



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, June 21, 2024

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**PENDING MOTION REFERRAL/DEFERRAL SUMMARY
AS OF JUNE 18, 2024**

CLERKS REF. NO.	DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR ITEM	DATE APPROVED BY COUNCIL	SUBJECT/ACTION	STATUS OF THE ITEM	COMMENTS/ COMPLETION INFORMATION
02-85 16-26	Infrastructure Services	July 19, 2016	Draft Sidewalk Policy that focuses on the creation of new sidewalks and the improvement and maintenance of existing sidewalks.	Status: In progress To Complete: Quarter 4, 2024	
99-99	Community Services	May 3, 2016	Report regarding potential alternatives to expand the use of waterway by the general public. Defers Report R&C-2017-08: Public Consultation Process - 'Go Quiet By-law' & Alternative Uses of the Waterway to the General Committee meeting on September 26, 2017.	Status: In progress To Complete: R&C-2017-06 - October 4, 2017 was received for information.	
17-2	Planning & Development Services Traffic & By-laws	September 19, 2017	Refers back to staff for report regarding Section 8 Schedule 3 Food Vehicle, Section 7 Schedule 2 Food Premises and Exemption Section 10 Schedule 4 Hawker and Peddler from By-law 2011-173. Went to the May 15th Council Meeting to be deferred to staff for a report to a General Committee meeting.	Status: In progress To Complete: Report coming back July 2024.	
09-152 18-2	Planning & Development Services and Fire Department	June 5, 2018	Report on an education strategy to the public, tenants and landlords regarding rental housing.	Status: In progress To Complete: Fire and Planning to provide an update report in 2024.	

CLERKS REF. NO.	DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR ITEM	DATE APPROVED BY COUNCIL	SUBJECT/ACTION	STATUS OF THE ITEM	COMMENTS/ COMPLETION INFORMATION
19-28	Planning & Development Services	March 5, 2019	Request for a Community Teaching Garden to staff for study and review.	Status: In progress To Complete: To be brought to the Green Advisory Committee for consideration in 2024.	
99-110	Community Services	May 7, 2019	Report regarding naming the trails along the waterway.	Status: In progress To Complete:	
19-75	Clerks Division	May 21, 2019	Report on suitable replacements for paper by becoming paper free by the end of the year 2019. Motion at BRC in Sept./Oct. for paper copies.	Status: In progress To Complete:	
19-28	CAO	July 9, 2019	Report regarding a partnership between all 4 Service Clubs to a General Committee meeting. (Kiwanis, Lions, Optimist and Rotary Clubs).	Status: In progress To Complete: CAOs office is awaiting a response from the community groups.	
19-88	CAO	July 9, 2019	Create a "Downtown Vacancy Mitigation Action Plan" between the City, Business, Community and applicable stakeholders that addresses vacancy rates in our downtown areas.	Status: In progress To Complete: To be included in the upcoming Downtown Revitalization Strategy 2024 work.	

CLERKS REF. NO.	DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR ITEM	DATE APPROVED BY COUNCIL	SUBJECT/ACTION	STATUS OF THE ITEM	COMMENTS/ COMPLETION INFORMATION
99-99	Community Services	September 3, 2019	Staff to start a public consultation process on the design of a new park area and that a report to include public replacement of the current park infrastructure and enhancements due to the loss of parkland come to General Committee by the end of 2019.	Status: In progress To Complete:	
19-103	Planning & Development Services	September 17, 2019	Report on possible enhancements to the public notification process for Committee of Adjustment hearings. Went to the October 1, 2019 Council meeting requesting that subsequent report be provided outlining costs for the two options provided.	Status: In progress To Complete: 3 rd Quarter in 2024.	
08-48	Planning & Development Services	February 18, 2020	Refers back to staff a report regarding an Occupancy Standards By-law.	Status: In progress To Complete: 2 nd Quarter 2024.	
19-94	Planning & Development Services	February 18, 2020	Refers back to staff matter regarding the petition from residents from 155 Gadsby Avenue, there be no change to the zoning, which is currently zoned as open space, in order to protect wild life.	Status: In progress To Complete: Ontario Land Tribunal matter at this time.	

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20-77	Infrastructure Services	June 16, 2020	WHEREAS due to the recent pandemic the City of Welland is not able to provide services that they normally would perform do to the safety of its employees; and further WHEREAS if residents did in fact require a service that is normally provided by the City, in this case being a sewer related service and had to act immediately and contact an outside contractor and in resolving the issue a fee was paid. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND directs staff to create a report to reimburse part or all of the fee paid by the owner (with guidelines similar to the rodent control program to be adhered to) and the amount be capped and for a certain period to time.	Status: In progress To Complete:	
20-106	Planning & Development Services	October 6, 2020	Signed petition from the residents of Caithness Drive regarding turning an established residential area from a single family homes to duplexes and refers this petition to Planning staff for review.	Status: In progress To Complete: Will be considered as part of update to City's Official Plan in 2024.	
20-19	Planning & Development Services	October 20, 2020	Refers to staff for report the notice of motion regarding 113 Michael Drive, redesignates this area as Open Space and proceed with an RFP to have a park with playground equipment be installed at this location.	Status: In progress To Complete: Approval for Park Development and will be amended to Open Space in the updated to the City's Official Plan.	

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20-82	Planning & Development Services	March 2, 2021	Report regarding a Municipal Comprehensive Review, under section 4.3.3.1 of the Official Plan, for the property outlined in Report P&B-2021-08 for an Employment Land conversion from Gateway Economic Centre to Agriculture.	Status: In progress To Complete: To be considered as part of the update to the Official Plan in 2024.	
21-58	CAO & Planning & Development Services	March 2, 2021	Report regarding Brownfield Employment Lands that are non-employment producing within the city limits.	Status: In progress To Complete: Will be included in 2024 update to the Brownfield CIP.	
21-59	CAO & Economic Development	March 2, 2021	Report on a strategy to aggressively pursue the acquisition of seaway lands from the Federal government, to discuss with them an accelerated process to declare such lands surplus and enter into discussions for the acquisition of identified properties and review options for "lease to own" such lands until such time as they become available. Staff identify Seaway lands of interest and develop servicing plans and other strategies as may be required and further staff identify other lands within and/or adjacent to employment lands identified in Welland's official plan that would be strategic acquisitions for the purpose of industrial/employment use and see if owners are interested in selling those lands to the municipality. If they are not interested the city would not pursue expropriation. In relation to all of the above staff would prepare strategies and associated costs to service lands so that they would be "shovel ready".	Status: In progress To Complete: Update report to come in 2024 through Economic Development.	
06-156	Planning & Development Services	April 20, 2021	Report as part of the Official Plan Review detailing what Urban Farming initiatives Council should consider accommodating.	Status: In progress To Complete:	

