the signage on the Trans Canada Trail; how the Region can provide safe bike storage; and how the Region can ensure the roads are safe for cyclists.

6. Delegations

6.1 Zac Cohoon, Chair, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, re: Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-1)

Zac Cohoon appeared before the Committee with respect to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan. He highlighted the various activities of DAAC in 2023, including:

- Receiving a number of presentations on a variety of topics such as Envision Durham, backyard chickens, and updates to Regional roads and infrastructure projects;
- Providing advice to the Region on agricultural and rural related planning matters such as Bill C-234 and the proposed Provincial Planning Statement update; and
- Hosting the Annual Farm Tour that took place at Carncroft Farms and Swain Beef in Blackstock, Scugog.

Z. Cohoon responded to questions from the Committee. The Committee thanked Z. Cohoon and members of DAAC for their work.

6.2 Jay Cuthbertson, Vice-Chair, Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee, re: Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-2)

Jay Cuthbertson, participating electronically, appeared before the Committee with respect to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan. He highlighted the various activities of DECAC in 2023, including:

- Receiving a number of presentations on a variety of topics such as the Building Energy Benchmarking and Disclosure program, the Annual Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory, and restoring and protecting pollinator habitat rights-of-way;
- Providing advice to the Region on various issues including input and comments on the Draft Durham Regional Official Plan through Envision Durham; and
- Participating in community outreach and stewardship activities such as implementing a spring bee pollinator seed distribution project and hosting

the 2023 Durham Environmental Achievement Awards in partnership with the Durham Climate Roundtable.

J. Cuthbertson responded to questions from the Committee. The Committee thanked J. Cuthbertson and members of DECAC for their work.

6.3 Ron Lalonde, Chair, Durham Active Transportation Committee, re: Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-3)

Ron Lalonde appeared before Committee with respect to the Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan. He highlighted the various activities of DATC in 2023, including:

- Receiving a number of presentations on a variety of topics such as the Region's Durham Meadoway Visioning Study, the Region's Wayfinding and Signage Strategy, and the Share the Road Cycling Coalition's Bike Friendly Communities Program;
- Providing advice to the Region on various issues such as the deteriorating conditions on the North Durham Rail Trail Corridor; and
- Ensuring a consistent and open channel for active transportation communication amongst municipalities.

R. Lalonde responded to questions from the Committee. The Committee thanked R. Lalonde and members of DATC for their work.

6.4 Sherry Colbourne, President and CEO, Spark Centre, re: Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report for 2022 and 2023 (2024-EDT-1)

Sherry Colbourne, participating electronically, appeared before Committee with respect to the Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report for 2022 and 2023.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- How does The Spark Group achieve its mission?
- Sectors We Serve
- How we Help our Clients
- A Year in Review
- Advisors & Educators
- Mentors
- Spark Centre Local Clients
- What is the Eastern Ontario Innovation Corridor (EOIC)?
- How does it work?
- What are the results?
- Spark Group Contribution to the Region

- Spark Group Funding
- Client Success
- Marketing & Events
- Marketing
- Connecting Community
- Elite Partners
- Key Funding Partners
- Board of Directors
- Our Ecosystem

S. Colbourne responded to questions from the Committee.

7. Planning

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7.2 Reports

A) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-1)

Report #2024-P-1 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(2) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Report #2024-P-1 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received as the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2023 Annual Report;
- B) That the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's 2024 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #1 to Report #2024-P-1; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2024-P-1 be forwarded to the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Durham Federation of Agriculture, the Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association, the Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance and Durham's Area Municipalities.

CARRIED

B) Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-2)

Report #2024-P-2 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(3) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Report #2024-P-2 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received as the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee's 2023 Annual Report;
- B) That the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee's 2024 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #1 to Report #2024-P-2; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2024-P-2 be forwarded to the Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee and Durham's Area Municipalities.

