

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending May 15, 2015

REPORTS

1. 2015 Tax Capping
2. Follow-up to Smoke-Free Outdoor Spaces Report

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Haldimand County Council re: Municipal Levy Appointments
2. Municipality of Trent Lakes City Council re: Demonstrated Need for Aggregates
3. GTA West re: Information Regarding Community Workshop #2 for the GTA West Transportation Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study, Stage 2
4. Guelph Police Services re: Civic Leader Input for the Guelph Police Services Business Plan
5. GRCA - *The Current* – May 2015
6. Waterloo Wellington Caregiver Recognition Awards Nomination Form

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. None

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. Liquor License Application – Sip Club, 91 Wyndham St. N. Guelph, ON. N1G 4E9

INFORMATION REPORT



TO City Council

SERVICE AREA Corporate Services, Finance

DATE May 12, 2015

SUBJECT 2015 Tax Capping

REPORT NUMBER CS-2015-37

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF REPORT

To provide details to Council related to the results of the 2015 tax capping parameters passed at the April 27, 2015 Council meeting; and to provide context to the by-law to be executed at the May 25, 2015 Council meeting.

KEY FINDINGS

Council must adopt the capping parameters to be used for the multi-residential, commercial and industrial property classes as mandated by the province.

Current Value Assessment (CVA) multiplied by the tax rate is CVA Tax. CVA Tax is the easiest, most equitable and transparent way to explain property tax to commercial and industrial property owners. At a minimum, a mandatory capping of 5% must be applied; additional options have been created allowing Municipalities to move to CVA Tax at a quicker pace. The implementation of all of the capping options to their maximum provides the City with the necessary tools to move these capped classes to CVA taxation faster, which is the objective of reform. Properties in the same class with the same CVA will pay the same tax allowing for greater stability and predictability in the property taxes. Appendix A shows the results of capping between 2014 and 2015.

As in previous years, the overall principle for tax capping policy choices is to both promote and adopt positions that shorten the time frame to achieve full CVA taxation, and to simplify the complexities of the tax system. Fair tax policies form an integral part of the City's Strategic goals.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no financial implication to the City of Guelph related to tax capping. The program is revenue neutral within the broad property tax class.

INFORMATION REPORT



BACKGROUND

On April 27, 2015 Council approved Report CS-2015-23 “2015 Property Tax Policy”. The report outlined the tax capping parameters to be used for 2015 as listed below, and directed staff to prepare the necessary capping by-law.

<u>2015 CAPPING PARAMETERS</u>	MULTI-RES	COMMERCIAL INDUSTRIAL	
ANNUALIZED TAX LIMIT	10.00%	10.00%	10.00%
PRIOR YEAR CVA TAX LIMIT	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
CVA TAX THRESHOLD – INCREASERS	250	250	250
CVA TAX THRESHOLD – DECREASERS	250	250	250
EXCLUDE PROPERTIES PREVIOUSLY AT CVA TAX	Yes	Yes	Yes
EXCLUDE PROPERTIES THAT GO FROM CAPPED TO CLAWED BACK	Yes	Yes	Yes
EXCLUDE PROPERTIES THAT GO FROM CLAWED BACK TO CAPPED	Yes	Yes	Yes

This report summarizes the administrative findings based on these parameters already approved by Council.

REPORT

Mandatory Capping Parameters

Province wide there is a mandatory capping program which was introduced in 1998 to mitigate assessment related property tax changes on multi-residential, commercial and industrial properties. The program softens any change to property taxes from assessment related increases on individual properties in these three broad tax classes, by “capping” tax increases. This is in turn, funded by “clawing back” tax decreases from properties whose assessment has dropped.

Since 1998, the legislation has changed numerous times providing municipalities with additional, optional capping parameters to assist them to move towards Current Value Assessment at a more rapid pace. CVA tax is transparent, equitable and easier to explain to business owners.

INFORMATION REPORT



As in previous years, the implementation of all of the approved capping options to their maximum continues to provide the City with the necessary tools to move these capped properties closer to CVA taxation, which is the objective of reform. It would provide for greater stability and predictability, and is fairer and more equitable to taxpayers. The objective is that properties in the same class with the same CVA will pay the same tax. This allows municipalities the flexibility to eventually end the tax capping program and rely on the assessment phase-in as the sole means of providing tax protection.

Council must pass a by-law indicating the parameters they wish to implement for each taxation year.

Using the tax ratios as set by by-law 19892-2015, and the tax capping parameters as set out in the 2015 Property Tax Policy, the impacts on the affected classes for 2015 are outlined in Appendix A, with the capping options summarized below:

Multi-residential: All 247 properties are at CVA tax.

