



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, May 16, 2025

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Erin Carl – Supervisor of Festivals and Events

DATE: May 16, 2025

SUBJECT: Festivals and Events Spring and Summer Update

This memo is meant to provide Council with an overview of the many exciting events taking place around the City from May to August 2025, both at city venues and other locations.

The [Festival and Events Calendar](#) on the City's website continues to play a crucial role in promoting community engagement. The calendar is updated regularly and includes event descriptions, locations, and details.

We look forward to seeing you at the events in the upcoming months.

EVENT	EVENT NAME	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
May 17	Victoria Day Celebration	City of Welland	Welland Sports Complex
May 17 & 18	South Niagara Invitational	South Niagara Rowing Club	WIFC South Course
May 17	Birdhouse Scavenger Hunt	Find Your Niagara Nest/Telina Fishbach	Chippawa Park
May 21	Teen Scene – Glow Up!	Welland Public Library	Main Branch
May 22	Pop-Up Produce Market	Welland Public Library	Diamond Trail Branch
May 24	Princess Tea	City of Welland	Faith Welland Church
May 26	Niagara's Mobile Closet	Welland Public Library	Main Branch

EVENT	EVENT NAME	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
May 31	RICE Safe Bicycle Course – On Bike	City of Welland	Welland Community Centre
May 31	WCMC Claire's Night of Thunder Opening Night	Welland County Motorcycle Club	Welland County Motorcycle Club
May 31	So You Want to Be a Writer with Yvonne Van Lankveld	Welland Public Library	Seaway Mall Branch
June			
June 6	Concerts on the Canal	City of Welland	Merritt Park Amphitheatre
June 6–8	Niagara Regional Exhibition	Niagara Regional Agricultural Society	Niagara Regional Agricultural Society Grounds
June 7	Welland Girls Sports Day	Niagara College/City of Welland	Empire Sportsplex
June 7	Community Safety Day	Niagara Safety Village	Niagara Safety Village
June 8	Welland Open Water Swim and Run Challenge	CanAqua Sports Inc	Waterway Northern Reach
June 8	Pickle 6 Km Race	Emitting Wellness	Merritt Island
June 13–15	Rose Festival Days in the Park	Welland Rose Festival Inc.	Merritt Park and Amphitheatre
June 14	Tony Biernacki Sr. Memorial Regatta	Row Ontario/City of Welland	WIFC North Course
June 14	WCMC 3 rd Annual Battle of the Border	Welland County Motorcycle Club	Welland County Motorcycle Club
June 15	Row Ontario Masters Training Camp	Row Ontario	WIFC North Course
June 15	Rose Festival Children's Fishing Derby	Welland Rose Festival Inc.	Lincoln Street Docks
June 15	Rose Festival Grande Parade	Welland Rose Festival Inc.	King St. and East Main St.

EVENT	EVENT NAME	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
June 21–22	Rose City Triathlon	MultiSport Canada Productions Inc.	WIFC North Course
June 21	WCMC Flat Track Canada National	Welland County Motorcycle Club	Welland County Motorcycle Club
June 28	Berry Bonanza at the Market	City of Welland	Market Square
June 28	WCMC Vintage and Reunion Night	Welland County Motorcycle Club	Welland County Motorcycle Club
June 29	Patty Valleriani Memorial Car Show	Patty Valleriani Memorial Car Show	Merritt Park
July			
July 1	Canada Day Celebrations	City of Welland	Merritt Park and Amphitheatre
July 1	Concerts on the Canal	City of Welland	Merritt Park Amphitheatre
July 5	Central Ontario Rowing Association Championships	Central Ontario Rowing Association	WIFC South Course
July 5	Welland Runs for Canada	Cultural Niagara Corporation	Merritt Island
July 5	WCMC Jim Bodner Jr. Memorial	Welland County Motorcycle Club	Welland County Motorcycle Club
July 6	WCMC Lime Run	Welland County Motorcycle Club	Welland County Motorcycle Club
July 6	Worship On the Water	WellSpring Community Church	Merritt Park Amphitheatre
July 9	Music at the Supper Market	City of Welland	Market Square
July 11	Concerts on the Canal	City of Welland	Merritt Park Amphitheatre
July 12	WOD High Performance Regatta – Division Regatta	Western Ontario Division of Canoe Kayak Ontario	WIFC North Course

EVENT	EVENT NAME	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
July 12	WCMC Autograph Night	Welland County Motorcycle Club	Welland County Motorcycle Club
July 13	RowOn Masters Championships	Row Ontario/City of Welland	WIFC North Course
July 13	WCMC Fallen Members Ride	Welland County Motorcycle Club	Welland County Motorcycle Club
July 16	Music at the Supper Market	City of Welland	Market Square
July 18-19	Swim Ontario Open Water Provincial Championships	Swim Ontario	WIFC North Course
July 19-20	RowOn Championships	Row Ontario/City of Welland	WIFC South Course
July 19	WCMC Les Washbon Memorial Twins Night	Welland County Motorcycle Club	Welland County Motorcycle Club
July 20	Welland Floatfest	Welland Floatfest	Rotary Park & Lincoln Street Docks
July 23	Music at the Supper Market	City of Welland	Market Square
July 25	Concerts on the Canal	City of Welland	Merritt Park Amphitheatre
July 26-27	WOD Trials & Championships	Western Ontario Division of Canoe Kayak Canada	WIFC North Course
July 30	Music at the Supper Market	City of Welland	Market Square
July 30	Canada's Circus Spectacular	Sarasota Box Office DBA Canada's Circus Spectacular	LIV Communities Arena
August			
August 2	Water Lantern Festival	Niagara Folks Arts Multicultural Centre	Chippawa Park Pond
August 3	Welland Midsummer Swim Classic	Canaqua Sports Inc.	WIFC North Course

EVENT	EVENT NAME	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION
August 6	Music at the Supper Market	City of Welland	Market Square
August 8-9	Welland Hope Floats Challenge	Alkame Dragon Boat Services	WIFC North Course
August 9-10	Welland Afro-Caribbean Festival	Dreammakers Diverse Group Foundation	Merritt Park Amphitheatre
August 10	11 th Annual Mustache Ride	Welland County Motorcycle Club	Welland County Motorcycle Club
August 13	Music at the Supper Market	City of Welland	Market Square
August 16-17	CKO – Ontario Championships	Canoe Kayak Ontario	WIFC North Course
August 17	St. George Family Day	City of Welland	St. George Park
August 17	Pro Wrestling Event	Millennials Wrestling Organization	LIV Communities Arena
August 20	Music at the Supper Market	City of Welland	Market Square
August 22	Concerts on the Canal	City of Welland	Merritt Park Amphitheatre
August 23	WCMC Bikefest	Welland County Motorcycle Club	Welland County Motorcycle Club
August 27	Music at the Supper Market	City of Welland	Market Square
August 30-31	Welland Salsa & Cumbia Festival	Latin Niagara Entertainment	Merritt Park and Amphitheatre

MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Amanda Degazio – Manager of Business and Community Services

DATE: May 16, 2025

SUBJECT: ParticipACTION Community Challenge

The ParticipACTION Community Challenge, presented by Novo Nordisk, is back — and it's our chance to unite as a community and show the country that Welland is one of Canada's most active cities!

This national initiative encourages all Canadians to get moving and experience the physical, mental, and social benefits of an active lifestyle. Communities across the country will compete for the title of Canada's Most Active Community — and a grand prize of \$100,000 to invest in local physical activity and sport programs. Provincial and territorial winners will also be recognized.

We're calling on community leaders like you to help rally residents, organizations, schools, and businesses to take part. Your leadership can drive engagement and inspire city-wide participation.

How You Can Help:

- Encourage residents to register and commit to being active throughout June via the ParticipACTION website or app
- Inspire local businesses to promote employee wellness with daily movement breaks and track through the ParticipACTION dashboard
- Promote the challenge through your social media channels and at community events to boost visibility

- Celebrate your ward's involvement with photos, testimonials, and a little friendly competition!
- Use the Promotional Toolkit available at welland.ca to help spread the word with ready-to-use materials

What's in the City of Welland ParticipACTION Toolkit?

- Registration links for individuals and organizations
- Posters and event flyers
- Social media graphics and sample messages
- A customizable activity calendar
- Promotional videos and official ParticipACTION resources

Let's put Welland on the map — one step, one activity, and one strong community effort at a time!

Friday, May 9, 2025

Hon. Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

SENT VIA EMAIL: rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Re: Town of Goderich Opposition to Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 to Strong Mayor Powers

Dear Hon. Rob Flack,

Please be advised of the following motion that was passed at the April 28, 2025, Goderich Town Council meeting:

Moved By: Councillor Kelly
Seconded By: Councillor Petrie

WHEREAS on April 9, 2025, the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced the expansion of Strong Mayor powers to 169 additional municipalities, including the Town of Goderich, as a Strong Mayor community granting enhanced powers to the Mayor, effective May 1, 2025;

AND WHEREAS the 169 municipalities affected by the April 9 Strong Mayor powers letter supplied insufficient time for any meaningful feedback and coordinated response on O.Reg. 530/22 from Councils given the six (6) business day turnaround deadline for comments of April 16 - procedural notice provisions to call a special Council meeting and short notice scheduling conflicts of Council members;

AND WHEREAS the Strong Mayors powers has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, reduced accountability, alters the balance of governance at the municipal level by ultimately undermining the role of Council and decision-making by weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule, diminishes the role of elected municipal councillors in representing the diverse interests of the community, and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Goderich has a long history of collaborative, transparent, and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council debate and shared decision-making;

AND WHEREAS Strong Mayor Powers would have the effect of fundamentally altering the historic model of local governance, which has existed for almost two centuries;

AND WHEREAS the Province is undermining the local governance model and municipal independence by attempting to advance its priorities through municipalities, and downloading its responsibilities to the same;

AND WHEREAS municipal elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concerns regarding the negative impacts on public trust, democratic participation, and municipal decision-making processes if Mayors are granted the ability to by-pass Council decisions without adequate consultation or oversight;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Goderich did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayors framework;

AND WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across the province of Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of a Strong Mayor system, and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Council of the Town of Goderich formally expresses its opposition to the Ontario government's proposal to expand Strong Mayor powers, in order to preserve local democracy, transparency, and accountability;

AND THAT the Council of the Town of Goderich request the Premier of Ontario, and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Town of Goderich from the list of municipalities designated under Strong Mayors legislation;

AND THAT the Town of Goderich encourages advocacy for democratic principles and for municipal governance systems that prioritize collaboration, inclusivity, and democratic engagement;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this motion be forwarded to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and MPP for Elgin-Middlesex-London, The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, and MPP for Huron-Bruce, all Ontario municipalities, as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) for their awareness and support.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Andrea Fisher
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
Town of Goderich

The Town of Goderich
57 West Street
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 2K5
519-524-8344
townhall@goderich.ca
www.goderich.ca



/mp

cc. Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, premier@ontario.ca

Hon. Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, and MPP for Huron-Bruce,

lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org

Ontario Municipalities

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), amo@amo.on.ca

Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO),

amcto@amcto.com

Friday, May 9, 2025

RE: Notice of Motion – Town of Goderich Rejection of President Trump’s Rhetoric Regarding the Annexation of Canada and Trade Tariffs

To Whom It May Concern;

Please be advised of the following motion passed at the Monday, March 17, 2025, Goderich Town Council Meeting:

Moved By: Councillor Petrie

Seconded By: Councillor Kelly

WHEREAS President Trump's rhetoric about the annexation of Canada is both offensive and unacceptable, undermining Canada's sovereignty and the respectful relationship between our two nations;

WHEREAS the Government of the United States, under President Trump, intends to impose unjustified trade tariffs on Canada that will cause harm to both nations' economies, local businesses, and workers;

WHEREAS the above noted actions contradict the principles of diplomatic dialogue and fair trade that Canada has long championed in our international relations;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Goderich has a responsibility to defend the values of peace, cooperation, and mutual respect, and safeguard the interests of our community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Goderich condemns divisive and harmful rhetoric regarding the potential annexation of Canada, and categorically rejects trade tariffs imposed by President Trump;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Goderich send the attached letter to American municipal and business leaders that the town has had longstanding friendly relationships with expressing our concerns and

advocating for the return of a constructive and positive relationship between our countries:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Goderich encourages other Ontario municipalities to adopt similar resolutions, advocate to their municipal and business partners in the United States and join us in a collective voice to preserve the dignity and sovereignty of our nation.

CARRIED

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 519-524-8344 ext. 210 or afisher@goderich.ca.

Yours truly,



Andrea Fisher
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
/mp

Friday, May 9, 2025

We are writing today to advise of the Town of Goderich's deep concern regarding recent rhetoric from the American federal government including threats to annex Canada, and American tariffs on Canadian goods. As a community that values the long-standing cooperation between our nations, we appeal to you as leaders in your community to advocate for the end of such damaging rhetoric and policies.

Canada is a proud nation with our own democratic system, values, and identity. As Canadians, we hold a deep commitment to our sovereignty and independence, and we are overwhelmingly opposed to President Trump's annexation rhetoric. American threats to annex Canada disregard the liberty, democracy, and self-determination that both of our nations hold in high esteem. They undermine the peace and respect that have long defined the relationship between our two countries, they are an affront to Canadian values and destabilize our cooperative future.

American tariffs on Canadian goods present significant economic problems for both our countries. Canada is the United States' largest trading partner with over \$700 billion in goods and services exchanged annually (*Government of Canada*, 2024). American and Canadian businesses rely on our integrated supply chains to thrive. Tariffs will disrupt this flow of goods, raise prices for consumers, and hurt local businesses on both sides of the border. In fact, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has estimated that American tariffs on Canadian goods could result in up to \$40 billion in losses for American businesses and consumers (*U.S. Chamber of Commerce*, 2023).

Like many other municipalities in Canada, the Town of Goderich shares strong ties with the United States through trade, tourism, and business. These connections have fostered economic development, supported jobs, and created a robust relationship that benefits communities on both sides of the border. We ask that you, as local leaders, urge your federal government to end the rhetoric of annexation and any other threats or economic actions that disrupt our strong, peaceful, and mutually beneficial relationship. The economic and social consequences of continued tensions are felt in all communities that depend on cross-border trade, tourism, and cooperation.

We urge you to advocate for policies that foster collaboration and mutual respect. As community leaders, we have a unique role to play in building bridges between our nations. We are at our best when we work together, and it is crucial that we continue to nurture the strong, cooperative relationship we have built to foster peace and prosperity between our countries.

The Town of Goderich
57 West Street
Goderich, Ontario
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townhall@goderich.ca
www.goderich.ca



Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Bazinet", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Trevor Bazinet, Mayor
Town of Goderich
tbazinet@goderich.ca
/mp

P.O. Box 490
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Trenton, Ontario K8V 5R6
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A Natural Attraction

Tel: 613-392-2841
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josh.machesney@quintewest.ca
clerk@quintewest.ca

Josh Machesney, City Clerk | Director of Corporate Services

May 8, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Email: premier@ontario.ca

RE: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers in the Municipality of Quinte West

Dear Premier Ford:

This letter will serve to advise that at a meeting of City of Quinte West Council held on May 7, 2025 Council supported the following resolution:

THAT Council receive item 12.8 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Letter
Re: Strong Mayor Powers as information;

WHEREAS the Ontario government has proposed expanding the "strong mayor" powers to 169 additional municipalities under the proposed legislation on May 1, 2025, which would grant mayors in these municipalities more authority, particularly concerning the control of municipal budgets, planning and operational decisions;

AND WHEREAS this proposal has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability, and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS the proposed expansion of strong mayor powers undermines the collaborative nature of municipal governance, and diminish the role of elected municipal councillors in representing the diverse interests of the community;

AND WHEREAS concerns have been raised about the negative impacts on public trust, democratic participation, and municipal decision-making processes, if mayors are given the ability to bypass council decisions without adequate consultation or oversight;

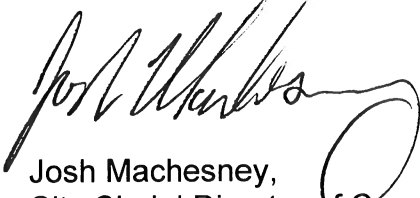
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Quinte West;

1. Does not support the proposed strong mayor powers as currently outlined;
2. Supports specific powers to mayors as it pertains to identifiable decisions regarding housing, development, infrastructure and transit to provide tools that reduce obstacles that can stand in the way of new housing and infrastructure developments;
3. Strongly suggests that free reign of decision-making regarding hiring, firing, committees and so forth be removed from the proposed authority;
4. Strongly suggests that members of current Council were duly elected officials by citizens with the awareness of one vote per council member and majority votes are the democratic process;
5. Requests that the Provincial Strong Mayor Powers proposed to take effect on May 1, 2025, be deferred to allow for greater clarity and that the Province seek collaborative input from the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO);
6. Directs staff to forward this resolution immediately to Premier Ford, Minister Flack, Tyler Allsopp, MPP Bay of Quinte, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario Municipalities.

We hope that you give consideration to this request.

Yours Truly,

CITY OF QUINTE WEST



Josh Machesney,
City Clerk | Director of Corporate Services

cc: Hon. Rob Flack, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – rob.flack@pc.ola.org
Tyler Allsopp, MPP Bay of Quinte – tyler.allsopp@pc.ola.org
Association of Municipalities of Ontario – resolutions@amo.on.ca
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) – roma@roma.on.ca



Hon. Gary Anandasangaree
3-3600 Ellesmere Rd
Toronto, Ontario
M1C 4Y8
VIA EMAIL:
gary.anand@parl.gc.ca

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

May 13, 2025

RE: Support Resolution No. 2025-120 regarding Municipality of Durham Council Motion to Amend prior Motion to ban the Nazi Swastika in Canada

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on April 16, 2025 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2025-120:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Goyda

That the Consent Agenda item 6.7 listed for APRIL 16, 2025 Council meeting be received for information; and

Whereas the Township supports the Municipality of Durham Council Motion to Amend prior Motion to Nazi Symbols of Hate and directs staff to send a support resolution accordingly.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: All Ontario Municipalities, B'nai Brith Canada



**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

Corporate Services
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Legislative Services
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durham.ca

**Alexander Harras
M.P.A.
Director of
Legislative Services
& Regional Clerk**

March 27, 2025

The Honourable Arif Virani
Minister of Justice
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Virani:

RE: Motion to amend prior motion presented to Regional Council on February 26, 2025, re: Banning the Nazi Swastika in Canada, to remove references to "Swastika" from the motion and replace them with "Nazi symbols of hate", Our File: C00

As a follow-up to our previous correspondence sent on February 28, 2025, please be advised that the Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on March 26, 2025, adopted the following recommendations of the Finance & Administration Committee:

- A) That subject to a 2/3rds majority vote, the resolution with respect to Banning the Nazi Swastika in Canada, adopted at the February 26, 2025 Regional Council meeting, be reconsidered; and
- B) That subject to Part A) being approved, that the resolution be amended to replace all references to Nazi swastika(s) with the words "Nazi symbols of hate", and make any necessary associated grammatical revisions.

For your reference, the resolution now reads as follows:

"Whereas in recent years, Nazi iconography has surfaced with alarming frequency in the public sphere, used by an increasing number of groups and individuals to promote hate and instill fear within Canadian society; and

Whereas since the atrocities of WWII, the Nazi hakenkreuze, has become universally synonymous with systematic violence, terror and hate. Its growing presence in our country poses a threat to every single Canadian citizen, undermining the core values of equality, diversity, and inclusion that define our nation, and

Whereas eighteen countries have already taken action to ban these symbols, it is imperative that Canada follow suit;

Therefore be it resolved, that Durham Region Council supports B’Nai Brith’s call to the Government of Canada to pass legislation banning, with exceptions for certain educational and artistic purposes, the public display of Nazi symbols of hate and iconography, including the Nazi hakenkreuze. Specifically, demanding that the Government of Canada immediately:

1. Ban the Nazi hakenkreuze
2. Ban all Nazi symbols of hate and iconography

Durham Region Council agrees that the people of Canada are counting on the federal government to ensure a future free from hate, where every Canadian is protected, valued, and respected; and

That a copy of this motion is sent to all Canadian Municipalities.”


Alexander Harras, M.P.A.
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk
AH/tf

c: B’nai Brith Canada
All Canadian Municipalities

May 13, 2025

To all Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:

Re: Bill 5 - Risks to your communities and support requested

As Mayor of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, I am sharing this motion to bring to your attention the potential risks to your communities and ask for your support to oppose this approach. The following motion was approved yesterday, May 12, 2025:

“Whereas 29831 Irish School Road in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is a property approximately 800 metres from the Town of Dresden;

And Whereas the property contain small fill areas used for historic local landfill purposes, and the property has never been properly studied or zoned for any significant landfilling use;

And Whereas the current property owners are attempting to create a new recycling and landfill facility for millions of tonnes of waste, which would result in hundreds of trucks travelling through towns and communities in the area;

And Whereas this approach has been strongly opposed by Council, the Community, neighbouring Indigenous Nations and many other voices, due to impacts to the environment, our homes, the safety of our families and children, and the fabric of our communities;

And Whereas the Provincial government has proposed Bill 5, which includes a section removing the obligation for a full Environmental Assessment for this new landfill and recycling facility;

And Whereas if this limited, historic local landfill use on the edge of Dresden can be expanded into a massive landfill and recycling facility, then this can happen anywhere;

And Whereas there are likely hundreds of properties across the Province that may have had limited, historic waste uses, which could also face this threat;

And Whereas Bill 197 established a veto for Municipalities within 3.5 kms of a new landfill, which reflected the need for local government and community approval of landfill sites;

And Whereas the approach being taken for this property disregards the importance of our rural communities, and local voices, in determining appropriate landfill sites within their communities:

Cont'd...

Now Therefore to ensure that other Municipal Councils and communities know about what is happening in Dresden, and the potential risk to their community if this approach is taken by the Province, Council requests that the Mayor's Office write a letter to all other Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:

1. Advising them of this issue and the risks to their community if a similar approach is taken for other historic landfill properties; the possibility of the Ontario government setting a precedence and
2. Requesting their support in opposing this approach and ensuring that full Environmental Assessments are required for all landfills and that municipalities have a strong voice in determining appropriate locations for landfills in their communities."

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Meeting Date: May 12, 2025

Resolution No. 2025-093

Moved: Councillor Prendergast

Seconded: Councillor Andrews

Responsible Growth and Opposition to Elements of Bill 5

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of “Special Economic Zones” that may override local planning authority; and

Whereas the Town of Orangeville supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes; and

Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario’s natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now therefore be it resolved that Council for the Town of Orangeville:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:
 - The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 - The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
 - The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and MPP for Dufferin–Caledon
 - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration.

Result: Carried Unanimously

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 585-7000



234-2025-2204

May 13, 2025

Dear Head of Council,

On May 12, 2025 I introduced the *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025 (Bill 17)*. Through this legislation, and other changes, we are responding to recommendations and requests from municipal leaders to make it easier and faster to build new homes and infrastructure Ontario needs like transit, roads, water, and wastewater systems.

The bill contains bold actions to protect Ontario from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Transportation. Details about the range of measures can be found in the [news release](#).

Building Code Act – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Schedule 1 of the Bill proposes changes to the *Building Code Act* which include:

- Adding a provision to clarify that municipalities do not have the authority to create or enforce their own construction standards.
- Eliminating the requirement for a secondary provincial approval of innovative construction products for products that have already undergone a “Canadian Code Compliance Evaluation” by the federal Canadian Construction Materials Centre ([25-MMAH0042](#)). Comments can be made through the Regulatory Registry of Ontario (RR) from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025.

Development Charges Act – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Schedule 4 of the Bill proposes changes to the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, to standardize the development charge (DC) methodology and framework and improve predictability of costs, include:

- Creating a regulation-making authority to merge service categories for DC credits.
- Creating a regulation-making authority to specify what constitutes a “local service.”
- Expanding the DC deferral to non-rental residential developments. Related changes include:

.../2

- Providing municipalities authority, in circumstances set out in regulation, to require financial security for payment of deferred DCs for non-rental residential developments; and
- Removing authority for municipalities to charge interest on any legislated DC deferral amounts.
- Enabling municipalities to make any changes to their DC by-laws for the sole purpose of reducing DCs or removing indexing without undertaking certain procedural requirements.
- Creating a regulation-making authority to prescribe exceptions, including conditional exceptions, to capital costs that are eligible to be recovered from DCs.
- Providing that the frozen DC rates on a development would not be applicable if the current DC rates in effect would result in a lower payment.
- Exempting long-term care homes within the meaning of subsection 2 (1) of the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* from municipal DCs.

We are interested in receiving your comments on these proposed measures. Comments can be made through the Regulatory Registry of Ontario (RR) from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025:

- RR 25-MMAH003: Changes to the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, to Simplify and Standardize the Development Charge (DC) Framework.

Planning Act – Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Schedules 3 and 7 of the Bill propose changes to the *Planning Act* and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* that would help streamline and standardize municipal development processes. If passed, the proposed changes would:

- Provide authority for regulations to limit municipal complete application studies and provide greater recognition of planning reports prepared by prescribed certified professionals,
- Remove the need for certain minor variances,
- Give the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing the authority to impose conditions on a use permitted by a Minister's zoning order, and
- Streamline planning approvals for publicly funded kindergarten to grade 12 schools.

We are interested in receiving your comments on these proposed measures. Comments can be made through the Environmental Registry of Ontario from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025:

- ERO 025-0461: Proposed Planning Act and City of Toronto Act, 2006 Changes (Schedules 3 and 7 of Bill 17- Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025).

We are also interested in receiving any comments you may have on associated regulatory changes. The government is undertaking 45-day consultations on the following proposals from May 12, 2025, to June 26, 2025:

- ERO 025-0462: Proposed Regulations – Complete Application (seeking feedback on proposed regulations to address complete application requirements (study/report requirements) and submissions from certified professionals)
- ERO 025-0463: Proposed Regulation – As-of-right Variations from Setback Requirements (seeking feedback on a proposed regulation that would allow variations to be permitted “as-of-right” if a proposal is within 10% of requirements for setbacks from property lines applicable to specified lands)

The Environmental Registry postings provide additional details regarding the proposed changes.

Ministry of Infrastructure Act – Ministry of Infrastructure

Schedule 6 of the Bill proposes changes to the *Ministry of Infrastructure Act, 2011* (MOIA), to provide the Minister of Infrastructure with the authority to request information and data from municipalities and municipal agencies, where needed to support provincially funded infrastructure projects. This would help speed up the delivery of critical infrastructure that our growing communities need, while also supporting jobs and economic growth. Comments can be made through the Regulatory Registry of Ontario (RR-25MOI003) from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025.

Transit-Oriented Communities Act – Ministry of Infrastructure

Proposed changes to the *Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Act, 2020*, would reduce barriers to implementing the Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) by:

- Amending the definition of a “Transit Oriented Communities project” to include projects along the GO and LRT network more efficiently,
- Removing OIC approval requirements for any agreements between the Minister (or an entity with delegated powers) and a municipality, and
- Enabling the Minister to delegate certain responsibilities to Infrastructure Ontario for the purpose of developing TOCs.

We are interested in receiving your comments on these proposed changes. Comments can be made through the Environmental Registry of Ontario from May 12, 2025, to June 11, 2025:

- ERO 025-0504: Proposed *Transit-Oriented Communities Act, 2020*, changes to reduce barriers to implementing municipal agreements.

Ministry of Transportation

Schedule 2 of the bill proposes a change to the *Building Transit Faster Act, 2020* (BTFA) that, if passed, would extend the use of the BTFA measures to all provincial transit projects. This change would remove barriers to building transit faster and get shovels in the ground quicker to build major provincial transit projects that connect communities.

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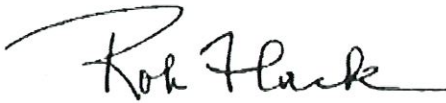
A proposed amendment to the *Metrolinx Act, 2006*, permits the Minister of Transportation to request certain information and data from municipalities or municipal agencies necessary to support the development of provincial transit projects or Transit-Oriented Communities projects.

You may provide your comments on the proposed change to the BTFA through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) notice [ERO 025-0450](#) and the Ontario Regulatory Registry notice ([RR 25-MTO005](#)) and the Metrolinx Act ([RR 25-MTO006](#)) from May 12, 2025 to June 11, 2025.

The government invites you to review the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) and [Regulatory Registry of Ontario](#) posting links provided above and share any feedback you may have. If you have any questions, please reach out to my Director of Stakeholder and Caucus Relations, Tanner Zelenko, at Tanner.Zelenko@ontario.ca.

In the face of economic uncertainty, we must protect Ontario by speeding up construction so we can lower housing costs and keep workers on the job. I look forward to continued collaboration with you, our municipal partners, to create the homes that Ontario need today, tomorrow, and in the decades to come.

Sincerely,



Hon. Robert J. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

- c. The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
 The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation
 The Honourable Graydon Smith, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office
 Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Laura Smith, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Brian Saunderson, Parliamentary Assistant, Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
 David McLean, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Municipal Chief Administrative Officers

Meeting Date: May 12, 2025

Resolution No. 2025-092

Moved: Mayor Post

Seconded: Councillor Macintosh

Rescinding Strong Mayor Powers

Whereas the Province of Ontario initially introduced Strong Mayor Powers in 2022 with the stated intent of expediting housing development across municipalities; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario arbitrarily expanded the Strong Mayor Powers legislation to include an additional 169 municipalities in April 2025; and

Whereas municipalities across Ontario have demonstrated a commitment to addressing the housing crisis through local planning approvals and community-led solutions; and

Whereas Strong Mayor Powers fundamentally alter local democratic governance by concentrating decision-making authority in a single individual, thereby weakening the role of elected Councils and disrupting the principles of collaboration and shared leadership; and

Whereas these powers can create uncertainty within municipal organizations, impact staff morale, and risk eroding the trust that underpins effective municipal governance; and

Whereas there are currently no provincial checks and balances or independent oversight mechanisms in place to ensure Strong Mayor Powers are being used appropriately and as intended, and the legislation itself has been described by some as “open to interpretation,” creating a fundamental flaw in the responsible application of these potentially dangerous powers; and

Whereas the primary barriers to housing construction are not rooted in municipal decision-making processes, but in broader market conditions, infrastructure constraints, and the lack of effective provincial and federal policy supports to stimulate affordable and attainable housing development;

Therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Orangeville formally request the Province of Ontario to rescind the Strong Mayor Powers legislation in its entirety; and

That should the legislation not be repealed, that the Province immediately remove the Town of Orangeville from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor Powers framework; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Ontario municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin-Caledon, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada for their information, support and consideration.

Result: Carried Unanimously

Good Morning

At the May 12, 2025, meeting of Shelburne Town Council, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

Moved By: Councillor Lindsay Wegener

Seconded By: Councillor Len Guchardi

Whereas the Province announced expansion of Strong Mayor Powers to an additional 169 municipalities, which includes the Town of Shelburne to take effect May 1st 2025; and

Whereas the purpose of Strong Mayor Powers is to accelerate the delivery of key provincial priorities, building 1.5 million new homes by December 31, 2031, constructing and maintaining infrastructure to support housing, including, transit, roads, utilities and servicing and reduce red tape; and

Whereas the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario has identified that no research exists to support the impact of housing development within municipalities having been granted the strong mayor's power; and

Whereas Strong Mayor Powers blurs the political-administrative authority between the roles of Head of Council and Chief Administration Officer; and

Whereas the Strong Mayor Powers is an erosion to the democratic process historical to the very fabric of Canadian municipal governance;

Now Therefore the Council of the Town of Shelburne hereby respectively rejects the Strong Mayor Powers granted to it, and requests that the Province repeal the legislation, or offers as an option and the ability for a municipality to opt out of the legislation; and

That a copy this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Sylvia Jones, AMO, and all other Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED; Mayor Wade Mills

Thank You

Jennifer Willoughby, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Phone: 519-925-2600 ext 223 | Fax: 519-925-6134 | jwilloughby@shelburne.ca

Town of Shelburne | 203 Main Street East, Shelburne ON L9V 3K7

www.shelburne.ca

Good Morning

At the May 12, 2025, meeting of Shelburne Town Council, the following resolution was passed unanimously

Moved By: Councillor Len Guchardi

Seconded By: Councillor Lindsay Wegener

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of “Special Economic Zones” that may override local planning authority;

And Whereas the Town of Shelburne supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes;

And Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario’s natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That Council for the Town of Shelburne:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections or override municipal planning authority;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Urges the Province to support municipalities through ensuring responsible growth through infrastructure projects designed to ensure protection of sensitive wildlife and natural resources;

And Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario,
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
- The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks,
- Sylvia Jones, MPP for Dufferin–Caledon,

- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO),
- All Ontario municipalities for their awareness and consideration,
- All Conservation Authorities in Ontario,
- Conservation Ontario

CARRIED; Mayor Wade Mills

Thank You

Jennifer Willoughby, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Phone: 519-925-2600 ext 223 | Fax: 519-925-6134 | jwilloughby@shelburne.ca

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Corporation of the Town of Mattawa

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Mattawa, ON P0H 1V0

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May 15, 2025

Honourable Doug Ford

Premier of Ontario

Delivered Electronically to: premier@ontario.ca

Honourable Rob Flack

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Delivered Electronically to: minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Hon. Doug Ford and Hon. Rob Flack:

Council of the Town of Mattawa, at their Regular Meeting of May 12, 2025 approved a resolution on the Strong Mayor Powers, which stated:

Resolution Number 25-95

Moved by Councillor Fern Levesque

Seconded by Councillor Laura Ross

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario announced an expansion of strong mayor powers to an additional 169 municipalities that took effect May 1, 2025;

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa was included in the additional 169 municipalities that gained such powers;

AND WHEREAS these powers allow mayors to unilaterally override council decisions, appoint senior municipal staff, and set budgets without majority council approval, undermining the principles of democratic governance;

AND WHEREAS municipal governance functions best through a collaborative decision-making process where elected councils, representing the collective voice of their communities, work alongside experienced municipal staff and the proposed powers has raised significant concerns regarding the centralization of power, erosion of local democracy, reduced accountability and the potential for the abuse of power;

AND WHEREAS there is no evidence to suggest that strong mayor powers have increased housing starts, contrary to the provincial government's stated justification for their implementation;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has raised concerns that strong mayor powers blur the lines

between political leadership and administration expertise, threatening the neutrality of municipal public service;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Mattawa has a long history of collaborative, transparent and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council debated and shared decision-making;

AND WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the strong mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or appeal.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Mattawa opposes the expansion of strong mayor powers and formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Town of Mattawa from the list of municipalities that was granted strong mayor powers under the designated legislation.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED – Recorded vote and the vote was unanimous

Council for the Town of Mattawa are formally requesting that the Strong Mayor Powers be removed from our municipality that was granted through the designated legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Leclerc". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Leclerc" clearly distinguishable.

Amy Leclerc
Municipal Clerk
Revenue Services Clerk

c.c. Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities

Good afternoon,

This email is being sent to the attention of Premier Doug Ford, Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Honourable Trevor Jones, , MPP Brian Saunderson, MPP Paul Vickers, MPP Nina Tangri, Grey County and to all municipalities in Ontario, with a request to support the following Resolution that was passed by Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains at the May 14, 2025, Special Meeting of Council:

WHEREAS the Town of The Blue Mountains boasts a robust agricultural sector and a thriving agritourism industry, with numerous local cideries contributing significantly to the local economy, employment, and tourism;

AND WHEREAS Ontario's craft cider industry is experiencing substantial growth, with over 60 craft cideries across the province, many of which are situated in rural communities and utilize 100% Ontario-grown apples and are 100% made in Ontario, thereby supporting local agriculture and local economies;

AND WHEREAS under the current provincial tax structure, cider is officially classified and taxed at the same rate as imported wine which results in higher markups and taxes compared to craft beer, despite cider's comparable production processes and market positioning;

AND WHEREAS this tax disparity places Ontario's craft cider producers at a competitive disadvantage compared to craft brewers, despite the fact that Ontario cider utilizes 100% Ontario-grown apples and is 100% made in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Craft Cider Association (OCCA) has been actively advocating for a tax structure that levels the playing field between craft cider and craft beer, recognizing the potential for job creation, economic growth, and the promotion of local agriculture;

AND WHEREAS the Town acknowledges and appreciates the Province's investment in marketing and promotional support for the craft cider industry, but maintains that long-term sustainability and competitiveness for Ontario cider producers requires an adjustment to the underlying tax framework;

AND WHEREAS this motion is meant to support, not oppose, initiatives for fair taxation of the Ontario Craft Cider industry the Province of Ontario may be considering.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains:

1. Supports the efforts of the Ontario Craft Cider Association in advocating for a fair and equitable tax structure for Ontario-made craft cider.

2. Urges the Province of Ontario to review and amend the current tax regulations to align the tax rate of craft cider with that of craft beer, thereby fostering a more balanced and supportive environment for local cider producers.
3. Acknowledges the Province of Ontario's recent investment in marketing initiatives for the cider sector, while calling for complementary reform of the tax and markup structure that continues to disadvantage cider producers relative to other craft alcohol categories;
4. Directs the Mayor to forward this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, MPP Brian Saunderson, MPP Paul Vickers and MPP Nina Tangri and the County of Grey requesting their consideration and support.
5. Directs the Mayor to forward this resolution to all municipalities in Ontario, encourages other municipalities with vested interests in agriculture and agri-tourism to adopt similar resolutions, amplifying the collective voice advocating for the prosperity of Ontario's craft cider industry.

Warm regards,



Carrie Fairley

Acting Deputy Clerk

Secretary-Treasurer to Committee of Adjustment

Town of The Blue Mountains, 32 Mill Street, P.O. Box 310, Thornbury,
ON N0H 2P0

Tel: 519-599-3131 ext. 219 | Fax: 519-599-7723

Email: cfairley@thebluemountains.ca | Website: www.thebluemountains.ca

As part of providing [accessible customer service](#), please let me know if you have any accommodation needs or require communication support or alternate formats.