CARRIED

C) Durham Active Transportation Committee 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-3)

Report #2024-P-3 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(4) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Report #2024-P-3 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received as the Durham Active Transportation Committee's 2023 Annual Report;
- B) That the Durham Active Transportation Committee 2024 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #1 to Report #2024-P-3; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2024-P-3 be forwarded to the Durham Active Transportation Committee, Conservation Authorities, and Durham's Area Municipalities.

CARRIED

D) Smart Mobility Durham 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-4)

Report #2024-P-4 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
(5) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Report #2024-P-4 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received as the Smart Mobility Durham's 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan;

B) That Smart Mobility Durham's 2024 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #2 to Report #2024-P-4; and

C) That a copy of Report #2024-P-4 be forwarded to the Durham Active Transportation Committee, and the Area Municipalities.

CARRIED

E) Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2022-2023 (2024-P-5)

Report #2024-P-5 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,

(6) That we recommend to Council:

That Report #2024-P-5 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Economic Development

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

8.2 Reports

A) Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report for 2022 and 2023 (2024-EDT-1)

Report #2024-EDT-1 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Collier, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,

(7) That Report #2024-EDT-1 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

B) Tourism Delivery in Durham Region and Comments on Central Counties Tourism Draft 2024-2025 Business Plan (2024-EDT-2)

Report #2024-EDT-2 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Collier, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,

(8) That we recommend to Council:

A) That Report #2024-EDT-2 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development be submitted to Central Counties Tourism as Durham

Region's comments on their draft 2024-2025 Business Plan, and that Central Counties Tourism be advised that Durham Tourism (Durham Region Economic Development and Tourism Division) remains the preferred Destination Management Organization for Durham Region;

- B) That the Region continue to collaborate with Central Counties Tourism and area municipal tourism staff and organizations to promote, support, and develop the tourism industries in Durham Region; and
- C) That Report #2024-EDT-2 be sent to all other municipalities covered by the work of Central Counties Tourism, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport, and Durham's area municipalities.

CARRIED

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

9.1 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee

- A) Resolution regarding Bill C-234: An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(9) That we recommend to Council:

That Regional Council be advised of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) being in support of Bill C-234: An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act and that it be received for information.

CARRIED

- B) Resolution regarding Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) Battery Storage Sites

Staff advised that the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) will require an environmental assessment to be completed before any battery storage projects are approved. These EAs will examine a range of potential impacts including impacts to agriculture and agricultural lands. Staff advised that while DAAC's input is valued, long-term energy storage solutions are an important part of the sustainability of a modern energy grid and suggested that EAs be allowed to inform the siting of such facilities, rather than a blanket policy to prohibit them on agricultural lands.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(10) That we recommend to Council:

That Regional Council be advised of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) not being in support of battery storage sites being located on, or adjacent to, agricultural land in Durham Region.

CARRIED

10. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

11. Other Business

11.1 Update on the Approval of the Regional Official Plan

In response to a question from the Committee regarding an update on the status of the Region's Official Plan and whether it is with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for approval. B. Bridgeman advised that as of January 8, 2024, staff of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing were still undertaking their review of the document. He advised that when the new Official Plan is approved, it would be many more years before any development in the new growth areas (9,100 acres) is expected to take place. He further advised that the status of the new Official Plan will not have an impact on the 2024 budget.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Planning & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Collier,
(11) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM

Respectfully submitted,

D. Pickles, Vice-Chair

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk



Growing North Durham – Annual Report

Durham Region Planning &
Economic Development Committee

February 6, 2024



Background

- Endorsed in early 2023 (Regional and Township Councils in north Durham)
- Implementation of Ready Set Future
- Goals and actions to support economic growth across north Durham to 2027
- Commitment to provide annual reports to Councils



Plan Overview

- North Durham-wide collaborative approach
- Collaboration between the Region, Townships and business support organizations
- Regular communication and meetings

Plan Implementation

The Plan is structured under three pillars:

- People
- Places
- Prosperity

People

- North Durham Building Business Forum (November 14 at the Trail Hub)
- Share relevant information with the business community
- Celebrate north Durham innovation success stories through Rural Business Spotlights
- Plans for 2024:
 - Identify and act on effective ways to support workforce development in north Durham
 - Partnership with NRC and Durham College to support innovation in the agri-food sector



Places

- North Durham lens on Region-wide initiatives and marketing campaigns
- Focus on north Durham's downtowns
 - Brock's Downtown CIP
 - Uxbridge Downtown Revitalization Project
 - Scugog Business Program (SBP)

Plans for 2024:

- Continued promotion of local CIPs
- Building and business inventories of north Durham's downtowns
- Welcoming new businesses





Prosperity

- Township-specific Business Toolkits launched
 - Regular updates and additions
- Respond to investment inquiries on behalf of the northern townships
 - Corporate headquarters of Tessera Group to be constructed in Port Perry Employment Area
- Program-related and ad-hoc business support (new and existing businesses)
- Plans for 2024:
 - Interactive economic dashboards to be launched featuring both Regional and Township level data
 - Investment readiness self-assessment





Thank You!

Questions?

InvestDurham.ca **in**  

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

Friends of Second Marsh



Planning and Economic
Development Committee

February 6, 2024

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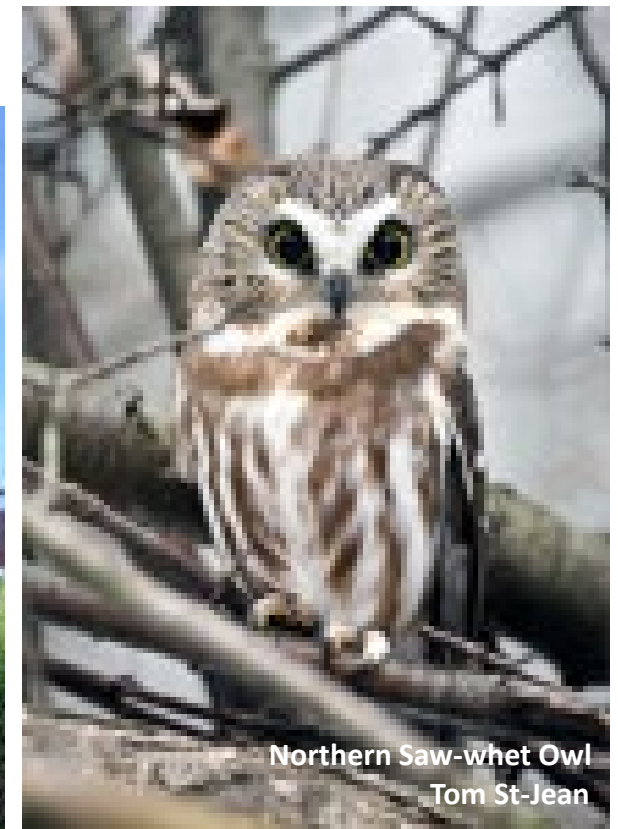
We Celebrate



- 50th Anniversary for Region
- 32nd for Friends of Second Marsh
- Jim Richards
 - founded Second Marsh Defense Association over 50 years ago
 - rebranded to become Friends of Second Marsh
 - received the Order of Canada, 2023
- Dr. J. Murray Speirs Restoration Award
- Transfer of McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve.

The Second Marsh is Designated

- Provincially Significant Wetland
- Area of Natural and Scientific Interest
- For its Cultural Heritage Value and Interest under the Ontario Heritage Act
- As part of the Greenbelt.



Northern Saw-whet Owl
Tom St-Jean



Green Frog
Tom St-Jean

Friends of Second Marsh



- We provide:
 - ✓ educational, interpretive and stewardship services
 - ✓ management of dominant introduced (invasive) species
- Volunteer board (1,740 hours last year)
- 150 volunteers
- 2 part-time staff
- A registered charity.



Let's Dephrag the Marsh!

Multi-year undertaking

- manage Invasive Phragmites in Second Marsh and McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve
- raised over \$88,000 (\$34,000 from Ontario's Great Lakes Local Action Fund).



Before and After Treatment



Left: Phragmites growth in Dogwood Pond.