Commercial: There are currently 1,248 commercial properties. 1,184 of these properties are now being taxed at their full CVA tax. There are 9 properties receiving protection for 2015 down from 12 in 2014. Providing the protection for 2015 are 55 properties down slightly from 58 in 2014. Thus 6 additional properties are billed at CVA tax for 2015 creating a more equitable and transparent tax billing to these properties.

Industrial: There are currently 328 industrial properties within the City of Guelph. 325 properties would be taxed at CVA tax. There would only be one property receiving protection from two other properties. It is estimated that in 2016 all properties in the industrial tax class will be billed at CVA tax.

As in previous years, the overall principle for tax capping policy options is to promote and adopt positions that shorten the time frame to achieve full CVA taxation and that simplify the complexities of the tax system. Fair tax policies form an integral part of the City's Strategic goals.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

Innovation in Local Government

2.3 - Ensure accountability, transparency & engagement

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

N/A

INFORMATION REPORT



FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be no financial implication to the City of Guelph related to tax capping. The program is revenue neutral within the broad property tax class.

COMMUNICATIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

ATT-1 Appendix A: - Comparison of Capping 2104 – 2015

Report Author

James Krauter
Manager of Taxation and Revenue

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janice Sheehy".

Recommended By

Janice Sheehy
GM Finance and City Treasurer
Corporate Services
519-822-1260 Ext. 2289
janice.sheehy@guelph.ca

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Amorosi".

Approved By

Mark Amorosi
Deputy CAO, Corporate Services
519-822-1260 Ext. 2281
mark.amorosi@guelph.ca

Table Four: Results based on different capping options for 2014

	Minimum Capping Options			Recommended Capping Options		
Net Class Impact/Shortfall	\$26,468	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Clawback Percentage	100.0000%	65.0316%	2.3365%	0.0000%	39.6151%	2.5055%
Number of Properties at CVA	121	362	39	249	1166	320
% of Properties at CVA	48.59%	29.17%	12.07%	100.00%	93.96%	99.07%

Appendix A to Report CS-2015-37- May 12, 2015
Comparison of Capping 2014 -2015

<u>Capping and Threshold Parameters Used</u>	<u>2014 Capping</u>			<u>2015 Capping</u>		
	<u>Multi-Res</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Industrial</u>	<u>Multi-Res</u>	<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Industrial</u>
Annualized Tax Limit	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
Prior Year CVA Tax Limit	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
CVA Tax Threshold - Increases	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
CVA Tax Threshold - Decreasers	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
Exclude Properties Previously at CVA Taxes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Exclude Properties that cross CVA Taxes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Total Properties	249	1241	323	247	1248	328
<u>Results from above Parameters</u>						
Number of Properties Capped	0	12	1	0	9	1
% of Properties Capped	0.00%	0.97%	0.31%	0.00%	0.72%	0.30%
\$ Value of Protection	\$0	\$103,249	\$2,326	\$0	\$81,770	\$748
Net Class Impact	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Number of Properties Clawed Back	0	58	3	0	55	2
% of Properties Clawed Back	0.00%	4.67%	0.93%	0.00%	4.41%	0.61%
Clawback Percentage	0.0000%	39.6151%	2.5055%	0.0000%	36.7265%	1.7732%
Number of Properties at CVA	249	1171	319	247	1184	325
% of Properties at CVA	100.00%	94.36%	98.76%	100.00%	94.87%	99.09%

INFORMATION REPORT



TO City Council

SERVICE AREA Public Services – Culture, Tourism and Community Investments

DATE May 15, 2015

SUBJECT Follow-up to Smoke-Free Outdoor Spaces Report

REPORT NUMBER PS-15-27

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide City Council with the outcome of staffs' review of Public Health's report recommending smoke-free outdoor spaces.

KEY FINDINGS

On April 9, 2014, Public Health presented a report to Community and Social Services Committee recommending smoke-free outdoor spaces. The recommendations included that the City develop and implement a by-law to prohibit smoking on all municipally owned properties including parks, playgrounds, sports fields, splash pads and bus shelters, as well as on restaurant patios and 9 metres from doorways to public places and workplaces.

On November 7, 2014, the Ontario government announced changes to the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* (SFOA) which took effect on January 1, 2015. These changes included a smoking ban on most of the places recommended in the Public Health report. As a result, a municipal by-law will not be proposed by staff at this time.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None. When the changes to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act were announced, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, through Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health, advised municipalities that "no smoking" signs would be provided at no cost.