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21-92	Planning & Development Services	July 6, 2021	Report regarding petition by residents of Seaway Pointe Condominium at 330 Prince Charles Drive regarding parking space for the Evertrust Development at 350 Prince Charles Drives.	Status: In progress To Complete: Applications were approved and building is currently under construction.	
98-82	Community Services	September 21, 2021	Refers Report R&C-2021-17 back to staff to present an updated design to an upcoming General Committee Meeting based on the comments from members of Council.	Status: In progress To Complete:	
07-144	Economic Development	January 31, 2023	Dissolution of the Welland Development Commission (WDC) referred back to staff for further information.	Status: In process. To Complete: 4 th quarter of 2024.	
05-50	Planning & Development Services	March 7 & 28, 2023	Refers back to staff regarding changes to the Municipal Heritage Register from the Town of Grimsby and Report P&B-2023-06.	Status: In process To Complete: 2 nd Quarter 2024.	
02-160	Planning & Development Services	March 27, 2023	Staff report re: having Council representation or staff on the Committee of Adjustment, Grants and Programs and Property Standards Committee.	Status: In process To Complete: 2 nd Quarter 2024.	
22-152	Planning & Development Services	March 27, 2023	Develop content for residents, simplifying and explain the process to provide a better understanding for interested parties, and to freely provide these resources to members of the public by posing online on the City website.	Status: In Progress To Complete: 3 rd Quarter 2024.	
23-62	Human Resources Division	April 25, 2023	Refers back to staff Report HR-2023-01: Non-Union Performance Evaluation Policy.	Status: Complete To Complete:	HR-2024-06 May 28, 2024

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02-160	Human Resources Division/ Clerks Division	May 16, 2023	Refers back to staff a notice of motion to arrange a customized training session, Human Rights and Equity: The Role and Obligations of Municipal Leaders offered by the Association of Municipalities not later than Q2 in 2024.	Status: To Complete:	
23-22	Planning & Development Services Traffic and By-laws Division	May 16, 2023	Refers back to staff Report P&B-2023-15: Cash In Lieu of parking Policy. Went to the July 18, 2023 Council Meeting to consult with the development community and public with regards to the proposed Cash-In-Lieu Parking By-law with a final By-law for consideration.	Status: In progress To Complete:	
21-79	Planning & Development Services	June 6, 2023	Refers back to staff Report P&B-2023-22 Application for Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment for 368 Aqueduct Street and 155 Gadsby Avenue.	Status: In progress To Complete: At Ontario Land Tribunal due to decision from Council.	
22-137	Planning & Development Services	June 6, 2023	Refers back to staff Report P&B-2023-20 Application for Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment for 50 Bruce Street.	Status: In progress To Complete: At Ontario Land Tribunal due to decision from Council. Went to CW on April 23/24.	
02-160	CAO	September 5, 2023	Refers back to staff notice of motion re: shall be notified in camera if any entity including but not limited to committees, commissions, agencies or boards that the city funds, or approves members or places members of council on, if this entity experiences any litigation involving its members.	Status: To Complete:	
02-160	Clerks Division	September 19, 2023	Refers back to staff Report CLK-2023-19: Amendment to Hybrid Model – Meeting of Council.	Status: To Complete:	

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23-122	Clerks Division	September 19, 2023	Refers back to staff Notice of Motion regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report recommendation #57.	Status: City Clerk is exploring training opportunities. To Complete:	
21-121	Engineering Division/Planning Division	November 21, 2023	Report to increase the funding for SWAP Program to soften costs to the homeowner.	Status: To Complete:	
06-84	Community Services	December 12, 2023	Correspondence from Town of Fort Erie re: encouraging contribution supporting Hospice Niagara and refers the motion back to staff for a report.	Status: To Complete:	
23-28	Community Services	December 19, 2023	Presentation re: Crimestoppers Program and refers matter to staff for report.	Status: To Complete:	
99-99	Community Services	January 9, 2024	Prepare a report in regards to creating and allowing family capping along the west side of the former Welland Canal.	Status: To Complete:	
23-22	Community Services	January 9, 2024	Report that would address parking at Chippawa Park from the pavilion on First Avenue north to Laughlin Avenue on the park property which is currently grass/open space similar to Burgar Park.	Status: To Complete:	
24-19/17-19	Community Services	September 17, 2019, February 27, 2024 and April 9, 2024	Staff to consult with public, agencies and other stakeholders regarding tree preservation. AND On February 27/24 report to include but is not limited to – the specifics and terms of the contract, the bidders, scoring and the awarding of the contract, any damages, future replanting, costs and funding and to include a recommendation to Council.	Status: In progress To Complete:	

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24-24	Finance Division	March 19, 2024	Refers Report HR-2024-05: Non-Union Compensation Policy to staff.	Status: Complete To Complete:	HR-2024-06 May 28, 2024
24-36	Planning & Development Services	March 19, 2024	Petition from residents of the City of Welland opposing the planning application for the zoning at 44 Heron Street.	Status: To Complete:	
23-29	Clerk's Division	April 9, 2024	Staff to prepare a report for Council to consider a "Councillor Information Report".	Status: To Complete:	
24-14	Clerk's Division	April 9, 2024	Staff to provide council with options on a reduced council size, with the sole objective to reduce the cost on to the taxpayer.	Status: To Complete:	
24-22	Planning & Development Services Traffic and By-laws Division	April 23, 2024	Report to consider amending the City's Zoning By-law 2017-117 to include a requirement for visitor parking, as well as reviewing the parking requirements spaces per dwelling units in the surrounding municipalities.	Status: To Complete:	
24-22	Planning & Development Services Traffic and By-laws Division	April 23, 2024	Refers back to staff notice of motion regarding lowering 50km per hour speed limits to 40km per hour speed limits to reduce accident impacts.	Status: To Complete:	
21-121	Infrastructure Services	May 7, 2024	Refers back to staff Report ENG-2024-13: Increasing Sewage Water Alleviation Program (SWAP) Grant Allocations.	Status: To Complete:	

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24-22	Planning & Development Services Traffic and By-laws Division	May 7, 2024	Refers back to staff Report TRAF-2024-04: Update to Traffic and Parking By-law 89-2000.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
24-22	Planning & Development Services Traffic and By-laws Division	May 14, 2024	Directs staff to create a report on increasing the maximum yearly eligible amount per resident under the Roden Rebate program.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
02-160	Clerk's Division	May 28, 2024	Staff to find a suitable provider to begin streaming Welland City Council Meetings on Facebook.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
24-22	Planning & Development Services Traffic and By-laws Division	May 28, 2024	By-law staff present to Council a formal presentation update on property standards, grass cutting, fines and enforcement, empty buildings within the City.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
				-	

MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Amanda Degazio – Manager of Business and Community Services

DATE: June 21, 2024

SUBJECT: Seniors Active Living Centres Funding Request Approved

The Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC) Program, supported by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, is an annual initiative that funds SALC programs to provide activities and services to seniors and older adults.

Each year, Community Services, on behalf of the Welland Community Centre, submits applications to the ministry for two funding streams of the SALC Program including maintenance and operating, and special grants.

We are pleased to inform Welland City Council that staff have received approval for both funding streams in 2024-2025:

- Maintenance and Operating funding: **\$42,700**
- Special Grant: **\$ 729**

The operating funding was included as projected revenue in the 2024 operating budget to off-set the City's costs to deliver reliable, high-quality and meaningful programming at the Welland Community Centre. Additionally, we are able to deliver a new outdoor walking pole pilot program, based on member feedback, to encourage healthy and active lifestyles for seniors and older adults.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 Fourth Avenue, Larder Lake, ON

Phone: 705-643-2158 Fax: 705-643-2311



MOVED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

SECONDED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

Motion #: 12

Resolution #:

Date: June 11, 2024

WHEREAS, the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) establishes accounting standards for the public sector which must be followed by all Ontario municipalities; And

WHEREAS, the Municipal Act, 2001 section 294.1 states that a municipality shall, for each fiscal year, prepare annual financial statements for the municipality in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments as recommended, from time to time, by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada; And

WHEREAS, PS 3280 is a new accounting standard covering asset retirement obligations (ARO) that was approved by PSAB in March 2018; And

WHEREAS, the standard must be applied by all public sector entities who prepare their financial statements under PSAB, including all Canadian municipalities; And

WHEREAS, many small municipalities do not have accountants or engineers on staff to complete the ARO obligations and this major accounting change will force small municipalities to hire consultants to complete this work and cause a significant financial burden to municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Corporation of the Township of Larder Lake hereby calls upon the province of Ontario to provide financial assistance to municipalities to complete the ARO; And

FINALLY, THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers

Recorded vote requested:

	For	Against
Tom Armstrong		
Patricia Hull		
Paul Kelly		
Lynne Paquette		
Patty Quinn		

I declare this motion

<input type="checkbox"/> Carried
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost / Defeated
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred to: _____ (enter date)
Because:
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ (enter body)
Expected response: _____ (enter date)

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest*

Chair: _____

*Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 Fourth Avenue, Larder Lake, ON

Phone: 705-643-2158 Fax: 705-643-2311



MOVED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

SECONDED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

Motion #: 13

Resolution #:

Date: June 11, 2024

of Ontario (AMCTO), the Timiskaming Municipal Association (TMA), the Federation of Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and all municipalities within the District of Timiskaming.

Recorded vote requested:

	For	Against
Tom Armstrong		
Patricia Hull	✓	
Paul Kelly	✓	
Lynne Paquette	✓	
Patty Quinn	✓	

I declare this motion

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carried
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost / Defeated
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred to: _____ (enter date)
Because:
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ (enter body)
Expected response: _____ (enter date)

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest*

Chair: 

*Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.

April 29, 2024

CL 6-2024, April 25, 2024
PEDC 4-2024, April 10, 2024
PDS 13-2024, April 10, 2024

DISTRIBUTION LIST

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

2023 Niagara Employment Inventory Results

PDS 13-2024

Regional Council, at its meeting held on April 25, 2024, passed the following recommendation of its Planning and Economic Development Committee:

That Report PDS 13-2024, dated April 10, 2024, respecting 2023 Niagara Employment Inventory Results, **BE RECEIVED** and **BE CIRCULATED** to Local Area Municipalities, Local Economic Development Offices, Workforce Collective, Niagara Chambers of Commerce, Brock University and Niagara College.

A copy of PDS 13-2024 is enclosed for your reference.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio

Regional Clerk

js

CLK-C 2024-045

cc: C. Tia, Planner, Growth, Strategy and Economic Development
M. Sergi, Commissioner, Growth, Strategy and Economic Development
N. Oakes, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Growth, Strategy and Economic Development

Distribution List:

- Local Area Municipalities
- Local Economic Development Offices
- Workforce Collective
- Niagara Chambers of Commerce
- Brock University
- Niagara College

Subject: 2023 Niagara Employment Inventory Results

Report To: Planning and Economic Development Committee

Report date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Recommendations

1. That this report **BE RECEIVED** for information; and
2. That PDS 13-2024 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities, Local Economic Development Offices, Workforce Collective, the Niagara Chambers of Commerce, Brock University and Niagara College.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to highlight the key results of the data collected during the 2023 Niagara Employment Inventory (NEI).
- The NEI is an annual direct data collection exercise (inventory and questionnaire) where a team of post-secondary students inventory publicly accessible businesses across Niagara.
- The Region began conducting the NEI in 2016, other than a two year pause during the pandemic, the survey has been carried out consistently each year, with 2024 survey preparations underway.
- The 2023 NEI team inventoried a total of 12,860 businesses throughout Niagara and received 10,318 completed responses, which captured the location of 146,128 full and part-time jobs and the associated data about the jobs reported by businesses who chose to participate in the questionnaire.
- Data captured through the NEI is shared with and is a key asset for internal Regional departments, local area municipalities and other organizations. A subset of the data collected is also published to Open Data to make it available to the public.

Financial Considerations

The NEI was funded through the Council-approved 2023 operating budget within Growth Strategy and Economic Development's base budget.

Analysis

Niagara Region is among several municipalities in Ontario that collect workplace and employment data. Since 2016, the Growth Strategy and Economic Development department has collected primary data on the types and sizes of businesses operating in Niagara.

The NEI is conducted annually by a small team of post-secondary students between the months of May and September. The primary data collection method is through door-to-door, in-person interviews with local business owners, with additional follow-up engagement conducted through email and telephone communication.

The data collected has become vital to monitoring the region's economic health, as well as aiding in decision and policy making. The information collected over the years has culminated into a comprehensive dataset of business information that provides the ability to analyze the regional employment landscape over time. The inventory is a geo-coded, spatially enabled dataset that facilitates analysis at a street-address level.

The business questionnaire was developed based on best practices from other municipalities in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area, as well as through consultation with the following stakeholders and experience gained over the years from administering the project:

- Internal Regional departments;
- Local area municipalities;
- Local economic development offices; and
- Brock University.

Each year, the NEI questionnaire features a core set of questions that are tailored to gain fundamental insight into the local business community. These questions remain unchanged each year accurately compare results over time. The core questions are in alignment with employment questionnaires administered by our municipal counterparts in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

In 2022, two new categories were added to the questionnaire focused on (1) diversity, equity and inclusion and (2) work from home. These questions were added to gain an understanding of the demographic characteristics of the business community, and to provide insight into the number of businesses with employees working from home.

These questions remained in the 2023 survey and are expected to remain in 2024.

In 2023, the NEI team inventoried 12,860 businesses and received 10,318 completed questionnaires, which captured the physical location of 146,128 full and part time jobs. Compared to 2022 results, there is an increase of 33,627 jobs identified. It is important to note that the number of jobs reported is not a reflection of the local job market, but rather is the result of a higher participation rate in 2023 compared to 2022, and that the total number of businesses inventoried includes businesses observed to no longer be in operation or vacant.

Participation in the NEI is voluntary. Despite best efforts, the project team is unable to make direct contact with all business owners or, occasionally, a business declines to participate.

Results

Table 1 in Appendix 1 illustrates the proportion of complete and partially complete inventory records from 2016-2019, and 2022-2023. A complete inventory record indicates that a business provided responses to the inventory questionnaire from beginning to end (“complete questionnaire”), or the business was confirmed to be permanently closed or vacant.

Partially complete records indicate the inventory team was not able to make direct contact with a business representative. In these cases, the project team still captures several key attributes, such as verifying the physical location of the data point and associated sector and industry codes. The NEI continues to see a low rate (less than 1%) of businesses, who when contacted, decline to participate.

In 2023, a completion rate of 80% was achieved. The completion rate in 2023 is strong with a 5% increase since 2022. A steady increase in the completion rate year-over-year can be attributed to greater familiarity with the survey and project team, a streamlined data entry methodology, and joint communication outreach conducted by our local Chambers of Commerce and other interest groups.

Job Type Results

Table 2 in Appendix 1 illustrates the number of businesses inventoried and jobs captured within complete questionnaires in the 2023 NEI by sector based on the 2-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The NAICS was established by

statistical agencies of Canada, Mexico and the United States. It is a standardized industry classification system used to categorize business establishments based on the type of economic activity of the business.

Based on the number of businesses inventoried, the top three sectors observed in 2023 were: retail trade (22.0%), accommodation and food services (14.8%) and other services (except public administration) ¹(13.2%). When combined, these sectors make up 50% of all the businesses captured in the inventory.

Based on the number of jobs captured in complete questionnaires, the top three sectors observed in 2023 were: accommodation and food services (17.4%), retail trade (17.0%), and health care and social assistance (12.6%). Together, these sectors make up 47% of the total jobs captured in complete questionnaires.

Business Closures and Openings

Since 2022, approximately 797 businesses inventoried have been identified as no longer being in operation or vacant. The top three sectors that experienced business closures were retail trade; accommodation and food services; and other services (except public administration).

Over the same period, approximately 1,269 new businesses were identified and added to the inventory in 2023. The top three sectors that new businesses were observed in are: retail trade; accommodation and food services; and health care and social assistance.

Distribution of Inventoried Businesses and Number of Jobs by Municipality

Table 3 in Appendix 1 illustrates the municipal breakdown of the number of businesses and jobs reported over the six years inventory period. As mentioned above, the total businesses inventoried includes businesses observed to no longer be in operation or vacant, and total jobs reported are only for complete questionnaires.

Work from Home

In total, 1,021 businesses reported having staff working from home, representing approximately 7,023 employees. The majority of employees working from home were in the professional, scientific and technical services (34.9%), education (15.8%), and

¹ Other Services includes repair shops, personal care facilities and laundry services, among other industries.

manufacturing (10.4%).

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Niagara Region is the first municipal employment questionnaire in the Golden Horseshoe to include questions pertaining to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). These questions were added in 2022 and asked again in 2023 to gain a baseline understanding of demographic characteristics of the leadership teams in the Niagara business community.

Table 4 in Appendix 1 provides the responses to the questions in the newly added DEI section. Businesses were asked whether the majority of the business (+50%) are owned or led by:

- Person who identifies as a woman
- Person who identifies as a member of the 2SLGBTQQIA+² community
- Person who identifies as being disabled
- First Nations, Inuit or Métis person
- Person who identifies as a visible minority
- Youth (Less than 18 years old)
- Person who is a new immigrant (in Canada less than 5 years)

Respondents were given the option to complete the DEI section in person or online. In total, 1,457 business owners responded to the questions in the DEI section. Respondents could also choose to decline to answer the DEI section of the questionnaire. Staff in the DEI and Indigenous Relations team are reviewing the responses to develop strategies to continue to increase response rates in the future. This data will also be used to inform ongoing DEI initiatives at the Region.

Utilizing NEI Data

The data collected each year through the NEI provides detailed local business information that is not available through Statistics Canada data. In most cases, Statistics Canada data is updated once every five years providing high level data. Whereas the NEI is updated on a yearly basis to capture the current locational information, excluding the two-year data gap prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Statistics Canada data remains the authoritative data source for performing analysis at

² Two spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, and all other sexual orientations and genders.

regional and municipal level geographies; but lacks the ability to analyze raw business data at the street address level. Collecting annual business data at the street address level allows for detailed analysis to be carried out at custom geographies and time series.

The NEI results are used in conjunction with Statistics Canada data and other data sources to accurately monitor the regional economy. This allows for a better understanding of where the Region can take action to help facilitate economic growth and understand the changes that have taken place since the two-year reporting gap.

Reliable business data is an integral resource to better understand the region's employment context. This dataset plays a significant role in supporting decisions related to population and employment growth, infrastructure investment (including public transit), economic development inquiries, and the ongoing monitoring of economic conditions and trends.

In addition to supporting decision making, the data collected over the years has been used by the Region to facilitate analysis to support and add value to various projects. Below are examples of projects that the NEI data has been used for:

- South Niagara Hospital Project Business Directory;
- Niagara Official Plan Land Needs Assessment;
- Niagara Region Waste Collection Contract Review; and,
- Brock University Active Economy and Sport Tourism Research.

Economic Development also uses the NEI data to connect businesses to supply chain opportunities, support international promotion through the Niagara Canadian Business Directory, and to assist in analyzing the regional economy.

Building Relationships

The NEI also provides key opportunities for the Region to personally connect with local businesses to further develop partnerships, foster an environment for innovation and development within the Niagara business community, and the ability to listen and address any comments or concerns. Staff turnover and changing business operations can become an obstacle when trying to engage businesses, largely because the contact information in the NEI database became outdated. Following the two year reporting gap, the project team continued to focus on building relationships with the business

community in 2022 and 2023. To do so, the project team sought to educate business representatives on the value of the data relative to how it is used by the Region and local municipalities.

Addressing concerns of business owners continues to be an important step in building and maintaining strong working relationships with the community. On occasion, concerns were expressed by business owners, which were addressed immediately by the project team. Where the project team could not address the concern, the business owner was referred to resources available at the Region, such as the Waste Management Info-Line or local business support services.

Table 5 in Appendix 1 highlights the responses received when business owners were asked, “Is there anything Niagara Region could do to help support your business?” For reporting purposes, the responses have been categorized into themes only. The top three themes for 2023 are business exposure (14.9%), infrastructure/traffic issues/construction (12.4%), and incentives/grants/contracts (11.7%). The raw comments are shared with applicable internal departments, and with local municipal partners.

Open Data

Each year, a subset of the NEI results is released to the public through the Niagara Region Open Data Portal. Open Data places information in the hands of the public, promoting innovation and fostering greater transparency and accountability. The following attributes from the Employment Inventory dataset are made available to the public including, business name, location information, 6-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code, and employee size categories.

Alternatives Reviewed

Council could opt not to receive and share this report. However, as the results of the NEI contribute to projects and initiatives which are actions of Council’s Strategic Priorities, this option is not recommended.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

The NEI is a key tool that the Niagara Region uses to strengthen its economic competitiveness by better understanding its current employment landscape and workforce composition.

The NEI project supports Council’s strategic priorities of Prosperous Region, Equitable Region, and Effective Region. Data collected through engaging the business community is used to inform decision-making related to population and employment growth, infrastructure investment, public transit planning, economic development, and the ongoing monitoring of economic conditions.

The Niagara Region and local area municipalities rely on this dataset as a valuable asset when developing robust business cases designed to attract investment, innovation, and entrepreneurship to Niagara and strengthen the Region’s position globally.

Other Pertinent Reports

- PDS 13-2016 Niagara Region Employment Survey
- PDS 1-2017 Niagara Region Employment Inventory Preliminary Results
- PDS 5-2018 Niagara Region 2017 Employment Inventory Results
- PDS 6-2019 Niagara Region 2018 Employment Inventory Results
- PDS 5-2020 Niagara Region 2019 Employment Inventory Results
- PDS 12-2021 2021 Niagara Employment Inventory Status Update
- PDS 6–2023 2022 Niagara Employment Inventory Result

Prepared by:
Cynthia Tia
Planner
Growth Strategy and Economic
Development

Recommended by:
Michelle Sergi, MCIP, RPP
Commissioner
Growth Strategy and Economic
Development

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.

Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Julianna Vanderlinde, Grants and Incentives Program Manager, Erik Acs, Manager of Community Sustainability, Blake Landry, Economic Research and Analysis Manager, Susan White, Program Financial Specialist, and reviewed by Angela Stea, Director, Corporate Strategy and Community Sustainability.

Appendices

Appendix 1

Data Tables

APPENDIX 1

Data Tables

Table 1 – Inventory Completion Rate

Year	Complete Inventory Record	Partially Complete Record	Declined to Participate
2016	68%	30%	2%
2017	76%	22%	2%
2018	87%	12%	1%
2019	90%	9%	<1%
2022	75%	24%	<1%
2023	80%	19%	<1%

Table 2 – Number of Businesses and Jobs by NAICS Sector

NAICS Industry Sector (2-Digit)	Number of Jobs 2023	Number of Jobs Proportion of Region	Number of Businesses 2023	Number of Businesses Proportion of Region
Accommodation and food services	25,374	17.4%	1,902	14.8%
Retail trade	24,910	17.0%	2,832	22.0%
Health Care and social assistance	18,430	12.6%	1,362	10.6%
Manufacturing	17,823	12.2%	859	6.7%
Educational services	14,100	9.6%	250	1.9%
Public administration	7,693	5.3%	227	1.8%
Other services (except public administration)	5,163	3.5%	1,703	13.2%
Construction	5,010	3.4%	425	3.3%
Professional, scientific and technical services	4,110	2.8%	855	6.6%
Arts, entertainment and recreation	3,914	2.7%	459	3.6%
Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	3,542	2.4%	314	2.4%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	3,487	2.4%	170	1.3%
Wholesale trade	3,236	2.2%	275	2.1%
Finance and Insurance	3,002	2.0%	475	3.7%
Transportation and warehousing	2,882	2.0%	227	1.8%
Real estate and rental and leasing	2,042	1.4%	333	2.6%
Information and Cultural Industries	826	0.6%	144	1.1%
Utilities	475	0.3%	33	0.3%
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	68	0.0%	7	0.0%
Management of companies and enterprises	41	0.0%	8	0.0%
Total	146,128	100%	12,860	100%

Table 3 – Distribution of Inventoried Businesses and Jobs by Municipality

Municipality	2016		2017		2018		2019		2022		2023	
	Total Businesses	Total Jobs	Total Businesses	Total Jobs	Total Businesses	Total Jobs	Total Businesses	Total Jobs	Total Businesses	Total Jobs	Total Businesses	Total Jobs
Fort Erie	709	6,351	719	6,867	763	8,414	775	8,301	844	5,547	786	5,689
Grimsby	443	4,009	455	4,750	465	5,204	479	6,682	512	4,210	526	6,509
Lincoln	440	4,198	543	6,650	564	6,964	571	8,108	604	6,772	627	8,249
Niagara Falls	2,514	22,929	2,553	32,982	2,642	32,687	2,715	33,473	2,982	24,415	2,973	33,828
NOTL	456	7,082	513	9,707	560	11,238	596	10,926	636	7,999	669	10,072
Pelham	271	1,743	301	2,275	318	2,677	334	3,202	372	2,865	393	3,724
Port Colborne	461	2,912	465	3,917	468	4,176	478	4,682	518	3,405	484	4,076
St.Catharines	3,657	43,045	3,771	44,254	3,966	48,130	4,051	48,726	4,396	40,107	4,292	46,594
Thorold	460	4,980	491	5,307	523	5,674	538	6,693	582	5,425	593	7,337
Wainfleet	43	179	58	402	60	507	61	479	72	497	83	576
Welland	1,161	11,221	1,158	12,122	1,188	14,149	1,214	14,010	1,299	9,274	1,212	16,519
West Lincoln	128	1,489	175	1,911	203	2,364	204	2,677	216	1,985	222	2,955
Niagara Region	10,743	110,138	11,202	131,144	11,720	142,184	12,016	147,959	13,033	112,501	12,860	146,128

Table 4 –Diversity Equity and Inclusion Responses

Response	Women Led	2SLGBTQQIA+ Led	Disability Led	First Nations, Inuit, Metis Led	Visible Minority Led	Youth Led	New Immigrant Led
Yes	731	62	61	33	160	16	54
No	703	1,328	1,339	1,414	1,222	1,419	1,355
Decline	114	126	103	87	112	63	92

Table 5 - “Is there anything Niagara Region could do to help support your business?”

Response Themes	Responses Received 2023	Proportion 2022	Proportion 2023
Business Exposure	288	11.5%	14.9%
Infrastructure/Traffic Issues/Construction	240	17.3%	12.4%
Incentives/Grants/Contracts	225	6.2%	11.7%
Taxes and Utilities	219	12.5%	11.3%
Skills and Labour Force	164	6.2%	8.5%
Social Support Programs/Programs	136	6.5%	7.0%
Health and Safety	136	5.5%	7.0%
Parking Issues	95	5.5%	4.9%
Waste Management	90	15.8%	4.7%
Awareness and Education	90	2.3%	4.7%
Development Process/Zoning/Land Use	79	2.7%	4.1%
Transit	55	1.6%	2.9%
Governance	45	1.2%	2.3%
Beautification	42	1.7%	2.2%
Impact of COVID-19	12	3.0%	0.6%
Development Charges	11	0.4%	0.6%
Other	3	0.0%	0.2%
Total	1,930	100%	100%

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 Fourth Avenue, Larder Lake, ON

Phone: 705-643-2158 Fax: 705-643-2311



MOVED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

SECONDED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

Motion #: 10

Resolution #:

Date: June 11, 2024

WHEREAS, Ontario’s small rural municipalities face insurmountable challenges to fund both upfront investments and ongoing maintenance of their capital assets including roads and bridges and water wastewater and municipally owned buildings including recreational facilities and libraries;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Ontario government mandated all Ontario municipalities to develop capital asset management plans with the stipulation that they be considered in the development of the annual budget;

WHEREAS, small rural municipalities (of 10,000 people or less) are facing monumental infrastructure deficits that cannot be adequately addressed through property tax revenue alone;

WHEREAS, the only application approved through the recently awarded Housing Accelerator Fund to a small rural municipality was to Marathon Ontario, who received an allocation of \$1.9 million dollars while over \$1.369 billion going to Ontario’s large urban centres, resulting in a 0.2% investment in rural Ontario;

WHEREAS, the Ontario Government has committed \$9.1 billion to Toronto alone to assist with operating deficits and the repatriation of the Don Valley and Gardner Expressway;

WHEREAS, small rural Ontario cannot keep pace with the capital investments required over the next 20 years unless both the Provincial and Federal Governments come forward with new sustainable infrastructure funding;

WHEREAS, it is apparent that both the Federal and Ontario Governments have neglected to recognize the needs of small rural Ontario;

Recorded vote requested:

	For	Against
Tom Armstrong		
Patricia Hull		
Paul Kelly		
Lynne Paquette		
Patty Quinn		

I declare this motion

<input type="checkbox"/> Carried
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost / Defeated
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred to: _____ (enter date)
Because:
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ (enter body)
Expected response: _____ (enter date)

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest*

Chair: _____

*Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 Fourth Avenue, Larder Lake, ON

Phone: 705-643-2158 Fax: 705-643-2311



MOVED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

SECONDED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

Motion #: 11

Resolution #:

Date: June 11, 2024

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Larder Lake call on the Ontario and Federal Government to implement sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities; And

THAT small rural municipalities are not overlooked and disregarded on future applications for funding; And

THAT both the Federal and Ontario Governments begin by acknowledging that there is an insurmountable debt facing small rural municipalities; And

THAT both the Federal and Ontario Governments immediately commission a Working Group that includes a member of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, to develop a plan on how to deal with the impending debt dilemma; And

FINALLY THAT this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada; Michel Tremblay Acting President and CEO, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Kinga Surma, Ontario Minister of Infrastructure; The Honourable Paul Calandra, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP, AMO, ROMA, FCM, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and all Municipalities in Ontario.

Recorded vote requested:

	For	Against
Tom Armstrong		
Patricia Hull	✓	
Paul Kelly	✓	
Lynne Paquette	✓	
Patty Quinn	✓	

I declare this motion

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carried
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost / Defeated
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred to: _____ (enter date)
Because:
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ (enter body)
Expected response: _____ (enter date)

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest*

Chair: 

*Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.

Good Afternoon,

At its meeting held on June 12, 2024, Hamilton Board of Health/City Council approved the following resolution as part of the Public Health Committee Report 24-005 (June 3, 2024):

10. Resolution to Declare the City of Hamilton a “No Paid Plasma Zone” (Item 11.1)

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton supports voluntary blood and plasma donation and aims to protect our public collection system, recognizing the importance of blood donation as a public good;

WHEREAS, Canada’s tainted blood crisis resulted in the loss of approximately 8,000 lives and the subsequent Royal Krever Commission recommended Canada operate a fully voluntary, non-remunerated blood and plasma donation system;

WHEREAS, within Ontario’s healthcare system blood donations are viewed as a public resource;

WHEREAS, the integrity of the of the public, voluntary donor system must be protected;

WHEREAS, in Ontario, the Voluntary Blood Donations Act, stipulates that it is against the law for private companies to pay donors and for donors to receive payment for their blood or plasma;

WHEREAS, paid plasma collection schemes are known to target and exploit the most vulnerable members of communities; and

WHEREAS, this resolution reaffirms the principles of voluntary, non-remunerated blood and plasma donation and aims to protect the integrity of Canada’s public blood system and the integrity of blood donors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the City of Hamilton designates itself a “Paid-Plasma Free Zone” and declares that private for-profit blood collection companies are not permitted to operate in the city;
- (b) That the City of Hamilton resolves to protect marginalized and vulnerable populations from exploitation resulting from for-profit plasma collection by advertising financial payment for the sale of their blood-plasma; and
- (c) That a copy of this resolution be sent to Canadian Blood Services, federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of

Health, Grifols pharmaceuticals, and all Ontario Municipalities requesting that they respect the City of Hamilton as a “Paid-Plasma Free Zone” and support only voluntary Blood and plasma collection.

Kind regards,

Matt Gauthier

Legislative Coordinator

Office of the City Clerk

Corporate Services | City of Hamilton

71 Main Street West, 1st Floor

Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5





Thursday June 13, 2024

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

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

Re: Infrastructure Small Rural Municipalities

Please be advised that at their last Regular Meeting of Council on Thursday, June 6, 2024, the Council for the Corporation of the Township of North Dundas supported the following resolution:

Resolution #2024-138

Moved By: Councillor Uhrig

Seconded By: Councillor Lennox

THAT the Council of the Township of North Dundas supports resolution number C-2024-165 from the Township of Georgian Bay dated May 13, 2024 regarding the implementation of sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities and actions to address the impending debt dilemma facing small rural municipalities;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada; Michel Tremblay Acting President and CEO, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Kinga Surma, Ontario Minister of Infrastructure; The Honourable Paul Calandra, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MP Eric Duncan, Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry; MPP Nolan Quinn, Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry, AMO, ROMA, FCM, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and all Municipalities of Ontario.

Result: Carried.

A copy of the resolution from the Township of Georgian Bay is attached.

Yours Sincerely,

Nancy Johnston, MBA
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
Encl. (2)



The Township of Georgian Bay
Resolutions
Council - 13 May 2024

Item 12.(a)

Date: May 13, 2024

C-2024-165

Moved by Councillor Stephen Jarvis
Seconded by Councillor Peter Cooper

WHEREAS Ontario's small rural municipalities face insurmountable challenges to fund both upfront investments and ongoing maintenance of their capital assets including roads and bridges and water wastewater and municipally owned buildings including recreational facilities and libraries ;

WHEREAS in 2018, the Ontario government mandated all Ontario municipalities to develop capital asset management plans with the stipulation that they be considered in the development of the annual budget;

WHEREAS small rural municipalities (of 10,000 people or less) are facing monumental infrastructure deficits that cannot be adequately addressed through property tax revenue alone;

WHEREAS the only application approved through the recently awarded Housing Accelerator Fund to a small rural municipality was to Marathon Ontario, who received an allocation of \$1.9 million dollars while over \$1.369 billion going to Ontario's large urban centres, resulting in a 0.2% investment in rural Ontario;

WHEREAS the Ontario Government has committed \$9.1 billion to Toronto alone to assist with operating deficits and the repatriation of the Don Valley and Gardner Expressway;

WHEREAS small rural Ontario cannot keep pace with the capital investments required over the next 20 years unless both the Provincial and Federal Governments come forward with new sustainable infrastructure funding;

WHEREAS it is apparent that both the Federal and Ontario Governments have neglected to recognize the needs of small rural Ontario;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Georgian Bay call on the Ontario and Federal Government to implement sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities;

AND THAT small rural municipalities are not overlooked and disregarded on future applications for funding;

AND THAT both the Federal and Ontario Governments begin by acknowledging that there is an insurmountable debt facing small rural municipalities;

AND THAT both the Federal and Ontario Governments immediately commission a Working Group that includes a member of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, to develop a plan on how to deal with the impending debt dilemma;

AND FINALLY THAT this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada; Michel Tremblay Acting President and CEO, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Kinga Surma, Ontario Minister of Infrastructure; The Honourable Paul Calandra, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MP Shelby Kramp-Neuman, Hastings-Lennox Addington; MPP Ric Bresee Hastings-Lennox Addington, AMO, ROMA, FCM, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and all Municipalities in Ontario.

Carried Defeated Recorded Vote Referred Deferred

Recorded Vote:

	For	Against	Absent
Councillor Brian Bocek			
Councillor Peter Cooper			
Councillor Kristian Graziano			
Councillor Allan Hazelton			
Councillor Stephen Jarvis			
Councillor Steven Predko			
Mayor Peter Koetsier			

Peter Koetsier, Mayor


THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATTAWAN

DATE June 13, 2024 Resolution No. 2024 - 078

MOVED BY Councillor LEMAIRE

SECONDED BY Councillor LAHAYE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Corporation of the Municipality of Mattawan, supports Resolution No. 2024/05/184 received from the Municipality of Callander, which calls on Premier Doug Ford to promptly resume the assessment cycle to ensure the stability and predictability of property taxes while the Ontario Government conducts its review of the property assessment and taxation system, or responds with an alternative method for every municipality in Ontario to achieve fair taxation.

CARRIED Mayor Peter Murphy 

DIVISION VOTE

NAME OF MEMBER OF COUNCIL	YEAS	NAYS
<u>Councillor Bell</u>	_____	_____
<u>Councillor Edwards</u>	_____	_____
<u>Councillor Lahaye</u>	_____	_____
<u>Councillor Lemaire</u>	_____	_____

31 May 2024

Premier Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca

RE: Urging the Government to Promptly Resume Assessment Cycle

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Callander passed the following resolution at its Regular Meeting of Council held Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

Resolution No. 2024/05/184:

7.4(c) WHEREAS the assessment cycle is an essential process for maintaining the fairness and predictability of property taxes in our province;

AND WHEREAS the pause in the reassessment cycle has created uncertainty and instability in property taxation, impacting both residential and commercial property owners;

AND WHEREAS the government has delayed an assessment update again in 2024, resulting in Ontario's municipalities continuing to calculate property taxes using 2016 property values;

AND WHEREAS both current and outdated assessments are inaccurate, increase volatility, and are not transparent;

AND WHEREAS frequent and accurate reassessments are necessary to stabilize property taxes and provide predictability for property owners, residents, and businesses alike;

AND WHEREAS the staff at the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation would benefit from further skills enhancement and training in assessments, recognizing the importance of ensuring accurate evaluations for 100% of our municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Government has announced a review of the property assessment and taxation system with a focus on fairness, equity, and economic competitiveness, and therefore further deferring new property assessment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Callander hereby calls upon the Premier to promptly resume the assessment cycle to ensure the stability and predictability of property taxes while the Government conducts its review of the property assessment and taxation system, or respond with an alternative method for every municipality in Ontario to achieve fair taxation;

AND THAT all Municipalities in Ontario and their constituents are encouraged to apply pressure to the Premier, daily, weekly, and monthly, to resolve the situation before it causes undo stress to everyone in the Municipality;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the relevant provincial authorities, the Association of Municipality in Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, and all municipalities in Ontario for their consideration, to make proper changes as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Thank you,



Cindy Pigeau
Municipal Clerk

Copy to: Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipalities Association
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
Municipal Property Assessment Corporation
All Ontario Municipalities

Economic Development Brief

June 14, 2024

Statistics and Trends

Labour force conditions

The labour force conditions (unadjusted) in Niagara made noticeable improvements in May 2024 compared to previous months. It appears that impacts from seasonal employment resulted in employment gains; however, there were also modest gains in the seasonally adjusted data indicating that there were also modest gains in non-seasonal employment.

Month-over-month data from April to May 2024 show the following:

- Population: Niagara increased by 0.3% (1,100 people) while Ontario increased at the same rate.
- Labour force: Niagara increased by 0.6% (1,300 people) while Ontario increased by 1.3%.
- Employment: Niagara increased by 1.6% (3,300 people) while Ontario increased by 1.1%.
- Unemployment rate: Niagara decreased by 0.8% to 7.9% while Ontario increased by 0.2% to 6.9%.
- Participation rate: Niagara increased by 0.2% to 58.6% while Ontario increased by 0.6% to 65.2%.

Labour conditions are expected to continue to improve given the impact of seasonal characteristics associate with agriculture and tourism. This along with the lowering of the policy interest rate resulting in more spending and investment in the economy may also have positive impacts in the coming months.

Bank of Canada cuts key rate for first time in more than 4 years

The Bank of Canada has reduced its overnight rate by 0.25% points to 4.75%, citing easing inflation and sustainable economic conditions as the reasons for this decision. Governor Tiff Macklem emphasized the bank's increased confidence in inflation nearing the 2% target and the need for independent policy decisions tailored to the Canadian economy. Despite the positive outlook, Macklem cautioned against rapid rate cuts due to remaining risks such as geopolitical tensions and rising housing prices.

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's local area municipalities and public information sources.

Economic Development Updates

St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation partners with Hoverlink Ontario Inc.

The St. Lawrence Seaway has partnered with Hoverlink Ontario to offer a high-speed hovercraft service across Lake Ontario, capable of transporting up to 180 passengers in just 30 minutes. This year-round service aims to save time and reduce roadway congestion, promoting sustainable transportation and economic development. Both SLSMC President Terence Bowles and Hoverlink CEO Chris Morgan highlighted the collaboration's alignment with green initiatives and the extensive effort behind this innovative project.

Fort Erie welcomes \$10 million commercial investment

The Town of Fort Erie has announced the construction of the Ridgeway Centre, a \$10 million multi-use retail development at Gorham Road and Dominion Road, serving Ridgeway, Crystal Beach, and Stevensville. Phase 1 includes 16,000 square feet of commercial space with anchor tenants McDonald's and the LCBO, expected to open by late July 2024. This development, driven by local developers David Kompson and Anthony Annunziata, aims to boost the local economy, create jobs, and enhance the retail experience for residents and visitors.

HOPA Ports announces partnership to establish Lake Ontario short sea shipping corridor with United States

HOPA Ports has partnered with Beowulf Electricity & Data Inc. to create a low-emission, short sea trade corridor between the Port of Oshawa, Ontario, and a new port in Somerset, New York. This initiative aims to enhance the \$494 billion annual US-Canadian trade partnership by establishing a multimodal shipping terminal, significantly reducing carbon emissions and truck traffic congestion. The Somerset site, formerly New York's last coal plant, will be redeveloped into a maritime trade hub, leveraging its energy infrastructure to support various high-tech applications. The project is expected to generate hundreds of jobs and bolster regional economic development while promoting environmentally sustainable transportation solutions.

RFP issued for QEW Garden City Skyway bridge twinning project

The Ontario government has issued a Request for Proposals to advance the expansion of the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) Garden City Skyway bridge. The Garden City Skyway expansion includes construction of a new four lane, 2.2 km bridge across the Welland Canal, as well as the rehabilitation and full deck replacement of the current bridge. Once complete, each bridge will have four lanes with the new bridge carrying Toronto-bound traffic and the upgraded existing bridge carrying Niagara-bound traffic. With the projected increases in population and jobs throughout the Greater Golden Horseshoe in the coming years, the Garden City skyway twinning project will allow people and goods to travel more freely through Niagara. On average, 106,000 vehicles cross the Garden City Skyway bridge daily. A smoother flow of traffic means reduced travel times, lower transportation costs and a more reliable supply chain.

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's local area municipalities and public information sources.

City of Welland launches downtown revitalization project

Welland City Council has approved hiring J. L. Richards & Associates to update the Downtown Community Improvement Plan as part of the 2024 capital budget, led by Grant Munday and Lina DeChellis from the City. Mayor Frank Campion highlights the significance of revitalizing the downtown area, aiming to create a vibrant and sustainable future for Welland by aligning with community needs and aspirations through open houses and consultation sessions. The update aims to foster economic growth by attracting businesses and investors, creating job opportunities, and stimulating local economic activity.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL announce Interim Executive Director

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL have appointed Kathy Weiss as the new Interim Executive Director, effective May 21st. Kathy, a local resident with extensive experience in economic development, is praised for her leadership and vision in promoting tourism and economic growth, and she expressed her commitment to supporting the local economy and cultural heritage.

Ontario invests \$4.7 million in 3 Niagara projects through Skills Development Fund

The Ontario government is investing over \$4.7 million through the Skills Development Fund in three Niagara projects. The projects include the following: **Civiconnect Youth Community Engagement Organization**: \$3 million to help 350 youth aged 14 to 29 in Niagara develop technical and workplace preparedness skills for careers in the skilled trades, digital marketing, web development, digital system administration, cloud computing and information technology. Participants will work on projects submitted by businesses in the community. **Edge Factor Inc.**: \$1,087,600 for a project that aims to showcase careers and opportunities in the skilled trades online for 1,920 youth, jobseekers, parents and community members in Niagara Region and across Ontario. **United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Local 1007**: \$650,369 to purchase and outfit a new six-booth welding trailer in Niagara Region. The new industry-standard equipment and technology will enable Local 1007 to train, test and certify an additional 48 apprentices and journeypersons on various types of welding to meet industry and employer demand in Ontario.

Lincoln reports almost 2,000 new jobs and over \$143 million in construction

The Town of Lincoln has successfully implemented its 2019-2023 Economic Development Strategy, leading to significant economic growth, increased job opportunities, and a rise in private sector companies. Notably, 160 building permits were processed, with 122 from business expansions, resulting in \$143,840,100 in construction value. Since 2018, Lincoln has added 1,992 jobs, and key sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare now comprise 66% of total jobs, showcasing a thriving business environment and strong community collaboration.

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's local area municipalities and public information sources.

Government of Canada announces \$540,000 investment in Niagara tourism

FedDev Ontario has announced a \$540,000 investment for three projects in the Niagara region to enhance tourism. Byland Estate Winery, Flat Rock Cellars Ltd., and the City of Port Colborne will receive funds to improve visitor experiences and infrastructure, such as driveway expansions, hospitality enhancements, and port terminal upgrades. These investments aim to boost local economic growth, create jobs, and position Niagara as a prime destination for both domestic and international travellers.

Funding announced for Niagara College's Food & Beverage Innovation Centre

The Food & Beverage Innovation Centre at Niagara College has secured up to \$200,000 in funding from the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program to assist small and medium-sized enterprises in developing new beverage products by providing services like prototyping and food safety guidance. This funding enables FBIC to connect SMEs with its expertise and facilities, fostering industry collaboration and creating job opportunities for students. SMEs interested in participating must provide a 1:1 match of cash and in-kind contributions and be referred by an NRC IRAP advisor to be eligible for the program, targeting those innovating in beverage production.

New municipal development corporation has been approved by St. Catharines City Council

Council approved the Business Case Study and the Asset Transfer Policy proposed by City staff to create a Municipal Services Corporation named the St. Catharines Municipal Development Corporation. The mandate of the MDC will be focused on three areas: Unlocking municipal properties for housing development; supporting strategic long-term planning; and delivering public value. The initial Board of Directors includes the Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer, Director of Financial Management Services, and the Director of Economic Development. Councillors Greg Miller and Matt Harris were elected to the Board. The incorporation of the MDC achieves one of the initiatives identified in the City's Housing Accelerator Fund application and serves as a priority initiative included in the City's Strategic Plan.

George Spezza, Ec.D., CEcD
Director, Economic Development

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's local area municipalities and public information sources.

Municipality of Tweed Council Meeting
Council Meeting



Resolution No. 229
Title: Councillor P. Valiquette
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Moved by P. Valiquette
Seconded by J. Palmateer

WHEREAS it is apparent that the Ontario Government has overlooked the needs of small rural Ontario;
AND WHEREAS Ontario's small rural municipalities face insurmountable challenges to fund both upfront investments and ongoing maintenance of their capital assets including roads, bridges, water/wastewater and municipally owned buildings including recreational facilities, libraries and other tangible capital assets;

AND WHEREAS small rural Ontario's operating needs consume the majority of property tax revenue sources;

AND WHEREAS small rural municipalities (of 10,000 people or less) are facing monumental infrastructure deficits that cannot be adequately addressed through property tax revenue alone;

AND WHEREAS in 2015 the provincial government moved to standardized billing for all non-contract J.P.P. (5.1) locations;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Government has committed \$9.1 billion to Toronto alone to assist with operating deficits and the repatriation of the Don Valley and Gardner Expressway; and \$534 million to Ottawa for the repatriation of Hwy 174;

AND WHEREAS the annual cost of the Ontario Provincial Police, Municipal Policing Bureau for small rural non-contract (5.1) municipalities is approximately \$428 million;

AND WHEREAS this annual cost is significantly less than the repatriation costs of the Gardiner Express Way, the Don Valley Parkway and Highway 174 (Ottawa Region) but provides a greater impact to the residents of the Province overall;

AND WHEREAS this will afford relief to small rural municipalities for both infrastructure and operating needs while having a minimal impact on the provincial budget;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Municipality of Tweed call on the Ontario Government to immediately implement sustainable funding for small rural municipalities by reabsorbing the cost of the Ontario Provincial Police Force back into the provincial budget with no cost recovery to municipalities;

AND FURTHER, that Council direct staff to circulate this resolution to Premier Doug Ford (premier@ontario.ca), Minister of Solicitor General, Minister of Finance, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (amo@amo.on.ca) and all Municipalities in Ontario.

Carried



Council - Committee of the Whole

Resolution # 2024-147
Title: Resolution seeking support re: Champlain Bridge Rehabilitation
Date: June 4, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Georges Pharand
Seconded by: Councillor Roch St. Louis

WHEREAS the Champlain Bridge, located on the King’s Highway 17, west of the Town of Sturgeon Falls in the Municipality of West Nipissing is integral infrastructure to the Trans-Canada Highway network and also serves as a connecting link to Highway 64;

AND WHEREAS Highway 17 is a critical link in the Trans-Canada highway network, with Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) of over 14,000 travelers;

AND WHEREAS the majority of the traffic is provincial traffic, using the Trans-Canada highway for transporting goods and services in Ontario which, if shut down or restricted, would result in a 123km detour.

AND WHEREAS in 2021 an agreement was entered into between the Municipality and the Ministry of Transportation for the design of the rehabilitation or replacement of the Champlain Bridge, which design indicated that the bridge should be replaced at the anticipated cost of \$30,000,000.

AND WHEREAS Municipality of West Nipissing does not have the financial resources to undertake a project of this magnitude without assistance;

AND WHEREAS the Province has previously recognized the financial burden placed on municipalities, forced to maintain Provincial Infrastructure, by removing the burden of the Don Valley Parkway, and the Gardner Express Way from the City of Toronto;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario recognize the Champlain Bridge as critical provincial infrastructure and assume responsibility for its replacement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if the assumption of the Bridge by the province cannot be undertaken, that the Province provide financial and operational assistance to the Municipality of West Nipissing for the undertaking of the replacement of the Champlain Bridge;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all northeastern municipalities served by the Highway 17 as well as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA), Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) be requested to support the Municipality of West Nipissing’s request by submitting letters of support to the Ministry of Transportation.

CARRIED



Council - Committee of the Whole

Résolution # 2024-147
Titre: Résolution demandant de l'aide pour la réfection du pont Champlain
Date: le 4 juin 2024

Proposé par: Councillor Georges Pharand

Appuyé par: Councillor Roch St. Louis

ATTENDU QUE le pont Champlain, situé sur la route royale 17, à l'ouest de la ville de Sturgeon Falls dans la municipalité de Nipissing Ouest, fait partie intégrante de l'infrastructure du réseau routier transcanadien et sert également de lien avec la route 64 ;

ET ATTENDU QUE la route 17 est un lien essentiel du réseau routier transcanadien, avec un trafic journalier annuel moyen (TJAM) de plus de 14 000 voyageurs ;

ET ATTENDU QUE la majorité du trafic est provincial, utilisant la route transcanadienne pour le transport de biens et de services en Ontario qui, s'il est fermé ou restreint, résulterait en un détour de 123 km.

ET ATTENDU QU'en 2021, une entente a été conclue entre la municipalité et le ministère des Transports pour la conception de la remise en état ou du remplacement du pont Champlain, laquelle a indiqué que le pont devrait être remplacé au coût prévu de 30 000 000 \$.

ATTENDU QUE la municipalité de Nipissing Ouest n'a pas les ressources financières nécessaires pour entreprendre un projet de cette envergure sans aide ;

ET ATTENDU QUE la province a déjà reconnu le fardeau financier imposé aux municipalités, forcées d'entretenir l'infrastructure provinciale, en retirant à la ville de Toronto le fardeau de la promenade Don Valley et de la voie express Gardner ;

IL EST DONC RÉSOLU QUE la province de l'Ontario reconnaisse que le pont Champlain est une infrastructure provinciale essentielle et qu'elle assume la responsabilité de son remplacement ;

IL EST EN OUTRE RÉSOLU QUE si la province ne peut assumer la responsabilité du pont, qu'elle fournisse une aide financière et opérationnelle à la municipalité de Nipissing Ouest pour le remplacement du pont Champlain ;

IL EST EN OUTRE RÉSOLU QUE toutes les municipalités du nord-est desservies par la route 17 ainsi que l'Association des municipalités de l'Ontario (AMO), l'Association des municipalités rurales de l'Ontario (ROMA), l'Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) et la Fédération des municipalités du Nord de l'Ontario (FONOM) soient priées d'appuyer la demande de la municipalité de Nipissing Ouest en soumettant des lettres d'appui au ministère des Transports.

ADOPTÉ