Week Ending January 5, 2012

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

The following items have been copied for your information.

INFORMATION REPORTS	CORRESPONDENCE
	1. Municipality of Clarington Resolutions Regarding: - Provincial Regulations Regarding Commercial Fill - Provincial Funding to Cover Municipal Deficits File No.: F11.GE
	2. Guelph Fire Department Letters Regarding: - Muscular Dystrophy 2011 Boot Drive
INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS	
THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CLERKS OFFICE: 1. Municipal Information Liquor Licence Application Form – Happy Traveller Café & Bistro, 40 Carden Street 2. GRCA – Minutes Newsletter, January 2012	

Clarington
Leading the Way

December 20, 2011

The Honourable Jim Bradley
Minister of the Environment
77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto ON M7A 2T5

Dear Minister:

RE: REQUEST FOR PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS REGARDING COMMERCIAL FILL OPERATIONS
FILE NO.: E05.GE

At a meeting held on December 19, 2011, the Council of the Municipality of Clarington approved the following Resolution #GPA-720-11:

> WHEREAS municipalities are faced with requests from Commercial Fill Operators to place fill in, for example, either previously undisturbed areas or expired gravel extraction pits;
>
> AND WHEREAS municipalities have limited resources and ability to regulate this type of operation other than through zoning restrictions and agreements associated predominantly with operational protocol;
>
> AND WHEREAS the issue of soil quality of fill imported to a receiving site potentially has a significant cross jurisdictional environmental impact that should be elevated to the Provincial level through the Ministry of the Environment;
>
> AND WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment has established criteria for quality of fill for Brownfield redevelopment but not for the importation and placement of fill within, as an example, undisturbed areas or expired gravel extraction pits;

CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CLARINGTON
40 TEMPERANCE STREET, BOWMANVILLE, ONTARIO L1C 3A6 T 905-623-3379

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Province, through the Ministry of the Environment, establish guidelines, regulations and a Provincially regulated approval process to govern the quality of fill imported to a receiving site other than for the purpose of Brownfield redevelopment;

AND FURTHER, THAT the Clerk forward copies of this resolution to York-Simcoe MPP, Julia Munroe, the Ministry of the Environment, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario Municipalities for their consideration.

Yours truly,

C. Anne Greentree, B.A., CMO
Deputy Clerk

CAG/jeg

c. Julia Munroe, MPP, York-Simcoe
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Municipalities in Ontario
L. Creamer, Manager Municipal Law Enforcement

Clarington
Leading the Way

December 20, 2011

Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

RE: SPECIAL PROVINCIAL FUNDING TO COVER MUNICIPAL DEFICITS
FILE NO.: F11.GE

At a meeting held on December 19, 2011, the Council of the Municipality of Clarington approved the following Resolution #GPA-719-11:

WHEREAS the *Municipal Act* requires that municipalities operate on a balanced budget;

AND WHEREAS all municipal councils face difficult decisions in the budget process in balancing (i) the needs of their communities; and (ii) being fiscally responsible;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

a) The Municipality write to the Premier of Ontario respectfully requesting that if any municipality in Ontario receives special funding from the Province to cover a budget deficit, that all local municipalities receive the same per capita funding from the Province; and

b) That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to John O'Toole, MPP for Durham, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all municipalities in Ontario requesting that they endorse this resolution.

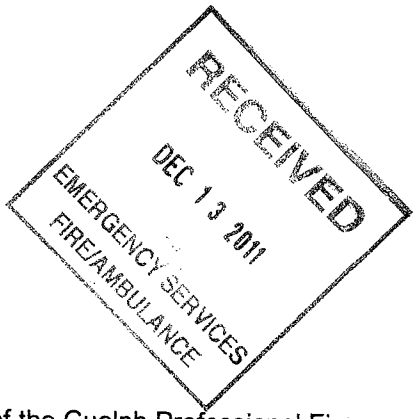
Yours truly,

C. Anne Greentree, B.A., CMO
Deputy Clerk

CAG/jeg

c. John O'Toole, MPP, Durham
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Municipalities in Ontario
N. Taylor, Director of Finance/Treasurer

Muscular Dystrophy Canada | Dystrophie musculaire Canada



November 25th, 2011

Mayor Karen Farbridge
City of Guelph
City Hall
1 Carden St.
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Your worship Mayor Farbridge,

It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the exceptional efforts of the Guelph Professional Fire Fighters Association who through their fundraising efforts during their 2011 Boot Drive raised $8,068.17 for Muscular Dystrophy Canada. The Guelph Professional Fire Fighters Association has been supporting Muscular Dystrophy Canada since 1971 and to date has raised $211,395.71 for the organization.

Since 1954, Fire Fighters have been champions in support of Canadians affected with muscular dystrophy. Their passion for supporting local families by organizing Boot Drives and other events to raise funds and awareness have become an important long standing tradition and we are fortunate the Guelph Professional Fire Fighters Association are a part of this.

Annually more than 700 Departments / Associations across Canada work in partnership with Muscular Dystrophy Canada and Fire Fighters continue to be our single most important revenue source. Last year Canadian Fire Fighters raised $2.7 million and the combined efforts of members from 265 Ontario Fire Departments / Associations raised $1,175,000. That's almost 50% of our National Fire Fighter revenue coming from Ontario Fire Fighters!

Because of these generous donations Muscular Dystrophy Canada is able to provide Canadian families with more than $2.7 million worth of equipment and continue to fund cutting edge neuromuscular research.

We admire the ongoing passion and commitment of the members of the Guelph Professional Fire Fighters Association for all they do in your community and for those affected with muscular dystrophy. We are proud to have them on our fundraising team. Muscular Dystrophy Canada would like to extend thanks to your local Fire Fighters, your community, and leaders such as yourself, who support these incredible heroes. When they are not being heroes in your community, they are busy being champions for those affected.

Sincerely,

Kerri Stocks

Kerri Stocks
Revenue Development Coordinator, Southwestern Ontario

CC: Jeff Borris, Muscular Dystrophy Canada Chairperson
Shawn Armstrong, Fire Chief
Colin Hunter, Association President

Ontario & Nunavut Region, Ottawa Community Office:

150 Isabella St. Suite 215, Ottawa, ON K1S 1V7
T 613.232.7334 1.866.337.3365 F 613.567.2288 W muscle.ca

Week Ending January 12, 2012

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

The following items have been copied for your information.

INFORMATION REPORTS	CORRESPONDENCE
	1. County of Huron Resolution regarding Low Frequency Noise Committee findings

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS

1. Guelph Police Services Board – Notice of 2012 meeting schedule and Board composition.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CLERKS OFFICE:

Corporation of the
COUNTY OF HURON
COUNTY CLERK, Barbara L. Wilson, CMO
1 Court House Square, Goderich, Ontario N7A 1M2
bwilson@huroncounty.ca
519-524-8394 (ext. 257)
Fax 519-524-2044

December 21st, 2011.

The Honourable James J. Bradley,
Minister of the Environment,
11th Floor, Ferguson Block,
77 Wellesley Street West,
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5

Honourable Minister:

The Council of the Corporation of the County of Huron at their Twelfth Session of Council on November 30th, 2011 passed the following Resolution:

THAT:
The recommendation of the Low Frequency Noise (LFN) Committee that their findings and recommendations; be approved;
AND FURTHER THAT:
The recommendation of the Low Frequency Noise (LFN) Committee to circulate their findings and recommendations to all Ontario Municipalities, AMO and ROMA, for endorsement, and to Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP), the Provincial Minister of the Environment the Honourable James J. Bradley and the Federal Minister of the Environment the Honourable Peter Kent; be approved.

Attached to this letter is the report to the Huron County Committee of the Whole Day 1 members from the Low Frequency Noise Committee.

The Council of the County of Huron appeal to your ministry to review the findings and recommendations in the report. We look forward to hearing your comments and recommendations as the Province of Ontario moves forward with renewable energy options.

Sincerely,

Barbara L. Wilson

Barbara L. Wilson, CMO,
County Clerk,
County of Huron.

Enclosure
c.c. The Hon. Peter Kent, Federal Minister of the Environment
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA)
Members of Provincial Parliament
Municipalities of Ontario

CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF HURON

Planning and Development Department

To: Chair and Members of the Committee of the Whole, Day 1

From: Low Frequency Noise (LFN) Committee

Date: October 17, 2011

Subject: **LFN Committee**
Findings and Recommendations

Recommendation

The LFN Committee recommends that its findings and recommendations be approved and circulated to all Ontario Municipalities, AMO and ROMA for endorsement, and circulated to MPPs including the Minister of the Environment, and to the Ministry of the Environment.

Background

The following motion was approved by County Council on February 2, 2011: "*that County Council direct the Planning Department to establish a Committee of Lower Tier and County representatives and County staff to investigate the effect and action that may be taken by governments concerning low frequency noise.*"

The LFN Committee is chaired by Councillor Barnim, and consists of the Warden, 2 County Councillors, representatives from 7 of the 9 local municipalities (4 councillors and 3 chief building officials) and Health Unit and Planning staff.

The committee met on April 5, May 3 and October 3, 2011. All meeting notices, meeting summaries, and shared information were sent to an email list including all committee members, municipal clerks, and interested stakeholders (property owners, wind energy companies, etc.).

Comments

The LFN Committee reviewed and discussed dozens of reports and studies (hundreds of pages) pertaining to Low Frequency Noise and related issues. The findings and recommendations of the LFN Committee are as follows.

General

- low frequency noise (LFN) can be described as sound in the audible frequency range below 100 Hz, and includes sound in the sub-audible range (infrasound) <20 Hz
- noise is defined as unwanted sound
- infrasound (<20 Hz) can be audible at very high decibels (sound pressure)
- the vibrations of some low frequencies may not always be at a level high enough to be perceived by the human ear as sound, but the vibrations may still be perceived through the ear (as pressure, fullness, imbalance, etc.) or through other organs of the body

- LFN travels further in the environment because it is attenuated less by buildings and other obstructions than higher frequency noise
- common sources of LFN are ventilation and air-moving equipment, road traffic, trains, manufacturing processes, farm equipment, and wind turbines
- a small percentage of the population has a higher sensitivity to sound and may find it bothersome or annoying (the percentage is debated, but seems to be in the range of 2.5 - 10%)
- there is no scientific consensus on whether LFN can affect human health, although there is recognition that severe annoyance can lead to stress-related illness
- LFN is not adequately regulated in Ontario by the MOE noise regulations (e.g., decibel limits at sensitive receptors; lower frequencies are heavily discounted by the weighting scale used)

- where a land use that is known to generate LFN is proposed at a scale or location that may create community concern, municipalities should request the proponent to provide studies by qualified professionals on the pre-development background LFN in the area, the modelled additional LFN from the project, and the anticipated effects of the LFN

LFN Studies

- the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) should release its promised LFN study immediately, to be followed by a discussion of the need for / content of a LFN regulation; the public has been waiting for this study since December 2010
- the LFN Committee should provide comments to County Council on the MOE study when released
- the Research Chair appointed by the Ontario Government under the Green Energy Act should commission epidemiological studies on LFN and human health (one such study has commenced by an inter-disciplinary team of researchers at the University of Waterloo)

REA Comments

- when commenting on Renewable Energy Approval (REA) applications, where a land use that is known to generate LFN is proposed at a scale or location that may create community concern, municipalities should request the proponent (through MOE) to provide studies by qualified professionals on the pre-development background LFN in the area, the modelled additional LFN from the project, and the anticipated effects of the LFN

Lobby Efforts

- the AMO conference organizing committee should plan a session on LFN (at ROMA, AMO, SW Municipal Conference, etc.)
- the County should arrange a delegation to present LFN concerns to the relevant Ministers at an appropriate opportunity (e.g., ROMA, AMO, etc.)
- a motion supporting the above actions should be passed and circulated to all Ontario municipalities, AMO and ROMA for endorsement, and circulated to MPPs including the Minister of the Environment and to the Ministry of the Environment

Others Consulted – LFN committee; Report compiled by S. Tousaw and S. Weber, P&D Dept.

Budget Implications – Total disbursements for the LFN committee to date are $419.15 (meeting room rentals, refreshments, staff mileage). Apart from meeting expenses, the LFN Committee has not required the budget allocation approved by Council on April 6, 2011 (up to $50,000 from the 2011 Provision for Unforeseen). Hired expertise may be required when reviewing the MOE's LFN study and regulations.

Guelph Police Services Board
PO Box 31038, Willow West Postal Outlet, Guelph, Ontario N1H 8K1
Telephone: (519) 824-1212 # 213 Fax: (519) 824-8360
TTY (519) 824-1466 Email: board@police.guelph.on.ca

December 30, 2011

Blair Labelle
Corporation of the City of Guelph
1 Carden Street
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Dear Mr. Labelle:

I am writing to inform you that the Guelph Police Services Board elected Judy Sorbara as Chair and Len Griffiths as Vice-Chair for the 2012 year. The other members of the Guelph Police Services Board are Karen Farbridge, Leanne Piper, and Patricia Giles.

The meeting schedule for the Guelph Police Services Board for the year 2012 will continue to be the 3rd Thursday of each month commencing with an In Camera Meeting at 1:00 p.m. followed by a Public Meeting at 2:30 p.m., with the exception of August which will have no meeting, however, should Board business dictate a need, a special meeting will be called.

The scheduled meeting dates will be adhered to as closely as possible, however, on occasion may be subject to change. The meeting schedule for the Guelph Police Services Board for the year 2012 is as follows:

Thursday, January 19, 2012
Thursday, February 16, 2012
Thursday, March 15, 2012
Thursday, April 19, 2012
Thursday, May 17, 2012
Thursday, June 21, 2012
Thursday, July 19, 2012
Thursday, September 20, 2012
Thursday, October 18, 2012
Thursday, November 15, 2012
Thursday, December 20, 2012

Yours sincerely,

Carol Parton

Carol Parton
Executive Assistant

Week Ending January 19, 2012

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

The following items have been copied for your information.

INFORMATION REPORTS	CORRESPONDENCE
1. Development Intensification and Infrastructure Requirements	1. Municipal World – New Book Release: "Politically Speaking"

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS

1. Water Conservation & Efficiency Public Advisory Committee – Resignation of Ana Lintner

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CLERKS OFFICE:

1. Grand River Conservation Authority – December 16, 2011 Minutes
2. Municipal Information Liquor Licence Application – Guelph Royal Bisobo Club, 5 Empire Street

INFORMATION REPORT

TO	**Guelph City Council**
SERVICE AREA	Planning & Building, Engineering and Environment
DATE	January 19, 2012
SUBJECT	**Development Intensification and Infrastructure Requirements**
REPORT NUMBER	

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to outline the infrastructure requirements in the two most significant intensification areas in the City: (1) Wellington-Woolwich corridor in Downtown Guelph; and (2) Gordon Street intensification corridor from Edinburgh Road to the south of Arkell Road. The report describes the anticipated level of redevelopment and/or intensification and infrastructure improvements required in the two corridors, and identifies construction work that will be undertaken subject to budget approval.

BACKGROUND

Amendment 39 to the Official Plan (OPA #39) was adopted by Council to bring Guelph's Official Plan into conformity with Ontario's Planning Framework of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and incorporate the City's growth targets and principles that were developed through the City's Local Growth Management Strategy.

Amendment 39 identified a number of intensification locations within the built-up area of the City. Of the identified intensification locations, Downtown Guelph is significant as the City's urban growth centre, while the section of Gordon Street from Edinburgh Road to south of Arkell Road is identified for significant intensification.

A number of properties in the two areas are in various stages of preparation for redevelopment and intensification. Specific infrastructure improvements and upgrades are required to be undertaken in coordination with anticipated development intensification in the two areas.

REPORT

Downtown Guelph: Wellington-Woolwich Corridor:

The City is in the process of preparing a Downtown Secondary Plan to provide the framework for the redevelopment and intensification of downtown properties. The proposed intensification envisages downtown population and employment levels to respectively grow from 8,600 and 8,400 in 2006, to 14,600 and 10,000 by 2031.

As part of the Downtown Secondary Plan, an assessment of the infrastructure requirements to support downtown intensification concluded that:

a) The proposed level of intensification can be supported by the existing road system without road widening, while additional turn-lanes may be required at intersections near specific developments;
b) While no significant upsizing of underground (water, sanitary, stormwater) services will be required, there will be need for replacing old infrastructure and relocating underground services from private properties at some locations.

As part of the recent road reconstruction in the downtown, underground services have been upgraded in the Gordon-Norfolk corridor and the section of Wyndham Street south of Carden Street. Upgrades on Wyndham Street north of Carden Street will be undertaken as part of future roadway works.

The third major downtown corridor is the Wellington-Woolwich corridor. Local improvements will be undertaken in the section of the corridor from Dublin Street to Gordon Street. Further east in the section extending from Wyndham Street to north of Macdonell Street, a number of redevelopment/intensification sites are located on either side of Speed River (see Attachment #1).

Staff have identified the need to relocate and/or replace sections of the underground services (i.e. sanitary sewers, watermains and storm sewers), including the replacement of existing sanitary sewers across the Speed River. Relocation of services is required for the redevelopment of some properties. Replacement and/or upgrading of services in the road right-of-way should be undertaken in coordination with the redevelopment of adjacent properties.

Additional technical work including functional design is required to determine the scope and cost estimates for the different work components. An Environmental Assessment will be required for work involving the sanitary sewer crossing of the Speed River.

Based on additional work and the completion of the Environmental Assessment, staff will identify projects including cost estimates for replacing/upgrading sanitary, water and stormwater linear infrastructure in the Wellington-Woolwich corridor.

Funding sources will include direct developer contributions, development charges and property taxes. The distribution of funding specific to each project will be identified during the project development and included in future Capital Budgets for Council approval prior to detailed design and construction. The development charges

component for projects, where appropriate, will be identified and included in the next update of the City's Development Charges By-law which is due by 2013.

The implementation of the different infrastructure projects will be coordinated with the timing of development of adjacent properties. Under the Downtown CIP, developers will have the option to proceed with development sooner by front-ending off-site infrastructure improvements and be reimbursed through the CIP program, subject to Council approval.

While the infrastructure projects in the Wellington-Woolwich corridor are generally expected to be implemented in or after 2013, the following are expected to be undertaken in 2012:

- The relocation/upgrade of underground services on Woolwich Street (north of Macdonell Street);
- The commencement of the Environmental Assessment for the sanitary sewer crossing of the Speed River.

Gordon Street Intensification Corridor (Edinburgh Road to Lowes Road):

OPA #39 identifies Stone Road west of Gordon Street and Gordon Street south Stone Road as intensification corridors. A significant concentration of redevelopment is anticipated in the section of Gordon Street from Edinburgh Road to south of Arkell Road (see Attachment #2).

Gordon Street (from Harts Lane to Clair Road) was widened in 2003, from 2 lanes to 4 lanes with an urban cross-section including bike lanes and sidewalk and the upgrading of underground services. There have been new developments on Gordon Street from south of Arkell Road to Lowes Road after Gordon Street was widened. Between 800 and 900 new residential units are expected in the section of Gordon Street from Edinburgh Road to Arkell Road.

The four lane traffic capacity of Gordon Street and existing underground services are adequate to accommodate the anticipated intensification. However, there are significant left-turn movements in this section of Gordon Street at the intersection at Edinburgh Road (northbound left-turns) and at the intersection at Arkell Road (southbound left-turns. Future traffic increases will contribute to capacity problems and delays at the two intersections during and morning and afternoon peak periods. The anticipated capacity problems can be addressed by providing a continuous centre-turn lane from Edinburgh Road to Arkell Road.

Staff have examined the feasibility of providing a centre-turn lane and the results indicate that a centre-turn lane can be provided between Edinburgh Road and Arkell Road by connecting the existing northbound left-turn lane at Edinburgh Road and the southbound left-turn lane at Arkell Road. The results also confirm that the centre-turn lane can be extended south of Arkell Road to Lowes Road. This extension will facilitate access to properties on either side of Gordon Street. The proposed improvements along with bike lanes and sidewalks can be accommodated by widening the road within the existing right-of-way. No additional property will be required.

Staff will complete additional work to determine project scope and will include it as a capital project in the next five-year Capital Budget. The proposed improvements will require environmental assessment (EA) prior to design and construction. The EA will be undertaken following Council approval of the Capital Budget.

The funding sources for the projects will include direct developer contributions, development charges and property taxes. The distribution of funding will be identified during project development and included in the five-year Capital Budget. The appropriate development charges contribution will be identified and included in the next update of the City's Development Charges By-law due by 2013.

Properties in the subject corridor are in varying stages preparation for redevelopment and intensification. Some of the properties are expected to be redeveloped before the construction of the proposed centre-turn lane, and they can be accommodated within the existing road and intersection capacities. The construction of the centre-turn lane could be completed by 2018 to avoid capacity problems at the two subject intersections. The road will be open to traffic during construction.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

Infrastructure improvements to support development intensification are consistent with the following goals and objectives in the 2007 Strategic Plan:

- Goal #1 – An attractive, well-functioning and sustainable city; and
- Goal #6 – A leader in conservation and resource protection/enhancement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Preliminary estimates indicate $10 M as cost of undertaking future improvements in the two intensification corridors. The identified projects will be included in future capital budgets for Council approval.

The following two infrastructure initiatives are expected to be undertaken in 2012:

- The relocation/upgrade of underground services on Woolwich Street (north of Macdonell Street). The cost of relocation will be paid by the owner of the adjacent property;
- The commencement of the Environmental Assessment for the sanitary sewer crossing of the Speed River. Costs are included in the approved capital budget.

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

The report was circulated for review to: Finance Department, Downtown Renewal, Planning & Building, Engineering and Environment (Engineering Services, Policy Planning and Urban Design, Development Planning, Water Services, Wastewater Services) and Traffic Services.

COMMUNICATIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1: Wellington-Woolwich Intensification Corridor
Attachment #2: Gordon Street Intensification Corridor

Prepared By:
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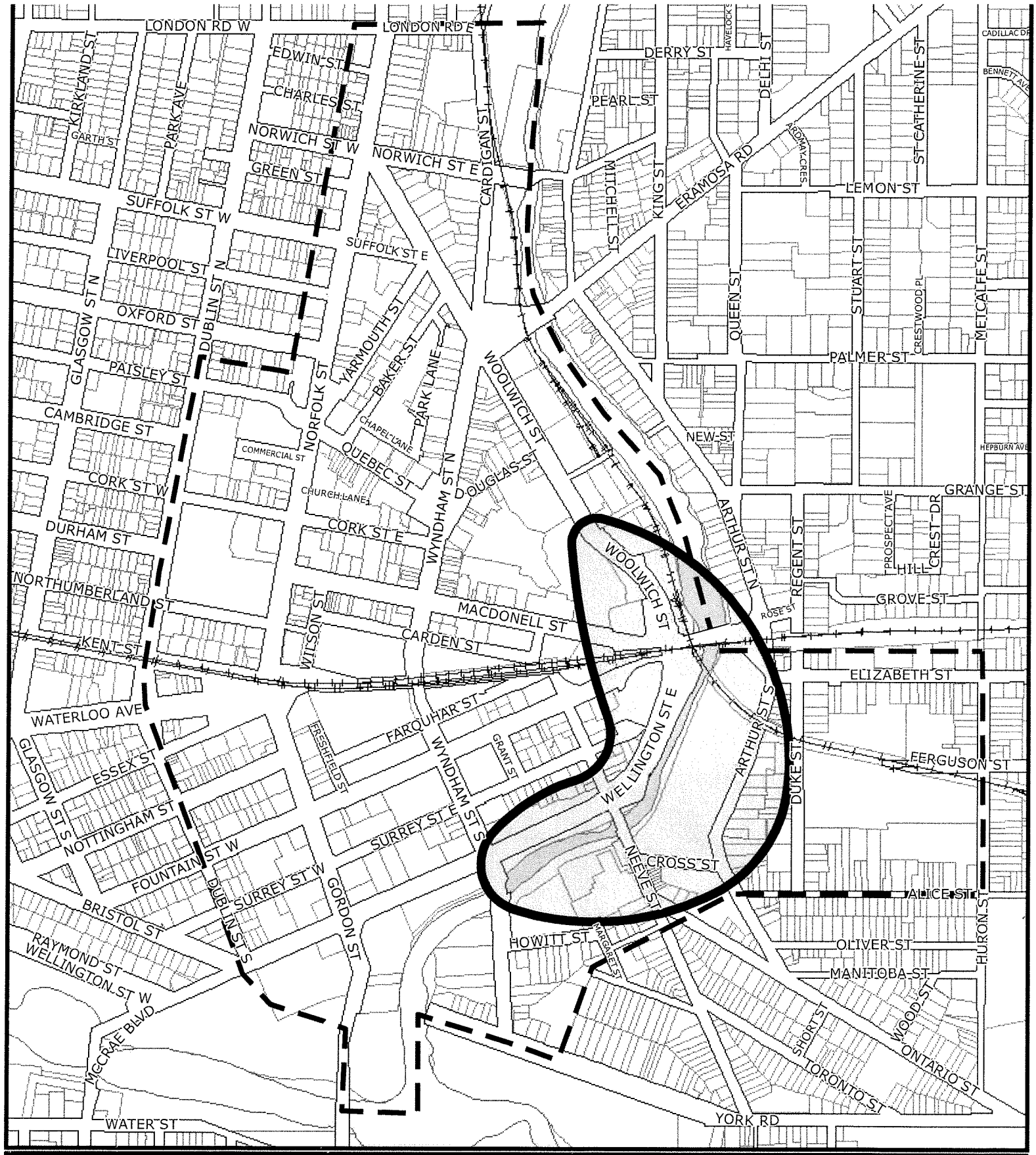


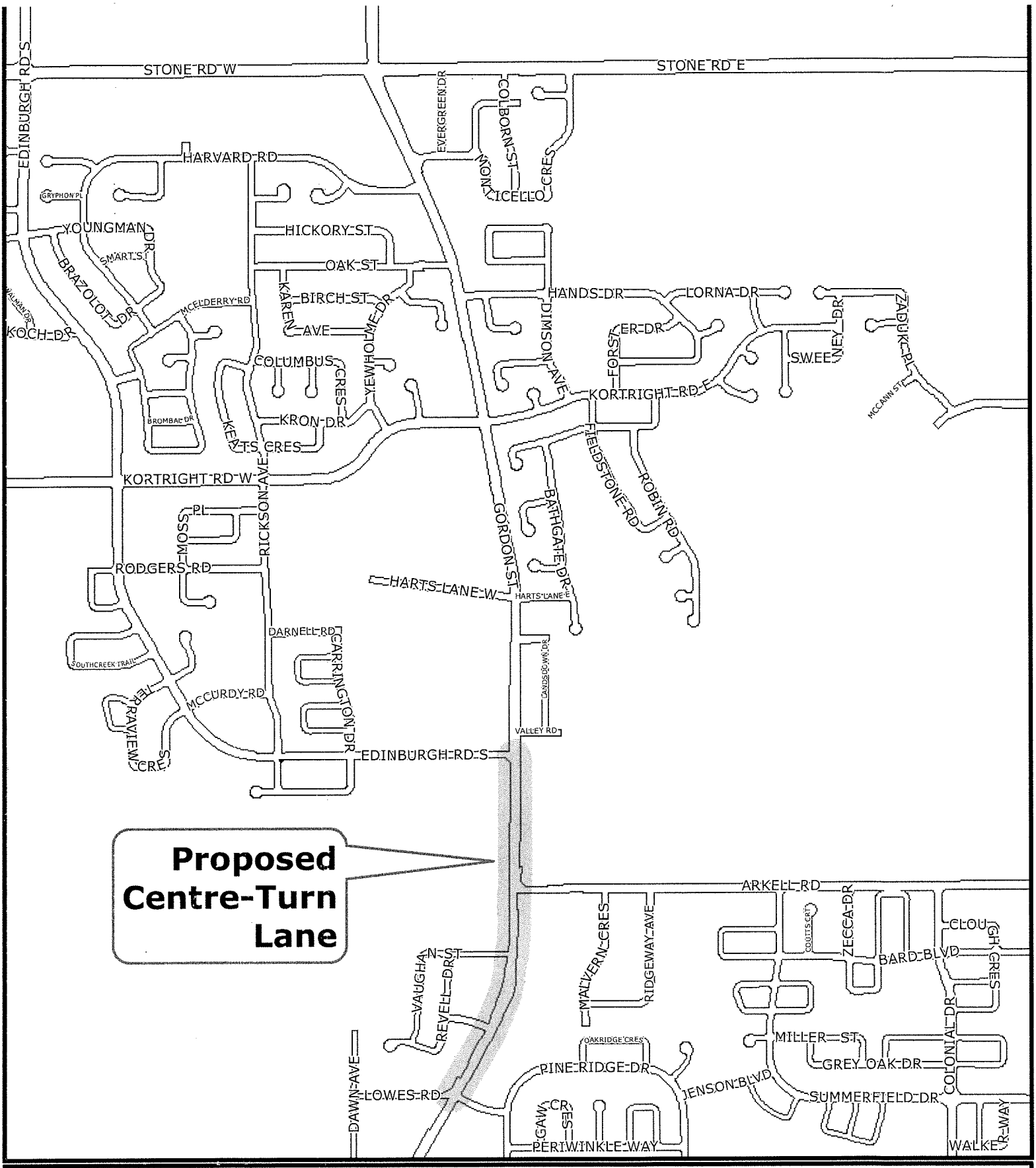
Attachment #1

Woolwich - Wellington Intensification Corridor

100 50 0 100 M

Produced by the City of Guelph
Planning, Building, Engineering, Environmental
Engineering Services
January 4, 2012

CITY OF Guelph
Making a Difference



Attachment #2

Gordon Street Intensification Corridor

200 100 0 200 M

Produced by the City of Guelph
Planning, Building, Engineering, Environmental
Engineering Services
January 4, 2012

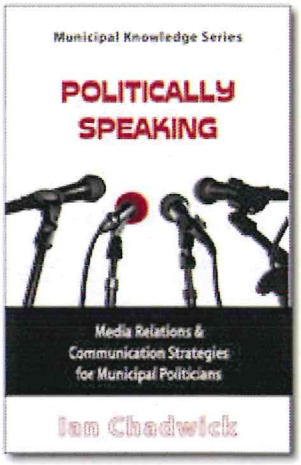
City of Guelph
Making a Difference

From: Municipal World [mailto:mwxtra@municipalworld.com]
Sent: January 13, 2012 10:42 AM

Subject: New Book Release: Politically Speaking

MW BookShop
books.municipalworld.com

HOT OFF THE PRESS



Politically Speaking

Media Relations & Communication Strategies for Municipal Politicians

Politically Speaking offers an informed insider's view of effective strategies and methods municipal leaders can use to communicate effectively with the media, and in a way that ensures the message is both received and understood.

Media veteran Ian Chadwick provides tips and tools to help prepare you for dealing with this important aspect of elected office. From media releases to live interviews, Ian guides readers through a thoughtful analysis of what they want to achieve; determining a focus and message; identifying the target audience and getting their attention; preparation, presentation, and follow-up; dealing with reporters; and using the internet and social media. The book also includes a template for developing effective news releases, as well as basic grammar and style tips, and an overview of other valuable communication reference books for further reading.

Politically Speaking is intended to provide the basic tools and tactics for both dealing with the media and for creating a viable communication strategy for the municipal organization. Ian's insights will prove to be valuable reading for anyone dealing with the media in the municipal sector.

Listen to Ian talk about municipal communications policy on YouTube

Meet the Author

Ian Chadwick is a veteran of 40 years in the media, working as a newspaper reporter and managing editor, and a local correspondent for CBC Radio's Ontario Morning show. He also hosted a current events program on cable television.

Over the past decades, Ian has written for many publications, including Municipal World, InfoAge, Microcomputer News, Strategy & Tactics, Moves, and Discover Mexico. He has been interviewed on TV, radio and in print many times.

Ian has been involved with electronic media since the late 1970s, had his own websites since 1995, and today has a forum, blog, and Facebook pages. Ian has also been a trade show presenter and seminar leader in several fields including training in media relations. Currently, he is a freelance writer, editor, website consultant, and a regular blogger.

Ian has been a municipal politician since 2003, serving as councillor for a town of approx. 20,000, and has been a member of many municipal boards and committees since 1991.

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From the publishers of

Municipal World
CANADA'S MUNICIPAL MAGAZINE

Week Ending January 26, 2012

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OF COUNCIL

The following items have been copied for your information.

INFORMATION REPORTS	**CORRESPONDENCE**
1. TD Green Streets – Adopt-A-Tree Program Outcomes and Canopy Coverage Study Findings	1. OGRA – Notice of Poll

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM BOARDS/COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CLERKS OFFICE:

1. Municipal Information Liquor Licence Application – Artisanale, 214 Woolwich Street
2. Grand River Conservation Authority – 2012 Preliminary Budget

INFORMATION REPORT

TO	**Guelph City Council**
SERVICE AREA	Planning & Building, Engineering and Environment
DATE	January 26, 2012
SUBJECT	**TD Green Streets - Adopt-a-Tree Program Outcomes and Canopy Coverage Study Findings**
REPORT NUMBER	12-07

SUMMARY

In 2011, the City was the recipient of a $15,000 TD Green Streets Grant awarded by TD Friends of the Environment Foundation and Tree Canada. The funds were used by the City to hold three Adopt-a-Tree Program events and conduct a Canopy Coverage Study. The Adopt-a-Tree events were held in the fall of 2011 and the Canopy Coverage Study report was completed in December.

The Canopy Coverage Study was intended to develop a more accurate estimate of the City's canopy cover which will serve as a baseline for monitoring. The Adopt-a-Tree program events were specifically designed to engage and educate the community on the importance of the urban forest helping the City to achieve Strategic Objective 6.6 "a biodiverse City with highest tree canopy percentage among comparable municipalities".

This report summarizes the outcomes of the Adopt-a-Tree Program events and the findings of the Canopy Coverage Study.

BACKGROUND

The City, in partnership with the University of Guelph's Arboretum and Pollination Guelph, successfully received matching funding through TD's Green Streets Grant program for $15,000 to complete the Canopy Coverage Study and Adopt-a-Tree Program.

Adopt a Tree Program:

The project targeted three types of neighbourhoods including:

- one neighbourhood with low canopy coverage that would benefit from improved storm water management;
- one neighbourhood with higher canopy coverage consisting of mature trees, likely to decline significantly in the next 10 to 20 years that requires succession planting; and

- one neighbourhood with an average aged canopy where coverage is sparse in some locations and more tree planting would improve the overall canopy coverage of the area.

Approximately 500 homes in each of the three neighbourhoods were invited to participate and the first 100 respondents from these neighbourhoods to register received a free tree. Knowledgeable staff and volunteers were present at the events to assist residents with tree selection.

Canopy Coverage Study:

The Canopy Coverage Study was completed to provide an accurate baseline of the City's existing canopy coverage. The City retained Urban Forest Innovations Inc., and Beacon Environmental to conduct the study. Using existing ortho-photography, land use data, Ecological Land Classification (ELC) data and other relevant sources of data, the consultants completed an assessment of the City's canopy coverage.

The findings indicate that the City's current canopy coverage is 20% which is lower than the original estimate of 30% provided by the Framework for the Urban Forest Management Plan completed in 2007. The reasons for the discrepancy in estimates are outlined in the Canopy Coverage Study report and summarized in the Report section below.

REPORT

Adopt-a-Tree Program:

Based on the City's selection criteria the following neighbourhoods were selected to participate:

- Kortright Road area - low canopy coverage area that will benefit from improved storm water management;
- St. George's Park neighbourhood – higher canopy coverage consisting of mature trees, likely to decline significantly in the next 10 to 20 years; and
- Peter Misersky Park area - average aged canopy where coverage is sparse in some locations and more tree planting would improve the overall canopy coverage.

The Adopt-a-Tree events were held September 28, October 1 and 8. City staff and partner volunteers from the Arboretum and Pollination Guelph attended the events with additional assistance from professors and students from the University of Guelph's Landscape Architecture program, Trees for Guelph and the Grand River Conservation Authority.

Over 350 residents registered for the events and approximately 300 trees were provided to residents. Staff and volunteers were on hand to assist residents with the selection of their new trees and to provide planting, care and maintenance advice which was further reinforced through a takeaway tree care booklet. The events provided an opportunity for the City and its partners to explain the benefits of urban trees while encouraging long term maintenance and care.

Canopy Coverage Study:

Purpose

Canopy coverage is a two-dimensional measure used to assess the extent of tree and shrub cover. It is also a tool that can be used to identify areas that could benefit from tree plantings. The purpose of the City's Canopy Coverage Study was two-fold:

1) to establish a current and accurate estimate of the City's canopy coverage that could serve as a baseline for monitoring; and
2) to assist with the selection of neighbourhoods for the City's Adopt-a-Tree program events.

In 2007 the City prepared the Framework for an Urban Forest Management Plan. The Framework provided twenty-five policy and guideline recommendations and included a rough canopy coverage estimate. The purpose of the 2011 Canopy Coverage Study was to develop a more current and accurate assessment allowing for better long term monitoring of the City's Urban Forest.

Methodology

To conduct the assessment base layer, leaf-off, colour, orthorectified aerial photos with appropriate resolution were used and cross-referenced with 2005 leaf-on aerial photos. These data layers were supplemented with the natural areas/ ecological land classification mapping provided by the Natural Heritage System and the City's land use data.

Randomly selected plots were sampled to determine canopy coverage in each of the land use types identified. The average canopy coverage value sampled was then applied to all lands within the given land use type.

Findings

The results generally indicate that canopy coverage is highest in wooded natural areas, older lower density residential areas as well as estate and medium residential areas. Conversely, canopy coverage is lowest in commercial and industrial areas and along arterial, collector roads and the Hanlon Expressway.

The overall canopy coverage of the City is estimated to be 20% with a margin of error of ±1-2%.

Rationale for Differences between 2007 and 2011 Canopy Coverage Estimates

Although some refinement to the preliminary canopy coverage estimate conducted in 2007, as part for the Framework for the Urban Forest Management Plan, was anticipated a difference of 10% was not expected. The primary reasons for the discrepancy between the 2007 and 2011 assessments are a result of differences in methodologies and direct extrapolation of older data sets. More specifically, the preliminary assessment assumed 100% canopy coverage for all wooded areas whereas, the updated assessment uses more accurate canopy coverage values ranging from 20% to 95% coverage. Additional treed areas outside the natural areas were also assigned a coverage value of 100%. Instead, the 2011 study used mean canopy cover per land use type. Finally, the 2007 estimate extrapolated

point count data, produced by the Ministry of Natural Resources in 1983, for one third of the City, which included most of the City's newly developed areas. This resulted in a significant overestimation.

The 2007 Framework explicitly stated, "it must be emphasized that this estimate is based on a number of assumptions and uses some very old data, and so should only be seen as a very rough estimate that should be refined and updated." As a result of the Canopy Coverage Study (2011) the City now has a much more accurate assessment that can be used as a baseline to monitor the City's Urban Forest.

The 2011 Canopy Coverage Study did note that there was a loss in wooded natural areas of approximately 46 hectares across the City since 2009. Some of this loss is attributed to refinement of the canopy coverage methodology, improvements in base layer data, site specific boundaries refinements, loss of aging canopy, and storm events. A portion of the loss is also attributed to new development where new plantings have yet to mature.

How we compare?
Most urbanized municipalities with little or no designated rural areas generally have canopy coverage of less than 20%. The Town of Oakville and the City of Burlington reportedly have the highest canopy coverage at 29% and 23%, respectively. Municipalities with canopy coverage in the range of 11-15% include Mississauga and Brampton.

Moving Forward
The City of Guelph through Official Plan Amendment 42 has set a target canopy coverage of 40%. The 2011 Canopy Coverage Study suggests that this target may be an "extremely ambitious goal" because:

a) the City's expected growth over the coming years;
b) the required financial and human resources necessary to sustain and manage the City's existing canopy; and
c) the significant commitment that would be required by local residents, landowners and the stakeholders to increase plantings and maintenance of the urban forest on their property where much of the City's canopy coverage currently resides.

The 2011 Canopy Coverage Study recommends further analysis be completed to ensure an achievable canopy coverage target is set based on the analysis of:

- anticipated growth;
- actual and anticipated plantable spaces:
- potential contributions of new plantings;
- the City's commitment to the Urban Forest Management Plan.

The City's Draft Urban Forest Management Plan is anticipated to be released in the first quarter of 2012. Further details on management, implementation and financial resources required to protect, enhance and sustain the City's urban forest will be contained in the Plan.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

- Goal 6 – A leader in conservation and resource protection/enhancement;
  - Objective 6.6 - A biodiverse City with the highest tree canopy percentage among comparable municipalities;
- Goal 5 – A community-focused, responsive and accountable government;
  - Objective 5.4 – Partnerships to achieve strategic goals and objectives.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The $15,000 of matching funds were provided for through the Council-approved 2011 Water and Wastewater User Pay Operating Budget.

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION/CONCURRENCE

The project was developed and completed in cooperation with:

- Water Services – Planning & Building, Engineering and Environment;
- Forestry Services – Operations and Transit;
- Policy Planning and Urban Design - Planning & Building, Engineering and Environment; and
- Communications – Corporate Services.

COMMUNICATIONS

Residents within the selected neighbourhoods were invited to attend the Adopt-a-Tree program events through the use of door knockers. At the event, residents were provided with a tree care booklet which explained the importance of urban trees and provided tips for maintenance and care.

Three new releases were issued announcing the funding and launch event and one advertisement was placed on in the Tribune on the City news page.

Signage acknowledging the grant contribution from TD was erected on Wellington Road just east of Fife Road as you enter the City. The signage will remain for a period of one year.

ATTACHMENTS

1) City of Guelph - Canopy Coverage Study 2011 (Urban Forest Innovations Inc., and Beacon Environmental)

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CITY OF GUELPH

CANOPY COVER STUDY

2011

Submitted by

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Submitted to

City of Guelph

Planning & Building, Engineering and Environment

December 2011

URBAN FOREST INNOVATIONS INC.

BEACON ENVIRONMENTAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was funded, in part, through a TD Green Streets grant awarded to the City of Guelph in the spring of 2011. This work was also made possible by the City of Guelph who provided matching funding, mapping layers and resources, and project direction.

Portions of this report draw on sections from the City's Urban Forest Management Plan (2012 – 2031) which is currently being finalized by this study team. More information on the City's broader urban forest management initiatives will be contained in that report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Guelph is a single-tier municipality with an area of just over 86 km^2 that contains a mix of residential, industrial, commercial and institutional land uses, as well as more than 1,000 hectares of public parks and open spaces. The City's 2007 Strategic Plan commits the City to being *"A biodiverse City with the highest tree canopy percentage among comparable municipalities"*, while the recently updated Official Plan Amendment No. 42 – Natural Heritage System (OPA 42) endorses a canopy cover target of 40%. This assessment of the City's current canopy cover will confirm its current status and provide a benchmark for future comparisons.

Canopy cover is one of several measures used to assess the extent of tree and shrub cover in a jurisdiction. It can also be used as a means to identify areas that could benefit from additional tree planting activities. The primary purpose of this study was to provide a current and accurate estimate of the City's canopy cover that would serve as a baseline moving forward. It is anticipated that a canopy cover assessment will be repeated once every five to ten years as part of ongoing urban forest management.

For this assessment, current (April 2009) leaf off, colour, orthorectified air photos with 10 cm resolution were used as a base to combine average tree cover from the City's natural areas mapping, and average canopy cover for each of the City's land uses outside its natural areas. This resulted in a City-wide canopy cover estimate of 20%. Notably, the more accurate, updated canopy coverage estimate is significantly lower than the preliminary estimate of 30% provided as part of the Framework for an Urban Forest Management Plan (2007). The reasons for this are discussed in the report. Average canopy cover within different land uses ranged from 1% (in newer residential areas) to 69% (in wooded natural areas), and ranged within City Wards from 13% to 25%. The land uses that contribute most to the City's canopy cover are the wooded natural areas, the older low density residential areas (and the local roads within them), and both the estate and medium density residential lots.

The City's current canopy cover estimate of 20% is within the range to be expected for a City that is growing rapidly and has no designated rural areas within its boundaries, and is the same or better than most comparator municipalities.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 DEFINING AND VALUING THE URBAN FOREST

The City's urban forest is comprised of all the trees and shrubs that occur within its boundaries. These include treed natural areas, as well as individual or small groups of trees in parks, along roadways, and on residential, industrial, commercial and institutional properties.

These trees form part of the City's green infrastructure, which sustains the community by filtering air pollution, providing shade, contributing to flood control, reducing local energy use, sequestering carbon, and bringing nature to the City. These services are well documented, and trees are known to save municipalities millions of dollars in air pollution control and storm water management alone (e.g., Town of Oakville 2006). Natural tree cover has also been linked to human health benefits, such as skin cancer prevention, reduction in heat island effects, and contributing to psychological well-being, that have yet to be fully valued. Since it is the large-stature, wide-canopied trees that tend to provide a disproportionate amount of the benefits, maximizing the City's canopy cover also maximizes the benefits that it can provide.

1.2 LOCAL CONTEXT

The City of Guelph is a single-tier municipality with an area of just over 86 km^2. The City contains a mix of residential, industrial, commercial and institutional land uses, as well as more than 1,000 hectares of public parks and open spaces.

Guelph has experienced unprecedented growth in the past 25 years. In 1986, the City's population was less than 80,000, and at the time of the last census in 2006, it was just under 115,000. It is currently estimated to be about 125,000, and the City is expected to accommodate 175,000 people by 2031 (City of Guelph, 2010). This will put ever-increasing pressure on the City's urban forest.

The City's 2007 Strategic Plan commits the City to being "*A biodiverse City with the highest tree canopy percentage among comparable municipalities*", while the recently approved Official Plan Amendment No. 42 (currently under appeal) endorses a canopy cover target of 40%. An accurate assessment of the City's current canopy cover will confirm its current status and provide a benchmark for future comparisons.

1.3 STUDY PURPOSE

Canopy cover is one of several measures used to assess the extent of tree and shrub cover. It can also be used as a means to identify areas that could benefit from and accommodate additional tree planting activities. The purpose of this study was two-fold:

(a) to provide a current and accurate estimate of the City's canopy cover that would serve as a baseline for moving forward, and;
(b) to help with the identification of three neighbourhoods for the City's TD Green Streets supported Adopt-a-Tree Program.

Canopy cover is recognized as a metric that is easily understood by local stakeholders and the community, and therefore has the added benefit of serving as a tool to educate people about the urban forest and engage them in its stewardship.

The focus of this report is on the methods and findings of the canopy cover assessment. The Adopt-a-Tree Program results have been tracked and documented by City staff, and the results of this work will be submitted separately to TD Green Streets as part of the City's reporting requirements.

2 STUDY CONTEXT

In order to ensure a continued high standard of living in the City and to meet its environmental objectives in the long term, the City is currently developing a 20-year Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). One of the components of this Plan is a monitoring program, and one of the measures within this program is the status of the urban forest canopy cover. It is anticipated that a canopy cover assessment will be repeated once every five or ten years as part of the UFMP's Five-Year Management Plans.

Preliminary direction for urban forest management in the City was provided in the *Framework for an Urban Forest Management Plan* (2007). The Framework included a rough canopy cover estimate for the City using natural areas mapping from the City's Natural Heritage Strategy work (from 2006), combined with dated mapping of street trees in parts of the City's urban areas, and limited aerial photo interpretation to capture larger groupings of trees in the urban matrix. This resulted in an estimate of about 30% canopy cover.

In the spring of 2011, the City was awarded a grant under the TD Green Streets program to undertake a more accurate and current canopy cover assessment. This resulted in a lower, but more accurate estimate of 20% (as shown in **Map 1**). The methods and results of this assessment are described in **Sections 3 and 4**, and discussion about the discrepancy between the preliminary and current canopy cover estimates is provided **Section 5**.

2.1 WHAT IS CANOPY COVER?

Canopy cover is essentially a two-dimensional measurement of the horizontal surface area of the forest as seen from a bird's-eye, or top-down, view. It is a readily understood and easily comparable measure that has been used by many municipalities in southern Ontario, and elsewhere in Canada and the United States, to get a snapshot of the extent of tree (and shrub) cover in a given jurisdiction.

What is Urban Forest Canopy Cover?

Specifically, urban forest canopy cover is the two-dimensional, orthogonal projection of tree and shrub canopies onto the plane of the ground surface.

Walton *et al.*, (2008)

However, canopy cover measures are limited in so far as they do not capture other important aspects of the urban forest, such as species diversity, urban forest structure (i.e., tree sizes and age ranges), tree condition, level of maintenance, or level of community engagement and stewardship. A city with a relatively high canopy cover can have a very unsustainable urban forest if this canopy is comprised exclusively of older trees that are not being well-managed or replaced. Therefore, although this number is often the focus of urban forestry discussions, it is important to keep its significance in perspective.

In the monitoring framework recently published by Kenney, van Wassenaer and Satel (2011) "relative canopy cover" is one of 25 measures recommended for use by municipalities and urban forest managers to gauge urban forest sustainability. The "relative" part is integral to the framework's approach in that it measures a given municipality's ability to obtain the maximum possible canopy cover in its particular context. For example, if existing and potential plantable locations / areas mapping reveal that a given jurisdiction's maximum potential canopy cover under projected conditions is 25%, then the state of the canopy cover would be "low" at 0-25% of that (i.e., up to 6% of total land area), "moderate" at 25-50% of that (i.e., 7-13%), "good" at 50-75% (i.e., 14-19%), and "optimal" once it had achieved close to its full potential at 20-25%. Notably, in a City like Guelph, which is subject to relatively intense development pressures, accurate "potential" canopy cover can be difficult to determine because of ongoing changes in land uses, and a detailed "plantable spaces" assessment has not yet been undertaken.

3 METHODOLOGY

The use of high-resolution aerial imagery to assess urban canopy cover is a well-established and fairly cost effective approach for obtaining a reasonably accurate estimate of urban canopy cover (Walton *et al.*., 2008). For this assessment, current (April 2009) leaf-off, colour, orthorectified aerial photos with 10 cm resolution were used. This layer was cross-referenced with 2005 leaf-on aerial photos of comparable resolution.

The aerial photo base was used to combine:

(a) average tree cover from the City's natural areas mapping, and;
(b) average canopy cover for each of the City's land uses outside its natural areas.

Average canopy covers from each of the wooded natural areas and each of the other land uses were then combined to obtain a canopy cover estimate for the entire City (as shown in **Map 1**). The approach used for generating each of these averages is detailed below.

Wooded Natural Areas

The City recently completed its Natural Heritage System mapping, which is based on classification of all the City's natural areas into distinct vegetation types using the Ecological Land Classification (ELC) system (Lee *et al.*, 1998). All natural areas with wooded cover (tree or shrub) of at least 20% were included in our assessment, as shown in **Map 2**.

The ELC layer is maintained by the City, which updates it as new or more detailed information becomes available. The ELC layer provided for this project in spring 2011 was last updated in September 2010.

One of the ways that the ELC system distinguishes different types of wooded communities is by the proportion of canopy cover. For example, treed swamps have at least 25% canopy cover, woodlands have between 30% and 60% cover, and forests have more than 60% cover. We included all ELC types with at least 20% woody vegetation, and assigned percent canopy cover to each based on the ELC parameters as well as a sampling of those communities in the City of Guelph (via remote sensing). ELC areas that typically have no or very few trees (such as cultural meadows, open water) were excluded. Hedgerows were included as natural areas while agricultural units were not. The average percentage canopy cover applied to each ELC community with woody vegetation is listed below (and in **Map 2**):

- Cultural (Upland) Thicket – 20%
- Swamp Thicket – 45%
- Cultural Woodland – 50%
- Swamp, Mixed – 65%
- Swamp, coniferous – 70%
- Swamp, Deciduous – 70%
- Hedgerow – 75%
- Upland Forest (Coniferous, Deciduous and Mixed) – 85%
- Plantation – 95%

All of the above percentages were determined using the average canopy cover percentage in the ELC guide description, except for the swamp and plantation communities which are slightly higher based on the results of our representative sampling via remote sensing from these communities in Guelph.

Land Uses Outside Wooded Natural Areas

All areas outside the wooded natural features were divided according to land use types. Land use types originally provided by the City were refined so that land uses with comparable levels and types of treed areas, as well as comparable patterns of open grassed or treed areas versus building footprints and other impermeable surfaces (such as parking lots), were combined to the greatest extent possible.

Refinement and reclassification of land uses was done through a combination of air photo interpretation and sorting the various residential land use types by parcel size, and by approximate age of development.

Low density residential, originally provided as one category, comprises about 20% of the entire City and includes areas with very different canopy covers. Given the City's interest in identifying several residential areas that would be suitable for community tree planting initiatives, and in order to get a more accurate estimate of canopy covers in residential areas of different densities and ages, this category was subdivided into two age classes and four density levels based on subdivision layouts, canopy cover, and reference to subdivision registration dates. Low density residential areas were simply classified as "older" (i.e., pre-1980) or "newer" (i.e., post-1980), and road allowances in each of those areas were classified similarly. The 1980's was a logical separation because newly planted trees typically begin to start developing significant canopies after 20 to 30 years.

Figure 1. "Bird's-eye view" of the canopy cover in an older residential neighbourhood in the City (left) compared to a newer residential neighbourhood (right).

This resulted in the creation of the following land use (LU) categories, as shown in **Map 3**:

- Aggregate Extraction
- Agriculture
- Aquatic Resources (added to provide coverage for the watercourses)
- Cemetery
- Commercial
- Open Space
- Estate - Low Density
- Golf Course, Recreational Facility/Area
- Industrial
- Institutional
- Municipal Park
- Residential
    - Low Density Newer (>1980's)
    - Low Density Older (<1980's)
    - Medium Density
    - Mixed Use
    - High Density
- Roads (all integrated from the Single Lane Street Network (SLSN):
    - Expressway
    - Arterial
    - Local Newer
    - Local Older
    - Collector
- Utility Corridor / Area
- Vacant

Randomly selected plots within each of these land use types were then sampled for canopy cover. The average value of the canopy cover for all plots within a given land use type was used to provide a mean canopy cover percentage which was applied to all lands within the given land use type. Values for canopy cover City-wide percentages were normalized to account for differences in the relative area of different lands uses.

In total, nearly 24% of the entire City was directly assessed for canopy cover, with about 20% of each land use type being directly sampled on average. Land uses with more variability in tree/shrub cover (e.g., residential – mixed use, open space), as well as more built up land uses, were sampled more intensively than land uses with fairly uniform tree/shrub cover (e.g., industrial areas and roads) to improve the accuracy of the results.

4 RESULTS

Table 1. Percentage canopy cover (CC) within each land use type and City wide, and proportion of the City occupied by that land use type.

Land Use (LU) Type	% Canopy Cover within LU Type	% Canopy Cover City Wide	% Area of City
Aggregate Extraction	10.97%	0.010%	0.13%
Agriculture	4.64%	0.230%	4.96%
Aquatic Resources*	9.10%	0.190%	2.10%
Cemetery	22.41%	0.080%	0.36%
Commercial	3.20%	0.120%	3.75%
Estate - Low Density	30.30%	0.450%	1.48%
Golf Course, Recreational Facility/Area*	12.80%	0.260%	2.01%
Industrial	3.58%	0.270%	7.67%
Institutional	4.04%	0.290%	7.07%
Municipal Park*	12.08%	0.330%	2.77%
Open Space*	6.50%	0.440%	6.81%
Residential - High Density	11.21%	0.140%	1.23%
Residential - Low Density New (>1980's)	0.97%	0.040%	4.39%
Residential - Low Density Old (<1980's)	30.76%	4.650%	15.11%
Residential - Medium Density	13.48%	0.303%	2.25%
Residential - Mixed Use	15.11%	0.060%	0.41%
Road - Arterial	1.95%	0.080%	4.26%
Road - Collector	3.45%	0.060%	1.83%
Road - Expressway	2.05%	0.020%	1.06%
Road - Local New	2.10%	0.030%	1.64%
Road - Local Old	19.20%	1.050%	5.46%
Utility Corridor / Area	11.97%	0.311%	2.71%
Vacant	3.69%	0.210%	5.78%
Wooded Natural Area*	68.57%	10.130%	14.77%
TOTALS	**NA**	**19.75%**	**100.00%**

* Notably, the land use categories shown here were refined to help better estimate canopy cover, however actual municipal park lands are also included in portions of all of the land uses identified with asterisks.

The overall canopy cover estimate for the City, based primarily on data and aerial photography from 2009, is 19.75% (rounded up to 20% for discussion in this report), as illustrated in **Map 1** and **Table 1**. **Table 1** includes: (a) the average canopy coverage within each land use type, (b) the contribution of each land use type to the City's overall canopy cover, and (c) the relative area occupied by each land use type in the City. Canopy cover percentages by land use type are also depicted graphically in **Figure 2**, while the contrast between the area covered by each land use type and their relative contribution to canopy cover is presented in **Figure 3**.

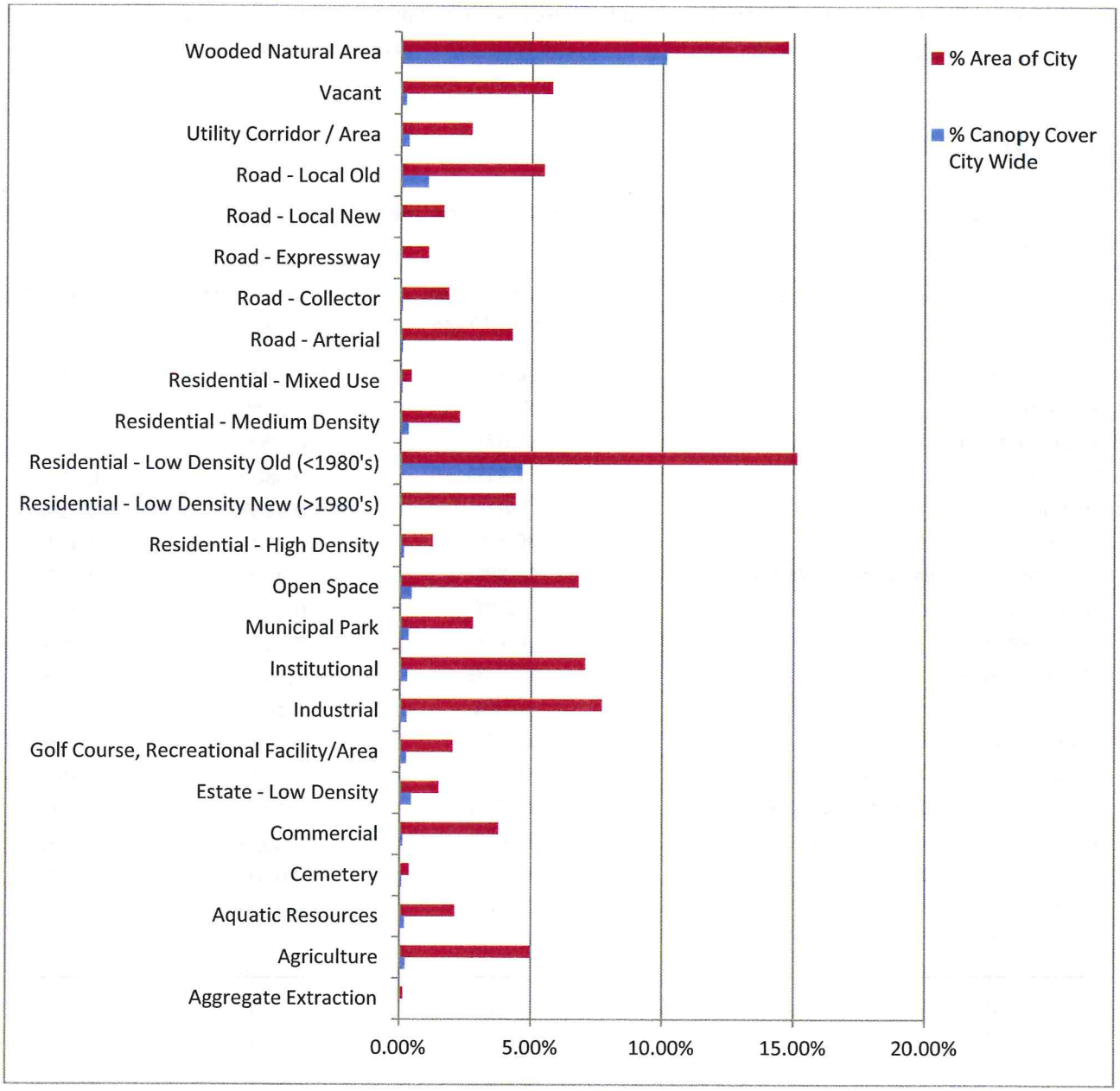

Figure 2. Comparison of percentage canopy cover by land use type in the City of Guelph, and proportion of the City occupied by that land use type.

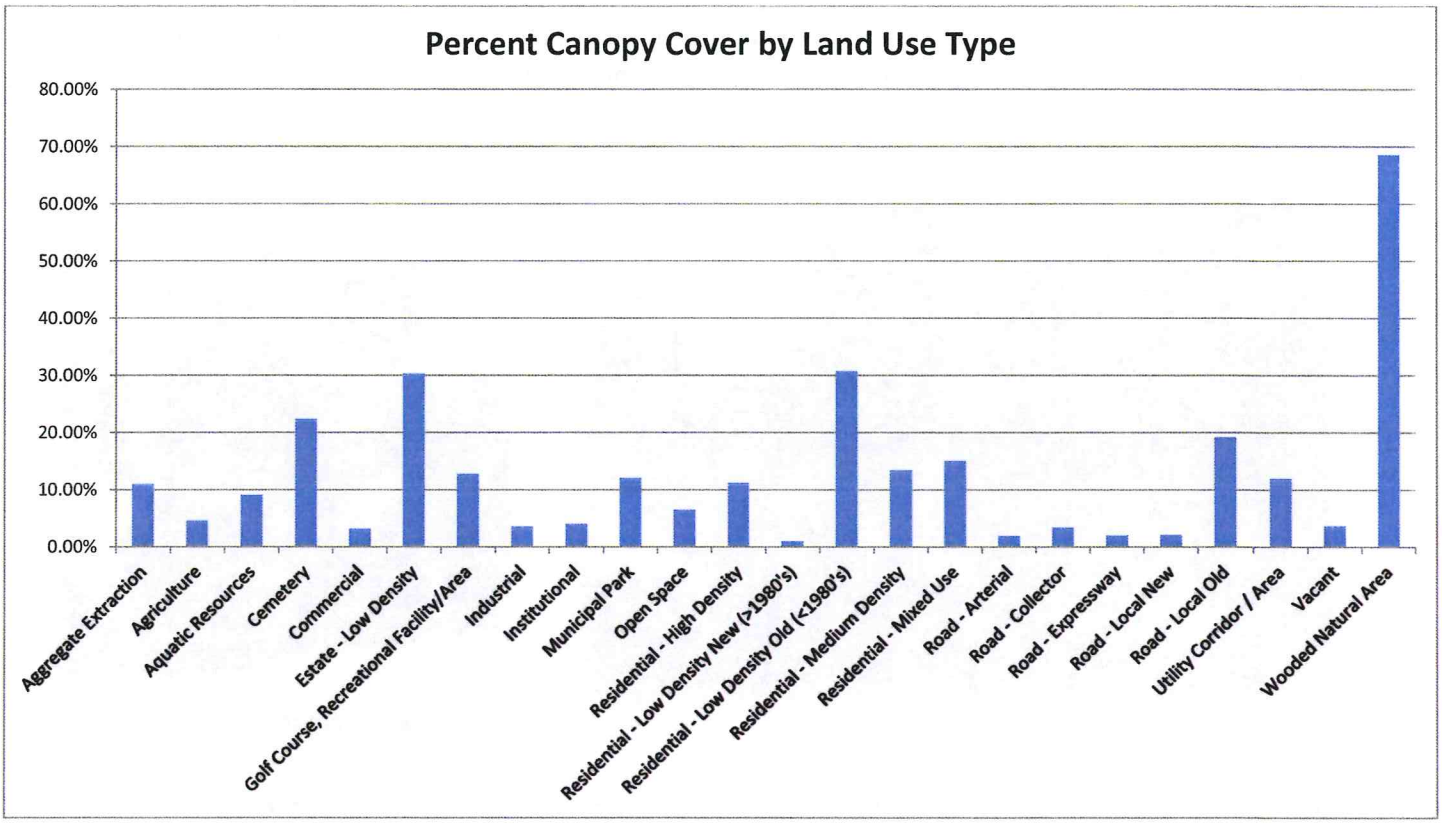

Figure 3. Relative levels of average canopy cover within each land use (LU) type in the City. Note: the percent provided for wooded natural areas is the average canopy cover of all the Ecological Land Classification (ELC) communities; the actual percentages applied to each ELC community are provided in the report text and Map 2.

As can be seen in **Figure 2** and **Table 1**, the land uses that contribute most to the City's canopy cover are the wooded natural areas, the older low density residential areas (and the local roads within them), and both the estate and medium density residential lots. Not surprisingly, these were also the communities with the highest levels of relative canopy cover, although notably only wooded natural areas have an average canopy cover of more than 40% and most land uses have less than 20% canopy cover, as shown in **Figure 3**.

In terms of the overall canopy cover of 20%, the wooded natural areas contribute half of that (10%) and the older low density residential areas with their associated roads contributing another quarter (more than 5%) with the remaining ~4% coming from all other land uses. Notably, there is a significant amount of land that has been recently developed (i.e., low and medium density residential) where street and yard trees have been planted but have not yet attained a size where they provide significant canopy (refer to **Figure 1**, for example). Assuming most of these trees have been planted in spaces where they will be able to reach maturity, they should become significant contributors to the City's canopy in the decades to come.

Figure 4. New tree plantings (2011) along the recently completed rail trail by the Speed River (left) and a mature oak on Edinburgh Road (right).

In terms of the breakdown and contribution of the wooded natural areas in the City (as shown in **Map 2**), there have been substantial changes in the proportions of different types of wooded natural areas provided in the 2007 Framework as a result of additional field verification and refinement that was conducted as part of the City's Natural Heritage Strategy over 2008 and 2009. This work was related to (a) field verification of cultural woodlands versus plantations, (b) re-classification of some upland deciduous and mixed forest communities to treed swamps to be consistent with the latest wetland mapping provided by Province, and (c) refinements based on Ecological Land Classification provided from site-specific studies. This resulted in increases in areas of plantations and forested wetland (i.e., swamp) communities, and reductions in the mapped areas of cultural woodland and upland forested communities. Notably, these revisions resulted in an overall net gain in mapped wooded natural areas between 2007 and 2009 (see Dougan & Associates 2009).

Table 2. Summary of wooded natural areas broken down by broad habitat types and comparison of (a) preliminary assessment (2007 Framework), 2009 Natural Heritage Strategy area calculations and (c) current area calculations. All units are in hectares (ha).

	2007 Framework [1]	Ph2 NHS (March 2009) [2]	2011 Canopy Cover Study [3]	change 2007 - 2009	change 2009 - 2011
coniferous forest	43.09	33.34	30.88	-9.75	-2.46
deciduous forest	213.06	175.63	172.11	-37.43	-3.52
mixed forest	194.47	99.42	100.23	-95.05	0.81
cultural woodland	226.53	104.13	93.43	-122.40	-10.70
plantation	27.13	158.65	154.87	131.52	-3.78
hedgerow	35.56	40.11	38.65	4.55	-1.46
coniferous swamp	239.14	222.38	222.04	-16.76	-0.34
deciduous swamp	38.85	115.33	112.52	76.48	-2.81
mixed swamp	15.35	152.46	150.42	137.11	-2.04
cultural thicket	123.11	102.84	94.84	-20.27	-8.00
thicket swamp	88.79	135.78	123.51	46.99	-12.27
Total area	1245.08	1340.07	1293.5	94.99	-46.57

[1] Preliminary ELC based on 2006 aerial photos and scoped 2004/5 field work in upland communities.

[2] Finalized ELC revised with (a) field verification of cultural woodlands versus plantations, (b) re-classification of some upland deciduous and mixed forest communities to swamps to be consistent with the latest wetland mapping provided by MNR, and (c) refinements based on Ecological Land Classification provided from site-specific studies.

[3] ELC updated by the City based on data from 2009 aerial photos and input from additional site specific studies, last updated Sept 2010.

Since completion of the Natural Heritage Strategy in 2009, there has however been a net loss of wooded natural areas in the order of about 46 ha across the City. Some of this loss can be attributed to refinement of the canopy coverage methodology, improved base layer data, refinements to site-specific boundaries of cultural communities, and loss of aging canopy and storm events. However, some loss is also likely attributed to trees removed as part of the development process combined with new plantings that have yet to mature, and therefore do not contribute much to the City's canopy coverage at this time.

The final analysis completed for this study was a comparison of canopy cover between City Wards. As is shown in **Map 4**, the breakdown is as follows:

- Ward 1: 17.1%
- Ward 2: 24.7%
- Ward 3: 16.7%
- Ward 4: 13.2%
- Ward 5: 19.2%
- Ward 6: 24.3%

This analysis and supporting mapping illustrates that the City's canopy cover is fairly well distributed among the six wards, but that the wards with greater proportions of industrial, institutional and/or commercial lands (i.e., Wards 1, 3, and 4) have lower than average canopy covers, while those with more residential, and particularly older residential (i.e., Ward 2), or more natural cover (i.e., Ward 6), have higher than average canopy covers. Notably, Ward 5, which has a mix of older and newer residential areas, institutional and commercial lands, and open spaces and natural areas, is very close to the City-wide average.

5 DISCUSSION

City-wide Canopy Cover and Target

The City's current canopy cover estimate of 20% is within the range to be expected for a City that is growing rapidly and has no designated rural areas within its boundaries. As can be seen in **Table 3** below, all jurisdictions with little to no rural designations have canopy covers of 20% or less, with the exceptions of Oakville and Thunder Bay.

Table 3. Comparison of canopy cover (CC) estimates from comparator municipalities.**

Municipality	CC Estimate*	CC Target	Source
City of Guelph	**20%**	**40%**	**City of Guelph Canopy Cover Study (2011)**
Town of Ajax	18.5%	none	*Town of Ajax Urban Forestry Study, Part A (2009)*
Town of Oakville	29.1%	40%	*Oakville's Urban Forest: Our Solution to Our Pollution (2006). Target set in Official Plan (2009).*
City of Thunder Bay	47.4%	none	*Thunder Bay Urban Forest Canopy Cover Project (2009)*
City of Burlington	23%	none	*Urban Forest Management Plan 2011-2030 (2010)*
City of St. Catharines	15-17%	30%	*Urban Forest Management Plan (2011)*
City of Mississauga	15%	to be set by 2013	*Region of Peel Urban Forest Strategy (2011)*
City of Brampton	11%	to be set by 2013	*Region of Peel Urban Forest Strategy (2011)*
City of Pickering	20%	none	*City of Pickering Urban Forest Study, DRAFT (2011)*

* These estimates have not all been developed using the same method.

** Only municipalities identified as "comparators" as per Schedule 2 of the City of Guelph Committee Report for Information Services dated December 7, 2009 (identified as suitable for comparison purposes to the City based on their: proximity to Guelph, average family income, population, expenditures, number of employees, governance level and structure, services provided, presence of a post-secondary institution) have been included here.

While it is informative to see where Guelph stands in relation to comparable municipalities, as discussed above, direct comparisons are not entirely appropriate since each jurisdiction has unique opportunities and constraints from both a biophysical and a planning perspective. This applies to target setting as well evaluation of current canopy cover. Ideally both should be considered in the context of Guelph's potential canopy cover, which has not been assessed. Potential canopy cover would be the level of cover that could realistically be achieved within the current planning paradigm if every available plantable space were utilized, and if the new and existing trees were managed for their long-term preservation.

The City of Guelph, through its Official Plan Amendment No. 42 (under appeal at time of report finalization), has set a target of 40% canopy cover for the City by 2031. While this target is commendable, detailed analyses and consultations have not been undertaken to explore the feasibility of this target. Realizing such a goal assumes that there are enough suitable plantable spaces, as well as adequate human and financial resources being allocated to support substantially increased levels of tree planting, as well as the associated long-term management of the expanding urban forest.

In reality, increasing canopy cover in an urban area is more challenging than might be expected. For example, analysis done for the Town of Oakville's Urban Forest Management Plan (2008) estimated that increasing tree planting efforts by 10% per year would increase canopy cover from 29.1% to 29.6% over a period of about 30 years, assuming relatively low mortality rates. Real considerations and challenges in Guelph (and elsewhere) include: natural tree mortality; loss of trees to pests (currently Emerald Ash Borer presents the biggest threat),

diseases and storm events; climate change; the need to accommodate greenfield and infill development with associated servicing; and resource limitations that limit the proactive management of the current urban forest.

Furthermore, increases in canopy cover cannot simply be achieved by planting more trees. Effective urban forest management requires an ongoing commitment to managing trees in all phases of their life-cycle, as well as strategic planning to bolster the resilience of the overall urban forest against the numerous stressors it is subjected to. The objective should not be simply to meet an arbitrarily set canopy cover target, but rather should be to steadily move the City forward with respect to the various strategic initiatives that support a truly sustainable urban forest.

While a 40% canopy cover target is likely not impossible for the City of Guelph given the apparent opportunities in the landscape (as suggested in **Figure 2** by the gap between canopy cover and actual land for various land uses), it needs to be recognized that it is an ambitious goal, particularly in the context of current urban forest-related challenges. Key challenges can be summarized as follows: (a) as a relatively small municipality that is expected to continue to accommodate significant amounts of growth in the coming years, there is already and will continue to be pressure on the City's remaining lands for various types of development and related infrastructure; (b) even maintaining the existing canopy cover (which is integral to the City's green infrastructure) will require a commitment of significant and sustained human and financial resources from the City; and (c) in order to achieve what would essentially be a doubling of the current canopy would also require a significant commitment from the local residents, landowners and stakeholders on whose lands much of the City's canopy currently resides.

Canopy Cover by Land Use Type

The current assessment was not a plantable spaces study, but can be used to make some inferences. Although this would need to be verified in terms of actual available plantable spaces and areas, the results (as presented in **Table 1**, **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**) suggest that the land uses with the greatest need and opportunities for tree planting in the City of Guelph include residential areas (particularly low density), municipal parks and open space, and industrial and institutional areas. Road allowances and utility corridors are assumed to have limited plantable spaces and/or to be unsuitable for tree planting due to interference with utility infrastructure. Further work is required to develop a more comprehensive and accurate identification of plantable spaces in the City.

Discrepancy between 2007 and 2011 Canopy Cover Estimates for Guelph

Although some discrepancy between the preliminary canopy cover estimate conducted as part of the 2007 Framework for an Urban Forest Management Plan for the City, and this assessment was expected, it was not expected that the discrepancy would be in the order of 10%. The primary explanation lies in the difference in methodologies used, and direct extrapolation from an old data set in the preliminary assessment that resulted in a significant overestimation of the City's tree canopy both inside and outside of the wooded natural areas as described in **Table 4** below.

In addition to the fact that the current estimate relied on more current mapping and data, there has also been some relatively minor canopy cover loss related to the presence of an aging canopy within the City, storm events and development since 2006. The loss related to development is likely the result of small cumulative removals and boundary refinements. Most new developments over the past decade have included tree plantings along boulevards and in yards, as well as part of landscaping in parks. These trees are not yet large

enough to make significant canopy cover contributions (see **Figure 1**) but, assuming they are able to reach maturity, will begin to do so over the next 15 to 30 years.

Table 4. Comparison of the methodology used between the preliminary (2007) and current (2011) canopy cover assessments for the City of Guelph.

2007 Framework: Preliminary Canopy Cover Estimate	2011 Canopy Cover Estimate	Comments
All wooded natural areas assumed to have 100% canopy cover except for cultural savannahs which were a very small area but assumed to have 40% cover.	Wooded natural areas assigned more accurate canopy cover values ranging from 20% to 95%, with an average of 68.57%. Cultural savannas were excluded due to their canopy cover being under 20%.	In addition to the change in canopy cover percent assigned to the natural areas, a small portion of the decline from 12% to 10% wooded natural area cover is related to development in the City that has resulted in the removal of some less ecologically sensitive wooded areas such as cultural thickets or woodlands.
CANOPY COVER CONTRIBUTION: 12%	CANOPY COVER CONTRIBUTION: 10.1%	
Additional treed areas of 0.3 to 1.0 ha in the City's urban matrix were assigned a 100% canopy cover value and combined with a 1983 layer from MNR that mapped trees as point data outside the natural areas for the northern two thirds of the City.	Mean canopy covers for 24 different land use types in the City were identified based on digitizing randomly sampled areas from each one. Almost 24% of the City was directly digitized. This included street trees as well as trees in yards, parks and other locations.	The use of 1983 point count data resulted in significant overestimation of tree canopy outside the City's wooded natural areas. Many newly developed areas in the City include street, yard and park trees that have yet to mature and provide significant canopy.
CANOPY COVER CONTRIBUTION: 14%	CANOPY COVER CONTRIBUTION: 9.74%	
Direct extrapolation of this point count data to the remaining one third of the City.	The above approach covered the entire City; no additional extrapolation was required.	Extrapolating tree point count data from the top two thirds of the City to the bottom third was a significant overestimation since much of this land remains to be developed and is currently largely agricultural or abandoned old fields with almost no trees outside the remnant hedgerows and wooded natural areas.
CANOPY COVER CONTRIBUTION: 4.7%	CANOPY COVER CONTRIBUTION: 0%	
TOTAL CANOPY COVER ESTIMATE: 30.7%	**TOTAL CANOPY COVER ESTIMATE: 19.75%**	

As stated in the 2007 Framework: "*It must be emphasized that this estimate is based on a number of assumptions and uses some very old data, and so should only be seen as a very rough estimate that should be refined and updated.*" The current assessment, as presented in this report, is a much more accurate estimatethat covers the City in a much more comprehensive fashion using current data sources. It is nonetheless still an estimate with a margin of error which we estimate to be ± 1-2%.

Canopy Cover Assessment Methods

Canopy cover values can be difficult to compare between municipalities, and even between years within the same municipality, because there is no standard assessment method and the tools and technologies for assessment continue to evolve. Different methods can result in different estimates for the same jurisdiction with different levels of accuracy. Therefore, estimates of canopy cover must be understood to truly be estimates.

Nonetheless, canopy cover remains an important metric, and should be measured in a transparent and consistent way. To date, the methods that have evolved can be classified into three types, described below.

1. *i-Tree* ECO (formerly UFORE): This approach is based on data extrapolated from plot-based assessments and is readily replicated but has a fairly large margin of error, which varies depending on the number of plots in a given jurisdiction. Such studies have been completed in the Town of Oakville and Town of Ajax, as well as a number of municipalities in Canada and the United States. These studies are a fairly cost-effective way of generating some useful data for estimating canopy cover, urban forest species diversity and structure, and eco-service values. However, results tend to be much less accurate than from the following two methods.

2. Orthorectified aerial photos and GIS: Some municipalities have used a combination of current air photos and GIS mapping / analysis tools to obtain canopy cover estimates (e.g., City of Burlington, City of Thunder Bay). This involves combining mapping of treed natural areas with random sampling of other land uses in the urban matrix to get an overall estimate of canopy cover that is reasonably accurate. This mapping can also be used to identify plantable spaces if it is sufficiently detailed and comprehensive.

3. UTC (Urban Tree Canopy) Method: Analysis of high quality satellite imagery can provide fairly accurate estimates of canopy cover, as well as plantable spaces, but requires powerful computing and expensive software to separate trees out from other land cover types within an urban matrix. This type of assessment has recently been undertaken by the City of Toronto and the Region of Peel in collaboration with experts from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the University of Vermont.

Although the second method was used for this assessment, and can be used again in the future, as GIS tools and technologies evolve, the third method may be more readily available to municipalities like Guelph and should be pursued if available as it is the most accurate and the easiest to replicate.

6 CONCLUDING REMARKS

This study provides a current and accurate estimate of the City's canopy cover that can serve as a baseline for future monitoring that is expected to include a canopy cover assessment once every five or ten years. The current study provides a City-wide canopy cover estimate of 20%. The discrepancy between this value and the preliminary estimate of 30% provided as part of the Framework for an Urban Forest Management Plan (2007) is largely a result of the preliminary methodology overestimating the extent of canopy cover both within and outside the City's natural areas.

The City's current canopy cover estimate of 20% is the same or better than most comparator municipalities, but is well below the 40% target. While there remain many apparent opportunities for tree planting in various land uses within the City, the 40% target is very ambitious given the current resource constraints and growth pressures within the City. Future analysis should be completed to ensure an achievable target is set based on analysis of relevant factors such as: actual and anticipated plantable areas; anticipated areas of growth and intensification; potential contributions of newer developments as they mature over the next 15 to 30 years; and the City's level of commitment to a long term Urban Forest Management Plan.

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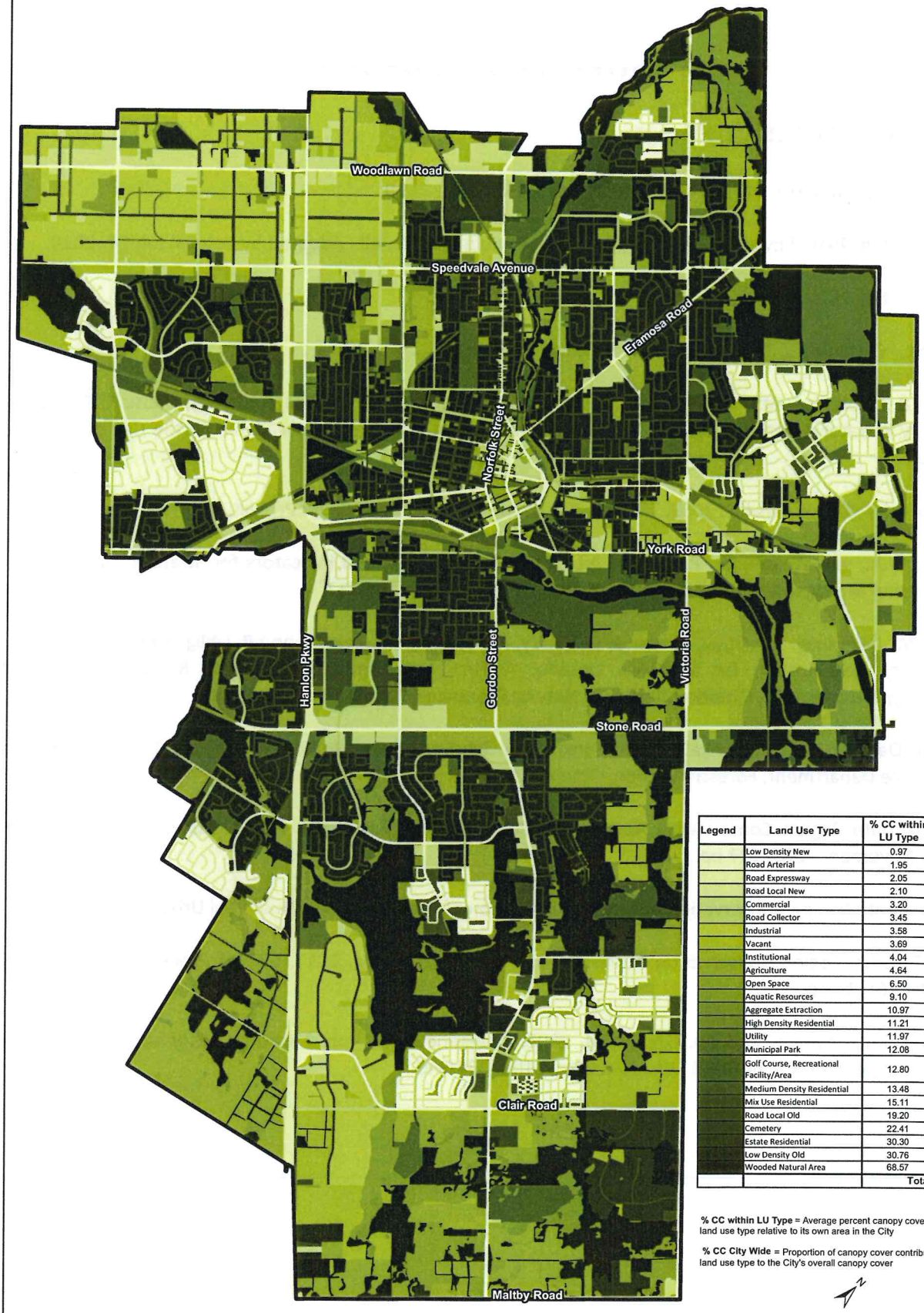


Legend	Land Use Type	% CC within LU Type	% CC city wide
	Low Density New	0.97	0.04
	Road Arterial	1.95	0.08
	Road Expressway	2.05	0.02
	Road Local New	2.10	0.03
	Commercial	3.20	0.12
	Road Collector	3.45	0.06
	Industrial	3.58	0.27
	Vacant	3.69	0.21
	Institutional	4.04	0.29
	Agriculture	4.64	0.23
	Open Space	6.50	0.44
	Aquatic Resources	9.10	0.19
	Aggregate Extraction	10.97	0.01
	High Density Residential	11.21	0.14
	Utility	11.97	0.31
	Municipal Park	12.08	0.33
	Golf Course, Recreational Facility/Area	12.80	0.26
	Medium Density Residential	13.48	0.30
	Mix Use Residential	15.11	0.06
	Road Local Old	19.20	1.05
	Cemetery	22.41	0.08
	Estate Residential	30.30	0.45
	Low Density Old	30.76	4.65
	Wooded Natural Area	68.57	10.13
		Total	19.75

% CC within LU Type = Average percent canopy cover within each land use type relative to its own area in the City

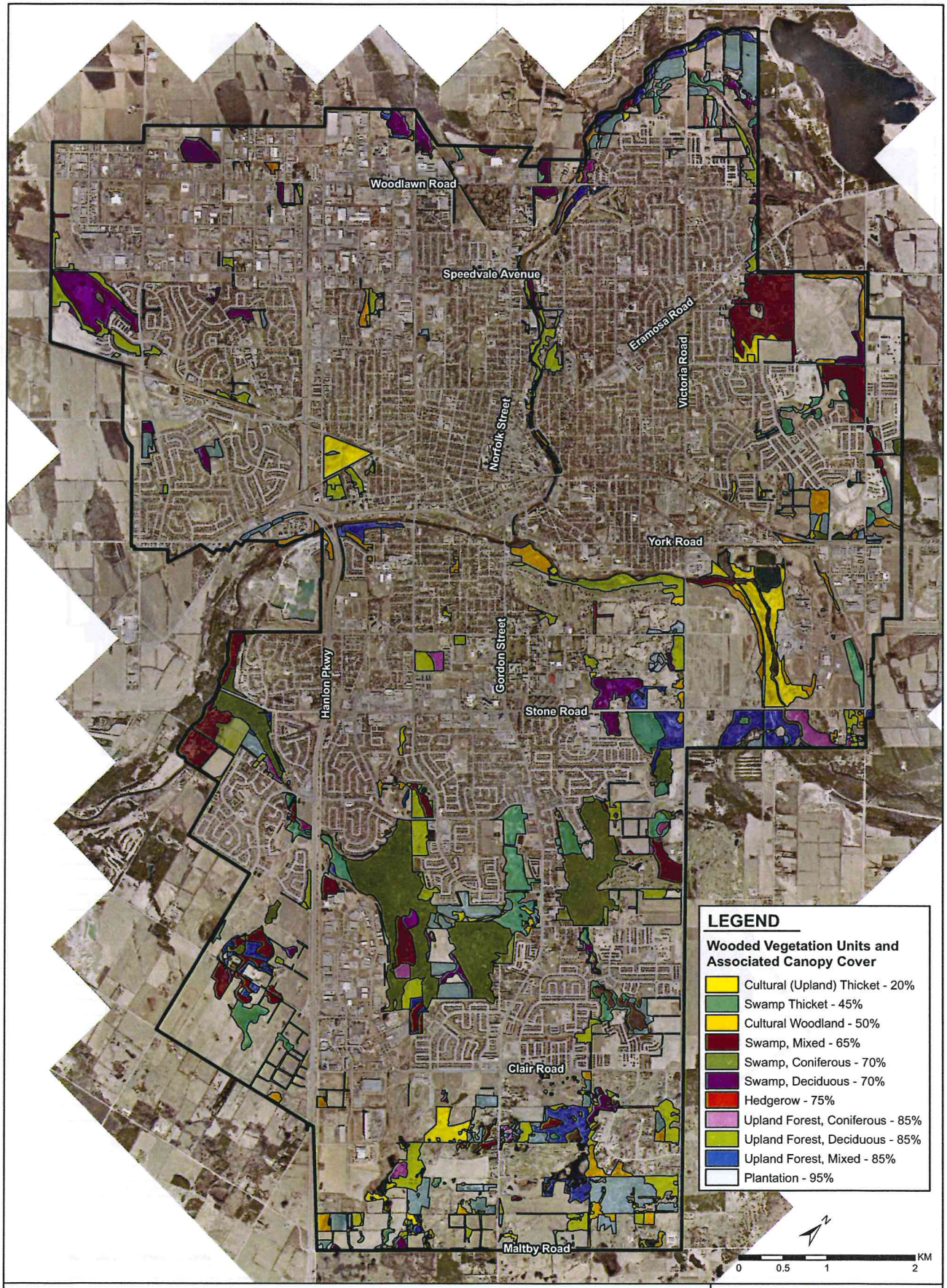
% CC City Wide = Proportion of canopy cover contributed by each land use type to the City's overall canopy cover

0 0.5 1 2 KM

CITY OF GUELPH
CANOPY COVER STUDY
Canopy Cover Percent by Land Use (LU) Type

Scale	1 : 40,000
Drawn	JD
Checked	MU, PVW
Date	September 2011

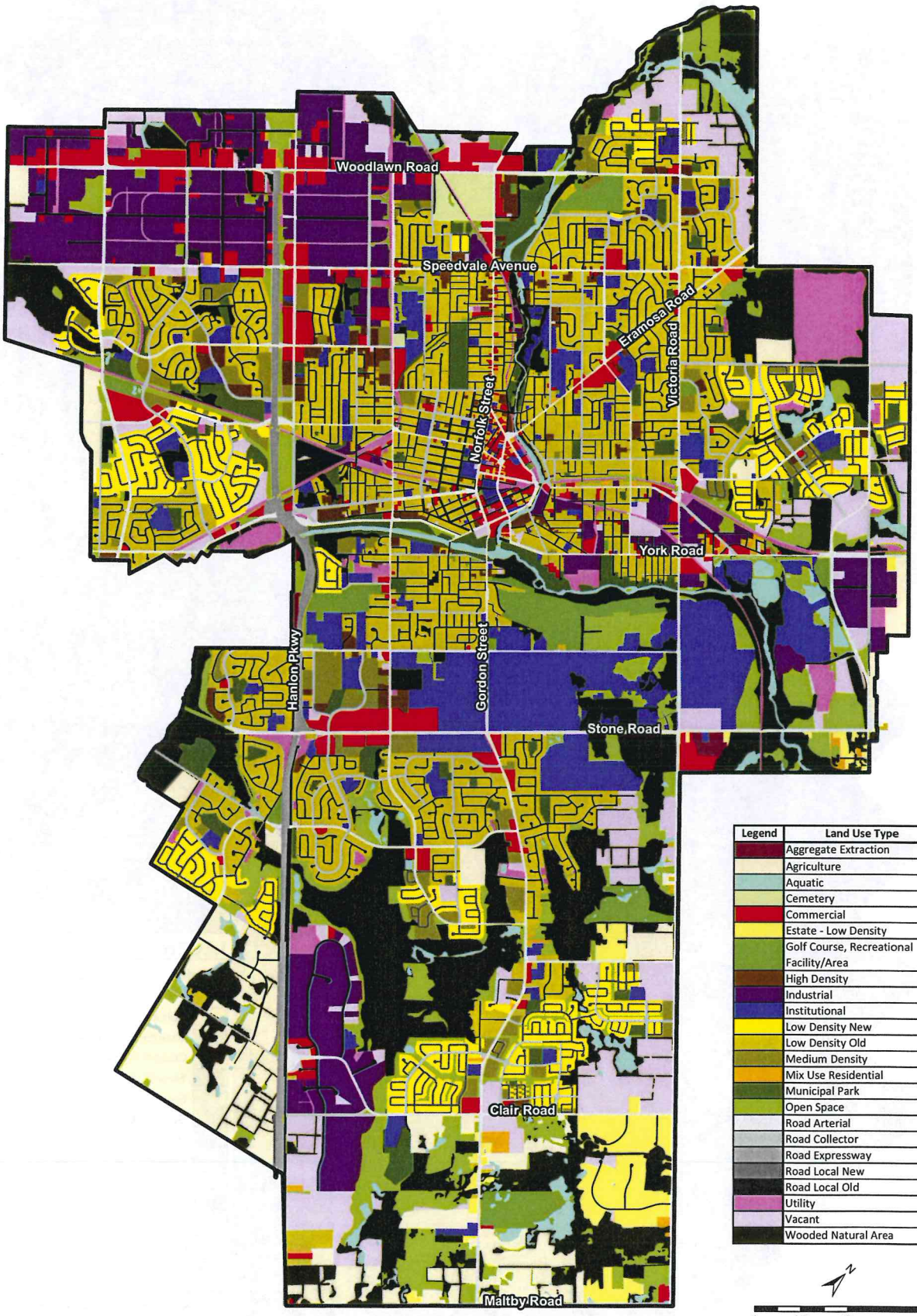
Sheet No. 1



CITY OF GUELPH
CANOPY COVER STUDY
Ecological Land Classification - Wooded Natural Areas

Scale	1 : 40,000
Drawn	JJJ
Checked	MU, PVW
Date	September 2011

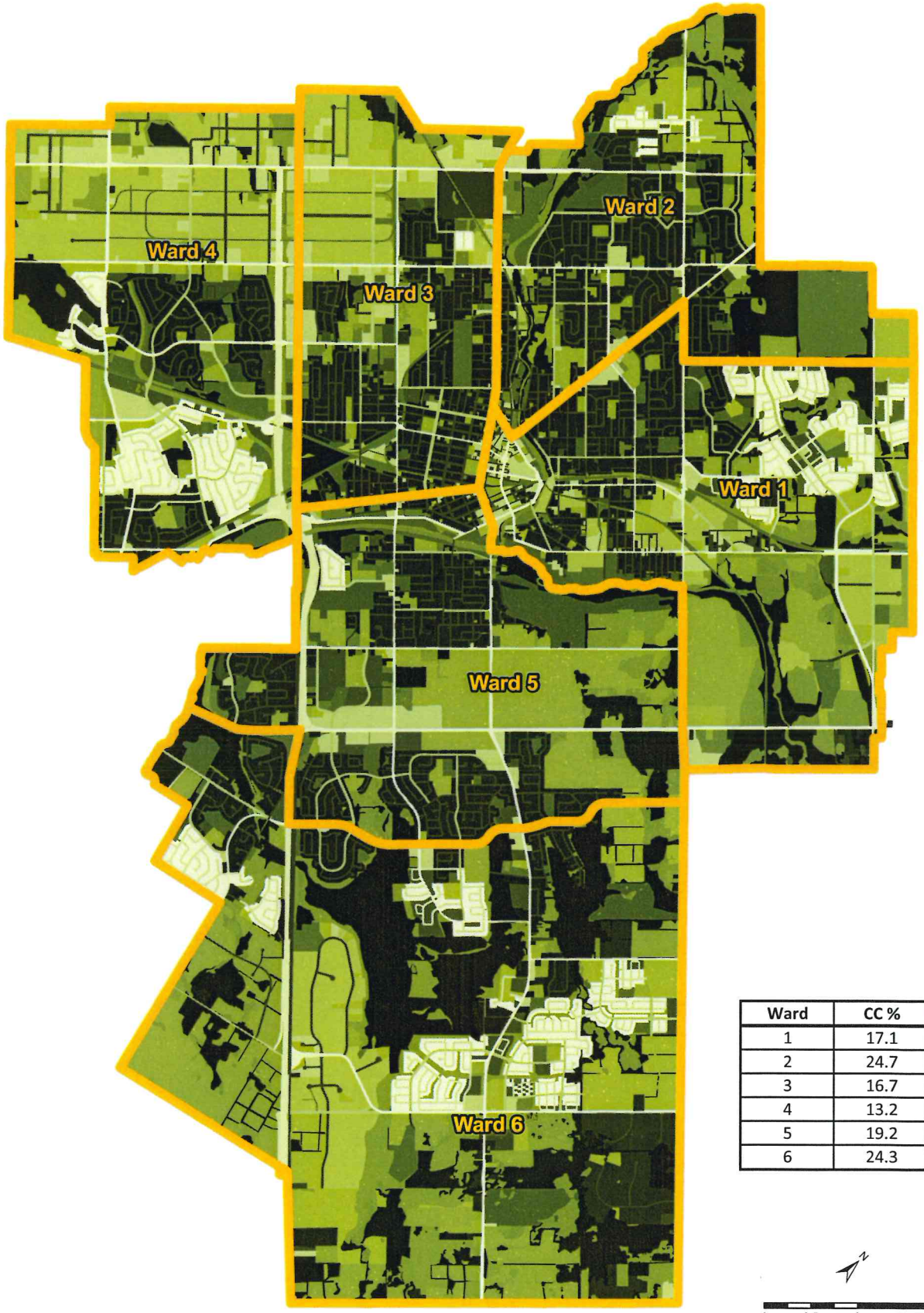
Sheet No. 2



CITY OF GUELPH
CANOPY COVER STUDY
Land Use Types

Scale	1 : 40,000
Drawn	JD
Checked	MU, PVW
Date	September 2011

Sheet No. 3



Ward	CC %
1	17.1
2	24.7
3	16.7
4	13.2
5	19.2
6	24.3

1 0.5 0 1 KM

CITY OF GUELPH
CANOPY COVER STUDY
Canopy Cover Percent by City Ward

Scale	1 : 40,000
Drawn	JD
Checked	MU, PVW
Date	September 2011

Sheet No. 4

Notice of Poll – OGRA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors adopted the recommendations of the OGRA Nominating Committee. The recommended slate is as follows:

Northern Zone (2 to be elected)	
Rick Champagne, Councillor Township of East Ferris	John MacEachern, Mayor Township of Manitouwadge
Southwest Zone (2 to be elected)	
Tom Bateman, County Engineer County of Essex	John Parsons, Division Manager, Transportation & Roadside Operations City of London
South Central Zone (3 to be elected)	
Damian Albanese, Director, Transportation Division Regional Municipality of Peel	Ken Lauppé, Manager, Road Operations City of Brampton
Duncan McKinlay, Deputy Mayor, Town of The Blue Mountains & Warden, County of Grey	
Southeast Zone (3 to be elected)	
Craig Davidson, CAO/Clerk-Treasurer Municipality of Hasting Highlands	Steve Desroches, Deputy Mayor City of Ottawa
Michelle Hendry, Director of Public Works City of Kawartha Lakes	
Toronto (2 to be elected)	
Robert Burlie, Manager, Road Operations City of Toronto	Mark Grimes, Councillor City of Toronto

The following current Boards members do not have to be re-elected to the Board and will automatically assume the following positions effective February 29, 2012:

President - Alan Korell, Managing Director/City Engineer, City of North Bay
1st Vice President – Joanne Vanderheyden, Mayor, Township of Strathroy-Caradoc
Immediate Past President – John Curley, Councillor, City of Timmins

The above will serve on the 2012-2013 Board of Directors making a total of 15 on the Board.

The recommended slate of candidates was circulated to the membership on November 21, 2011 requesting additional nominations. The following nominations were received by the close of nominations on January 20, 2012:

South Central Zone
Douglas Joyner,
Mayor
Township of West Lincoln

Terry McKay,
Deputy Mayor
Township of Chatsworth

Northern Zone
Al Collette,
Councillor
City of Elliot Lake

All candidates in the Southwest, Southeast and City of Toronto Zones will be declared elected to the Board at the annual conference.

A poll to elect the Board representatives from the **South Central and Northern Zones** will be held on

Tuesday, February 28, 2012
Fairmount Royal York Hotel,
Salon "A" – Convention Floor

The candidates for the South Central Zone are: (3 to be elected)

Damian Albanese, Director, Transportation Division, Regional Municipality of Peel
Douglas Joyner, Mayor, Township of West Lincoln
Ken Lauppé, Manager, Road Operations, City of Brampton
Terry McKay, Deputy Mayor, Township of Chatsworth
Duncan McKinlay, Deputy Mayor, Town of The Blue Mountains & Warden, County of Grey

The candidates for the Northern Zone are: (2 to be elected)

Rick Champagne, Councillor, Township of East Ferris
John MacEachern, Mayor, Township of Manitouwadge
Al Collette, Councillor, City of Elliot Lake

The polls will open from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and any delegate from a member municipality or member First Nations may vote by presenting their name badge to the polling staff.

J. W. Tiernay
Executive Director