BACKGROUND

The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* (SFOA) is designed to protect the health of all Ontarians by prohibiting smoking in all enclosed workplaces and enclosed public places in Ontario. The SFOA prohibits smoking in workplaces, enclosed public spaces and also in motor vehicles when children under 16 are present. Through the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, the government has taken a strong stance to protect the people of Ontario from second-hand smoke.

INFORMATION REPORT



The *Municipal Act, 2001* empowers municipalities to pass by-laws with respect to the health, safety and well-being of persons, and specifically within s.115 with respect to smoking. The *Municipal Act* provides that a municipality may prohibit or regulate the smoking of tobacco in public places and workplaces. In considering a by-law under this authority, municipalities may define “public place” for the purpose of the by-law. However, the provisions of the *Municipal Act* do not permit the municipality to prohibit smoking on highways, which includes a common and public highway, street or avenue and includes the area between the lateral property lines thereof. Public sidewalks are included within the definition of “highway”. In other words, municipalities do not have the authority to implement a by-law that would prohibit smoking on public sidewalks.

REPORT

On April 9, 2014, Community and Social Services Committee received a report from Public Health, with the companion staff report (CSS-PR-1414), on smoke-free outdoor spaces. The Public Health report explained that, according to health authorities, there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke (SHS), even outdoors. Long term exposure could have serious negative health consequences, including cancer, heart disease and premature death.

In the summer of 2013, Public Health conducted a community survey to gauge the level of support for smoke-free outdoor spaces. Survey participants included both smokers and non-smokers. Based on survey findings and health research, the Public Health report made several recommendations. The recommendations included that the City develop and implement a by-law to prohibit smoking on all municipally owned properties including parks, playgrounds, sports fields, splash pads and bus shelters, as well as on restaurant patios and 9 metres from doorways to public places and workplaces.

On November 7, 2014, the Ontario government announced changes to the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* (SFOA). Effective January 1, 2015, it is illegal to:

- smoke on bar and restaurant patios
- smoke on playgrounds and public sports fields and surfaces
- sell tobacco on university and college campuses.

Specifically, smoking is prohibited on and around playgrounds and public sport fields and surfaces which includes areas for basketball, baseball, soccer or beach volleyball, ice rinks, tennis courts, splash pads and swimming pools that are owned by a municipality, the province or a post-secondary education institution. The prohibition includes sport fields, sport surfaces, spectator areas around sport fields and 20 metres surrounding these locations. As a result, special events which take place on sports fields or near splash pads must now be smoke-free. This requirement may impact events at certain City locations, including Riverside Park and Market Square.

INFORMATION REPORT



Enforcement of the SFOA is done by Public Health's Tobacco Enforcement Officers, not City By-law Officers. Guelph Police Services also has authority to enforce the SFOA.

These changes to the SFOA address most of the sites for which Public Health recommended a smoking ban by-law. As a result, a municipal by-law will not be proposed by staff at this time.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

Innovation in Local Government

2.3 Ensure accountability, transparency and engagement

City Building

3.1 Ensure a well-designed, safe, inclusive, appealing and sustainable City

3.3 Strengthen citizen and stakeholder engagement and communications

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

Consultation was conducted with representatives from Parks, Corporate Building Maintenance, Legal Services, By-law, Human Resources, Culture & Recreation, Public Health and Community Engagement & Social Services.

COMMUNICATIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

Report Author

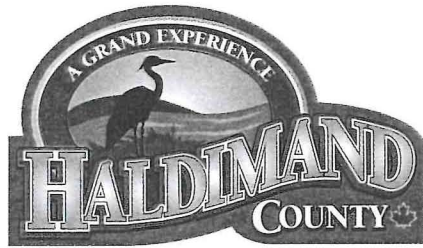
Karen Kawakami
Social Services Policy and Program Liaison
Public Services

Approved By

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RECEIVED
MAY - 8 2015
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Jane Mitchell, Chair
Grand River Conservation Authority
400 Clyde Road, PO Box 729
Cambridge, Ontario N1R 5W6

April 28, 2015

RE: Municipal Levy Apportionments

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

On behalf of Haldimand County Council, I am writing to you with regard to the City of Hamilton's Motion (dated March 11, 2015) entitled "Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's Levy Apportionment".

Below is some information in response to the City of Hamilton motion (in part):

WHEREAS, since 2004, the Conservation Authorities of Hamilton, Halton, Grand River and Niagara Peninsula and their respective participating municipalities have operated under an agreed upon levy apportionment;

Please be advised that no Haldimand County Council, (past or present) has agreed to a municipal levy as per Section 2.(1)(a) of Ontario Regulation 670/00. We also state that Haldimand County has never been presented with, nor signed an agreement outlining any alternative apportionment formula other than what is stipulated in Section 2.(1)(a) of Ontario Regulation 670/00. