



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, April 11, 2025

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Gregory Lipinski, Policy Planner

DATE: April 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Welland Tree Canopy Policy

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This recommendation is aligned to Council's strategic priority of ensuring "**Environmental Stewardship**" to protect the ecosystems through a responsible approach to minimize the impact on the environment through supportive decision-making, professional processes, incentives, policies, and operational practices.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On September 17, 2024, Council directed staff to develop a policy protecting and enhancing the tree canopy and natural vegetation in accordance with the *Municipal Act*.

The City currently has environmental policies within the Official Plan that address the protection of environmental features and areas (Section 6.1.1).

The City also has a Tree Removal Policy that applies to publicly-owned trees and focuses on deteriorating trees.

The City's current Official Plan is under review. Among the proposed new policies are those applying to urban forestry which are intended to maintain and enhance the existing tree canopy. These policies are aligned with the City's sustainability goals and they will further support the objectives of the Municipal Act.

BACKGROUND:

On September 17, 2024, a Council motion was carried noting:

“WHEREAS, Section 270 of the Municipal Act states: all municipalities shall adopt and maintain policies with respect to 9 specific matters: - Including 270(1)-7. The manner in which the municipality will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Welland currently does not have a policy that addresses this specific matter; and WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Welland has a responsibility to do it's due diligence, to be in alignment with the Municipal Act; and further,

WHEREAS, the City of Welland is currently updating the Official Plan. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND directs staff to prepare a policy in conjunction with the Green Advisory Committee, in accordance with the Municipal Act, Section 270(1)-7 for Council's review and approval and that this policy be incorporated into the Official Plan being revised for 2024.”

The City of Welland currently contains policies as it relates to this matter.

The Official Plan, Section 6.1, contains environmental policies that promote cooperation related to protecting and enhancing the natural environment including trees. This is also in accordance with the *Municipal Act*.

The City also has policy (SER-011-0003) which applies to the removal and replacement of trees on public property.

In addition, staff are developing new Official Plan policies to reflect a more robust approach to dealing with protecting and improving the City's tree canopy in the coming years.

DISCUSSION:

Official Plan

The City of Welland Official Plan contains policies addressing the protection of environmental features including tree canopies and natural vegetation. Section 6.1, Environment, provides policies for the protection, maintenance, restoration and, where possible, enhancement of Welland's natural systems, ecological health, integrity and biodiversity. This includes policies related to but not limited to:

- identifying and mapping environmental features,
- permitted uses in the natural heritage system,
- establishing setbacks from features,
- identifying the need for environmental studies,
- utilization of Tree Saving Plans for development applications,
- policies concerning efforts to achieve the identified forest cover target of 30%,
- measures to support the conservation and protection of woodlands by enacting tree cutting by-laws

As part of the new Official Plan, Staff have included draft tree canopy policies recommending the creation policies/guidelines to protect and enhance the Urban Forest. Separate Urban Forestry Guidelines are also in the process of being developed. Jointly, the policies and guidelines will work to improve the City's strategy for maintaining and developing tree management. The new Official Plan will be brought forth to Council in early 2025 and will contain new urban forestry guidelines.

City Tree Policy (SER-011-0003)

The City also has a significant tree policy that applies to publicly owned trees. Tree Policy (SER-011-0003) states:

"The City of Welland will endeavor to preserve and refrain from cutting down any trees on public property unless the tree is either diseased, dead or dangerous to property or the public. A full and comprehensive report on the tree's status will be undertaken by the City's professional forestry staff prior to any removal and, if necessary, a recommendation shall be made by staff for replacement of the tree."

Further, as a condition of new lot creation such through applications for consent and within subdivision/development agreements, applicants are required to prepay the City a fixed amount for the purchasing and planting of trees within the road allowance. These requirements maintain and improve the City's tree canopy. There are numerous benefits such as contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as upgrading the streetscape.

Region's Woodland Conservation By-law

Private development within the City of Welland is subject to the Niagara Region's Woodland Conversation By-law 2020-79. This By-law regulates the protection and preservation of woodlands throughout the Region that are one hectare or more in size.

Where applicable and in the case where a new development proposes tree cutting, there is a requirement to adhere to established forestry practices. This By-law aligns with Section 135 of the Municipal Act – Tree By-laws.

Proposed Urban Forestry Policies/Guidelines

Staff, in consultation with the City's Green Committee, have been working to establish a set of Urban Forestry Policies/Guidelines. Following approval from Council, these policies will be incorporated into the updated Official Plan.

It is expected that the Forestry Policies and Guidelines will lead to new official policies, regulations and by-laws for implementation to achieve a healthy and sustainable urban forest.

The working forestry guidelines aim to enhance and protect the Urban Forest through action plans and an implementation strategy. These guidelines will serve as a roadmap, outlining the necessary technical reports and actions to support this initiative, as well as the long-term policies required to achieve the City's urban forestry goals.

The establishment of Forestry Policies and Guidelines will create a comprehensive framework for the City to effectively manage and preserve its urban forest. This initiative further reinforces the City's commitment to environmental stewardship as outlined in its Strategic Plan.

Niagara Region

In February 2024, Niagara Region staff prepared a Tree and Forest Canopy Report as part of the Niagara Tree and Forestry Canopy Assessment project. The purpose of the assessment was to provide a baseline for data collection as tree and forest canopy (TFC) has become an increasingly important topic across the Region.

The TFC extends to boulevards, individual trees, hedgerows, and forested areas.

The City of Welland's TFC Coverage is 22.1%, spanning the entirety of the municipal boundaries and 18.7% within the Urban Area.

This data quantifies how the TFC is distributed across the region and provides a baseline for the City of Welland in addressing opportunities to increase tree coverage. Similar analyses could be commenced by the City.

ATTACHMENT:

There are no attachments for this memo.

Gregory Lipinski,
Policy Planner

**Resolution of Council
City Council Meeting**

Title: Use of X by the City of Peterborough
Date: March 17, 2025

Whereas X has become a media platform that is not adequately responding to hate speech and misinformation;

Whereas continued use of X could be perceived as tacit approval of or association with ideologies that are inconsistent with the City of Peterborough's commitment to freedom, inclusivity, and nondiscrimination.

Whereas the City of Peterborough maintains other social media accounts to reach residents about municipal services and news that provide comparable functionality like Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

Whereas Peterborough Transit relies on X as one of its main methods to communicate with customers about Transit service changes;

Whereas Peterborough Transit has implemented customer service enhancements such as real time tracking of buses through the My Transit Rid-GPS Tracker map for transit customers to see when the next bus will arrive;

Whereas emergency services require the ability to use all available channels to reach residents for emergency messaging;

Therefore, be it resolved that Council approve the following:

a) that to support enhanced communication with residents and customers and to reduce reliance on social media that City staff report back to Council during the 2026 Budget deliberations with recommendations and associated budget implications for implementing a Snow Plow Tracker service for residents and a smartphone app for Peterborough Transit, which includes the ability to send notifications to subscribers, with the goal of improving customer service and eliminating the use of X; and

b) that the City of Peterborough discontinue the use of X, formerly known as Twitter, except for Peterborough Transit, Fire Services, and emergency information as necessary.

c) That, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Ontario municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

The above resolution, adopted by City Council is forwarded for your information and action, as required.
Thank you.



John Kennedy, City Clerk

**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY**

Council Meeting

Resolution # 9

Date: Monday March 10, 2025

MOVED BY: Jamie MacDonald

SECONDED BY: Carma Williams

Whereas rural, northern, and remote municipalities are fiscally strained by maintaining extensive road networks on a smaller tax base;

And whereas preventing crashes reduces the burden on Ontario's already strained rural health care system;

And whereas roadway collisions and associated lawsuits are significant factors in runaway municipal insurance premiums; preventing car crashes can have a significant impact in improving municipal risk profiles;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Township of North Glengarry requests that the Government of Ontario take action to implement the rural road safety program that Good Roads has committed to lead;

And further that this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario requesting their support, as well as the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Transportation.

CARRIED

DEFEATED

DEFERRED

MAYOR / DEPUTY MAYOR

Deputy Mayor: Carma Williams

Councillor: Jacques Massie

Councillor: Brian Caddell

Councillor: Jeff Manley

Councillor: Michael Madden

Councillor: Gary Martin

Mayor: Jamie MacDonald

YEA

NEA



**The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby
Administration**

Office of the Town Clerk

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April 9, 2025

SENT VIA E-MAIL

mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Mark Carney

Prime Minister of Canada

80 Wellington Street

Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Attention: The Right Honourable Mark Carney

RE: Manufacturing of Emergency Response Vehicles in Canada

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting held on March 31, 2025, passed the following resolution at the recommendation of the Town of Grimsby and Town of Lincoln's Joint Fire Services Advisory Committee:

Moved by: Councillor Delight Davoli

Seconded by: Mayor Sandra Easton

Whereas fire protection services are a critical component of public safety in every Canadian municipality;

And whereas the majority of fire trucks and emergency response vehicles and their associated major components are currently manufactured outside of Canada, contributing to extended delivery times, rising costs, and supply chain vulnerabilities;

And whereas building fire trucks domestically would strengthen Canada's emergency preparedness, create high-quality skilled jobs, stimulate local economies, reduce risk and exposures due to tariffs, and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers;

RE: Manufacturing of Emergency Response Vehicles in Canada

And whereas Canadian municipalities continue to experience increased demand for reliable and timely delivery of fire and emergency service vehicles due to growth and modernization of fleets;

Therefore be it resolved that the Joint Fire Services Advisory Committee recommend to the Councils of the Town of Lincoln and Grimsby calls on the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario to explore opportunities to incentivize and support the manufacturing of fire trucks and emergency response vehicles within Canada;

And further that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, Premier of Ontario, the Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, the Federal Minister of Public Safety, the Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the Ontario Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Region of Niagara, Local Area Municipalities, and local MPs and MPPs for their consideration and support.

If you require any additional information, please reach out.

Regards,



Victoria Steele
Town Clerk

RE: Manufacturing of Emergency Response Vehicles in Canada

CC: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario premier@ontario.ca; The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca; The Honourable David McGuinty, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness David.mcguinty@parl.gc.ca; The Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org; The Honourable Stephen Crawford, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement Stephen.crawford@pc.ola.org; The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob.flack@pc.ola.org; Federation of Canadian Municipalities resolutions@fcm.ca; Association of Municipalities of Ontario policy@amo.on.ca; Julie Kirkelos, Clerk, Town of Lincoln jkirkelos@lincoln.ca; Jessica Dyson, Director of Legal and Legislative Services, Township of West Lincoln jdyson@westlincoln.ca; Amber Chrastina, Clerk, Township of Wainfleet achrastina@wainfleet.ca; Tara Stephens, Clerk, City of Welland tara.stephens@welland.ca; Peter Todd, Clerk, Town of Fort Erie ptodd@forterie.ca; Sarah Leach, Clerk, Town of Pelham sleach@pelham.ca; Bill Matson, Clerk, City of Niagara Falls bmatson@niagarafalls.ca; Charlotte Cooper-Madden, Clerk, City of Port Colborne cityclerk@portcolborne.ca; Donna Delvecchio, Clerk, City of St. Catharines ddelvecchio@stcatharines.ca; Nicholas Debono, Clerk, City of Thorold clerk@thorold.ca; Grant Bivol, Clerk, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake clerks@notl.com; Ann-Marie Norio, Clerk, Region of Niagara ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca; Dean Allison, MP Niagara West dean.allison@parl.gc.ca; Tony Baldinelli, MP Niagara Falls-Niagara-on-the-Lake Tony.Baldinelli@parl.gc.ca; Chris Bittle MP St. Catharines chris.bittle@parl.gc.ca; Vance Badawey MP Niagara South vance.badawey@parl.gc.ca; Sam Oosterhoff MPP Niagara West Sam.Oosterhoff@pc.ola.org; Wayne Gates MPP Niagara Falls wgates-qp@ndp.on.ca; Jennie Stevens MPP St. Catharines jstevens-qp@ndp.on.ca; Jeff Burch MPP Niagara Centre jburch-qp@ndp.on.ca



Township of Central Frontenac

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Office of the Clerk

At its regular meeting of Council held April 8, 2025, the Corporation of the Township of Central Frontenac passed the following motion.

Whereas United States President Donald Trump, continues to threaten executive orders to impose tariffs on imports from Canada;

And whereas these tariffs will have a significant detrimental impact on the economic stability in both countries;

And whereas our Prime Minister and Premier are encouraging Canadians to choose Canada and to choose products made in Canada;

And whereas municipalities have significant purchasing power through capital and infrastructure programs;

And whereas we must stand united and strong to meet this moment and protect our communities.

And whereas municipalities can assist in the effort to combat tariffs and support businesses in the procurement for capital and infrastructure programs;

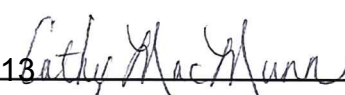
Now therefore be it resolved that the Township of Central Frontenac only purchase products made in Canada whenever practicable, and when not in violation of trade agreements and legislation, in all of its purchasing decisions, including increasing current invitational and open market thresholds in the Procurement By-law to enable targeted purchases from Canadian Suppliers;

And further that this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister Mark Carney, Premier Doug Ford, MPP John Jordan, MP Scott Reid, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and all Ontario municipalities.

Dated at Sharbot Lake, Ontario

This 17th day of December 2024.

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Cathy MacMunn, CAO/Clerk