Right: View of pond and McLaughlin Bay after Phragmites has been treated and mowed.

Partnerships



- FSM has partnered with Ducks Unlimited, CLOCA and the City of Oshawa
- Finalizing a 4-year Service Agreement with the City
 - This will provide support for our basic operating budget and access to an office and meeting space.

Love the Marsh!

Raise \$500,000 over 5 years

Among our priorities:

- continued community outreach and education
- upgraded signage
- a viewing platform
- a visitors' shelter
- a rest area with toilets
- McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve entrance
- continued plant stewardship.



Durham Environment and Climate Forum



- Climate Roundtable Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Action report
- Launch of the Durham Climate Dashboard
- Carbon sinks...

Ghost Road Bush Area



The Future



- Protecting nature is our best defense against the effects of biodiversity loss and climate change
- The Second Marsh and McLaughlin Bay Wildlife Reserve area has a key role to play in both the Region's climate change and ecotourism efforts
- FSM would welcome an opportunity to work with you.

An Invitation

- Please join us for a tour of this spectacular area...





The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2024-EDT-3
Date: February 6, 2024

Subject:

2023 North Durham Building Business Forum

Recommendation:

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends:

That this report be received for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the North Durham Building Business Forum event that was held on November 14, 2023.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Section of the Economic Development and Tourism Division (Invest Durham) delivers economic development programming and initiatives in the Townships of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge (north Durham).
- 2.2 This team led the planning and implementation of the 2023 North Durham Building Business Forum to bring together entrepreneurs and small business owners from across north Durham, share useful information and knowledge to help them grow, and expand the reach of Durham Region business support organizations.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 The 2023-2027 Growing North Durham: Rural Economic Development Action Plan was received by the Planning and Economic Development Committee on February 7, 2023 ([Report 2023-EDT-2](#)).
- 3.2 The re-introduction and hosting of the North Durham Building Business Forum was a key action identified under the “Support Entrepreneurship” goal of the Growing North Durham Plan.

4. North Durham Building Business Forum

- 4.1 The 2023 North Durham Building Business Forum was held on November 14, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. during ‘Do It In Durham Entrepreneurship Week’ at Trail Hub in the Township of Uxbridge.
- 4.2 The free event welcomed more than 100 attendees from a wide range of commercial and home-based businesses, local business support organizations, and north Durham municipalities (staff and members of Council).
- 4.3 The primary goals of the event were to expand the reach of local and regional business support organizations, build knowledge and capacity amongst north Durham entrepreneurs by organizing useful and informative speaking sessions, and to facilitate networking opportunities for attendees.
- 4.4 The following elements were built into the event to help achieve the desired goals:
- a. **Business Support Organization Tradeshow:** More than 15 business support organizations with a presence in Durham Region set up information booths at the event, allowing attendees to learn about the services they offer, ask questions, and connect with staff.
 - b. **Relevant and Informative Speaking Sessions:** A steering committee consisting of north Durham business leaders and municipal/regional staff identified topics of interest and potential speakers. Sessions included:
 - Business Resiliency Fireside Chat – Joanne Richter of Second Wedge Brewing Co.
 - Social Media for Small Business – Panel discussion featuring north Durham entrepreneurs
 - Entrepreneur Spotlight – Zechariah Thomas of SWIFT Hockey

- What Employees Want: Attracting, Engaging, and Retaining Talent in a Changing World – Amy Davies
 - c. **Networking Opportunities:** Attendees were given the opportunity to network with other entrepreneurs, small business owners and support staff at multiple points throughout the event.
- 4.5 Following the event, a post event survey was circulated to attendees. Key highlights include:
- a. 96% of respondents said that the event met or exceeded expectations.
 - b. 70% of respondents were 'very satisfied' with the format of the event. An additional 24% stated that they were 'satisfied' with the format.
 - c. 79% of respondents said that they would 'definitely attend' another North Durham Building Business Forum. An additional 18% said they would likely attend another.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Economic Prosperity: To build a strong and resilient economy that maximizes opportunities for business and employment growth, innovation and partnership.
 - 3.1 Position Durham Region as the location of choice for business
 - 3.2 Leverage Durham's prime geography, social infrastructure, and strong partnerships to foster economic growth.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The 2023 North Durham Building Forum was successful in bringing together entrepreneurs from across north Durham to share knowledge, ideas, resources and information.
- 6.2 To continue delivering on the goals of the Growing North Durham Plan, the Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Section plans to host another business forum event in north Durham in 2024. Staff will work with partners to determine whether the format, target audience, size and scale of the event should be adjusted.
- 6.3 This report will be circulated to the Townships of Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2024-EDT-4
Date: February 6, 2024

Subject:

Growing North Durham Plan Annual Activity Report

Recommendation:

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends:

That this report be received for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an annual report on the implementation of the [Growing North Durham: Rural Economic Development Action Plan](#).
- 1.2 The report will be accompanied by a staff presentation from Stacey Jibb, Manager of Agriculture and Rural Economic Development and Glen Macfarlane, Economic Development Specialist.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Growing North Durham Plan was endorsed by Regional Council as well as the Councils in the Townships of Scugog, Uxbridge and Brock in early 2023. It sets out goals and actions to support economic growth across north Durham to 2027.

- 2.2 The Growing North Durham Plan is a collaborative north Durham-wide approach to economic development, where resources are shared across the three Townships to advance common interests for economic development and tourism.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 The 2023-2027 Growing North Durham: Rural Economic Development Action Plan was received by Planning and Economic Development Committee on February 7, 2023 ([Report 2023-EDT-2](#)).

4. Implementation Update

- 4.1 The delivery of economic development programming in north Durham relies on collaboration between Durham Region, the Townships of Scugog, Uxbridge and Brock, and various business support organizations such as the Brock Board of Trade, Scugog Chamber of Commerce, Uxbridge Chamber of Commerce, Business Improvement Associations (BIAs), and more.
- 4.2 This collaborative approach encourages communities to take part in identifying opportunities and solutions to economic challenges and has been integral in the implementation of the Growth North Durham Plan so far.
- 4.3 The Growing North Durham Plan is structured under three pillars: People, Places and Prosperity. Each pillar contains goal areas and actions that support a community-driven approach to economic development. Identified below are some of the key activities that are either underway or were completed within each pillar over the course of the past year:
- a. **People:** This pillar recognizes the strong correlation between human capital and economic growth.
- Hosted the North Durham Building Business Forum on November 14, 2023.
 - Plans are underway to complete a workforce planning study to help identify gaps in workforce data and skills in north Durham.
 - Throughout 2023, continued to share relevant information with entrepreneurs and small business owners through a bi-monthly e-newsletter, Invest Durham social channels, and one-on-one meetings.
 - North Durham innovation success stories are featured through Invest Durham social channels and other marketing.

- In partnership with the Business Advisory Centre Durham (BACD), supported the delivery of Digital Mainstreet programming which aims to enhance digital literacy skills. A particular focus was placed on the Township of Brock given they do not have a BIA.
 - Plans are underway to partner with Durham College and the National Research Council/Industrial Research Assistance Program to connect information and communications technology companies with agri-food operators in north Durham to support innovation in the agri-food sector.
- b. **Places:** This pillar highlights and strengthens north Durham's unique qualities of place that stimulate meaningful connections with the community.
- Several initiatives and campaigns have been delivered over the last year with strong north Durham content or focus. These include:
 - (i) Collision Conference 2023 (Region Economic Development staff attended on behalf of north Durham).
 - (ii) Shop Where You Live
 - (iii) Gather at the Farm
 - Ongoing support for municipal efforts to undertake Red Welcome Wagon visits, a Scugog Economic Development Advisory Committee-led initiative. Regional Economic Development staff also attend and support business openings, when possible, in Uxbridge and Brock.
 - North Durham sites were featured as part of Invest Durham's signature sites project and led to a significant investment opportunity with the [Tessera Group in the Port Perry Employment Area](#).
 - Working closely with Township staff, Rural Economic Development (RED) grants were secured in 2023 for Uxbridge and Brock for downtown revitalization and updating Community Improvement Plans.
 - Ongoing support and representation on the Uxbridge Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee.
- c. **Prosperity:** The prosperity pillar is about business retention and making informed decisions to encourage and enable economic growth.
- Regional staff continue to work closely with the Township of Scugog to implement the Scugog Business Program; this work is expected to continue into Fall of 2024 and was the result of a successful RED grant application.

- Using the Scugog Business Program as a model, Regional staff will begin development of a more standardized approach to business visitations across north Durham to effectively deliver business retention programming.
- Regional Economic Development staff, in coordination with Development Services staff from across north Durham, respond to investment inquiries on an ongoing basis. Investment inquiries are generated through the Region of Durham's Business Development and Investment Team who undertake investment attraction work on behalf of all Durham municipalities.
- Online business toolkits were developed and launched in [Scugog](#), [Uxbridge](#) and [Brock](#) throughout 2023. The toolkits provide a one-stop-shop of information and resources for new and existing businesses as well as those looking to grow their business in north Durham.
- Led by Durham Region Economic Development Staff, the Townships of Scugog and Uxbridge supported an application from South Lake Community Futures Development Corporation (SLCFDC) requesting approval from FedDev Ontario to expand the SLCFDC catchment area. If approved, this expansion would allow businesses across north Durham to access new streams of Federal funding and resources. Businesses and organization located in the Township of Brock are already eligible for funding and support through SLCFDC.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

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

- a. Economic Prosperity: To build a strong and resilient economy that maximizes opportunities for business and employment growth, innovation and partnership.
 - 3.1 Position Durham Region as the location of choice for business
 - 3.2 Leverage Durham's prime geography, social infrastructure, and strong partnerships to foster economic growth

6. Conclusion

6.1 The Growing North Durham Plan represents an ongoing commitment for a collaborative north Durham-wide approach to the delivery of economic development programming in the Townships of Scugog, Uxbridge and Brock. Updates have been

scheduled and/or delivered to each Council in north Durham to update the Townships on progress implementing the Growing North Durham Plan, and scheduled activities for 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

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



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
 From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
 Report: #2024-EDT-5
 Date: February 6, 2024

Subject:

Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games Final Report and Legacy Fund

Recommendation:

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games Legacy Fund of \$145,579 be distributed as follows:
 - i) Durham Community Foundation "Durham Region Adaptive Sport & Recreation Legacy Fund": \$112,000.
 - ii) Adaptive Sport Festival: \$30,000.
 - iii) Community Tree and Shrub Planting: \$3,579.
 - B) That, prior to the distribution of funds to any agency receiving funding from the 2023 Ontario Parasport Games Legacy Fund, the Region enter into an Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding which prescribes appropriate reporting requirements, and which are otherwise in a form satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance.
-

Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 At the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting on June 6, 2023, report [2023-EDT-7](#) provided highlights of the Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games and indicated that a subsequent report would provide the financial and economic impact results of the Games. This report summarizes the final financial results of the Games, provides an update on 2019 Games legacy initiatives, and makes recommendations for the distribution of the \$145,579 Games Legacy Fund.

2. Background

- 2.1 From February 3 to 5, 2023, Durham Region welcomed more than 400 athletes, athlete assistants, coaches, managers, officials, and provincial sport organization representatives, as well as hundreds of spectators to the Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games, building on the momentum from hosting the Games in 2019.
- 2.2 Athletes competed in 11 sports at eight sport venues, throughout five municipalities across the Region. The Games also included four demonstration sports, a new addition to the Games intended to elevate the profile of emerging sports within Durham Region and beyond.
- 2.3 The final report for the Games was submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) on November 23, 2023, following the completion of an independent financial review by Deloitte LLP.
- 2.4 The Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games were a resounding success. The Games received tremendous support throughout planning and execution from the entire regional community in the way of sponsorship, volunteerism, spectators, contracted services, headband knitting, athlete support through the 'Be The Roar' campaign, attendance at special events, and much more.

3. Games Financial and Economic Impact Results

- 3.1 Sponsorship and fundraising activities for the Games generated nearly \$267,000 (\$179,774 cash and \$87,028 in-kind), demonstrating the overwhelming support of partners from Durham Region and beyond, and surpassing the initial sponsorship target by nearly 165 per cent.

- 3.2 Other sources of financing for the Games included \$135,000 from the Ontario MTCS (\$125,000 hosting grant and \$10,000 legacy fund grant following Regional Council approval of Games Legacy Fund recommendations) and \$99,120 from the Region of Durham (\$40,000 cash and \$59,120 in-kind for internal transportation provided by Durham Region Transit).
- 3.3 The Games surpassed the initial budgeted surplus/legacy target of \$60,230 by approximately 240 per cent, resulting in a Games Legacy Fund of \$145,579.
- 3.4 According to the economic impact assessment completed using the Sport Tourism Canada Sport Tourism Economic Impact Assessment Model (STEAM2.0), the Games generated an estimated \$872,991 in economic activity across the Province, \$702,853 of which occurred in Durham Region.

4. Durham Region 2019 Ontario Parasport Games Legacy Initiatives

- 4.1 The Durham Region 2019 Ontario Parasport Games generated a Legacy Fund of \$111,900. On November 5, 2019, report [#2019-EDT-17](#) identified the initiatives that would receive those funds. Updates on these initiatives are provided below.
 - a. 'Their Opportunity': Since its launch in August 2021, the Parasport Games Legacy Fund Grant, administered by Oshawa-based national children's charity, Their Opportunity, has provided funds for 64 youth to participate in four adaptive or all abilities sport programs in Durham Region. The current balance of the fund is \$19,000. A new, streamlined application process is being launched in January 2024.
 - b. 'Parasport School Grow It Program': Economic Development and Tourism staff established a partnership with Abilities Centre to lead this program to introduce parasports to selected schools in Durham Region, in collaboration with the DASC. Teacher training on boccia and sitting volleyball was delivered to a group of Durham District School Board teachers, but the pandemic impacted the delivery of the full scope of the program. Abilities Centre is currently working on a revised program approach in partnership with the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association, with the goal of completing a pilot with one school by the end of June 2024.
 - c. Parasport Festival: This initiative was put on hold due to pandemic impacts. However, in celebration of the 100-day countdown to the 2023 Games, the Games Organizing Committee hosted school and community try-it sessions featuring three parasports. The legacy funds from the 2023 Games will be added to remaining funds for this item. Together with the Durham Adaptive

Sport Collective (DASC), community partners, and contracted resources, a fulsome Adaptive Sport Festival will be planned and held in 2024 or 2025. The Festival will provide community members with information on local adaptive sport programs and other resources, and will offer try-it opportunities. An Adaptive Sport Festival will also be planned.

- d. The Town of Whitby's Iroquois Park Sports Centre Arena 3 Sledge Hockey Accessibility Upgrades: In June 2022, modifications were completed to improve accessibility for sledge hockey at Iroquois Park Sports Centre. The upgrades improve the playing experience for sledge hockey players and provide increased opportunities for Durham Region to host sledge hockey events in the future. Modifications included replacing the boards at the players' benches and penalty boxes with clear polycarbonate viewing panels; adding 36-inch-wide gates to the players' benches and penalty boxes; lowering the entrance area to players' benches and penalty boxes; and replacing fixed benches with removable benches.

5. Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games Legacy Fund Initiatives

- 5.1 Economic Development & Tourism staff updated the criteria established for the distribution of the 2019 Games Legacy Fund, to guide the distribution of the 2023 Games Legacy Fund of \$145,579. The criteria were approved by the Ontario MTCS. Legacy initiatives must support the nurturing and growth of parasport in Durham Region and deliver one or more of the following benefits:

- a. Increased adaptive sport participation.
- b. Increased awareness of adaptive sport opportunities.
- c. Accessibility upgrades that improve the playing experience for athletes of all abilities.
- d. Increased opportunities for hosting adaptive sport events, i.e., sport tourism benefits.

- 5.2 The majority of the Legacy Fund (\$112,000) is proposed to be directed to the Durham Community Foundation. It is proposed that Durham Region will enter into a partnership with Durham Community Foundation (DCF) to administer a newly established Donor Advised Fund called the "Durham Region Adaptive Sport & Recreation Legacy Fund." The purpose of the Fund will be to support adaptive/parasport activities, programs, and events offered in Durham Region, including but not limited to, competitions such as the Ontario Parasport Games, to grow adaptive sport opportunities and participation. Economic Development and Tourism staff are working with DCF and the Region's Legal and Finance

departments on a “Gift Agreement” between the Region and DCF and developing fund criteria and a governance model for the disbursement of funds. The Durham Adaptive Sport Collective (DASC) will review fund applications and recommend disbursements from the Fund, but final decisions will be made by DCF’s Board of Directors. Examples of initiatives that could be funded include painting bocchia lines on courts in a local gymnasium and an adaptive sport and recreation information sharing and try-it event for the Grandview Kids Adolescent Transition Program. Legacy funds from other adaptive sport events and other community initiatives could also be contributed to this fund in the future so that it continues to grow.

- 5.3 An Adaptive Sport Festival will be developed in collaboration with the DASC and other partners, using its \$30,000 share of the Legacy Fund to provide school groups and the broader community with adaptive sport try-it opportunities and information about local programs. Since hosting the Games in 2019 and again in 2023, new programs and teams in adaptive sports such as Sitting Volleyball, 5-a-side/Blind Soccer, Bocchia and PowerHockey (hockey played by individuals who use power wheelchairs), have launched in our community. The objective of this Adaptive Sport Festival is to foster the growth of existing programs and to identify opportunities to bring new parasport programs to the region. Funding from the 2023 Games Legacy Fund, together with the \$15,000 allocated from the 2019 Ontario Parasport Games Legacy Fund, will support implementation of the first Festival; and may enable enhancements such as creating a multi-day event or expanding the Festival.
- 5.4 The remaining \$3,579 is proposed to be directed to a partnership with **Toronto and Region Conservation Authority** and the Town of Ajax to organize an event to plant more than 100 trees and shrubs in the spring of 2024. Although this initiative does not relate directly to the criteria outlined in 5.1, it aligns with broader sustainability goals of the Games. The trees and shrubs will be planted in honour of Games participants and volunteers to help offset the carbon footprint from the Games. This was a commitment communicated to Games participants and volunteers during the Games.
- 5.5 These Games Legacy Fund recommendations are supported by the MTCS.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
 - a. Goal 2: Community Vitality

- Item 2.5 – Build a healthy, inclusive, age-friendly community where everyone feels a sense of belonging.
- b. Goal 3: Economic Prosperity
- Item 3.2 – Leverage Durham’s prime geography, social infrastructure and strong partnerships to foster economic growth.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Hosting the Durham Region 2023 Ontario Parasport Games created significant economic impact in Durham Region and has resulted in legacy funds for distribution.
- 7.2 The \$145,579 Games Legacy Fund will support the continued growth of adaptive sport opportunities, awareness and participation in Durham Region and beyond, and it is expected to enhance the lives of many individuals with disabilities living in Durham Region.
- 7.3 Durham Region Finance Department has reviewed this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

Resolutions from Advisory Committees

Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee

1. Backyard Chickens within Urban and Rural Settlement Areas

That as the introduction of chickens within urban and rural settlement areas (which includes towns, villages and hamlets) can result in the potential spread of Avian Influenza and other diseases to livestock in the Region, particularly poultry farms;

And that backyard chickens attract pests and predators, resulting in conflicts between predatory animals and chickens, and additional vectors for spreading disease;

Therefore be it resolved that Durham Regional Council be advised that the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee (DAAC) does not support permitting chickens being kept in urban settlement areas and rural settlement areas (which includes towns, villages and hamlets); and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the area municipalities for information.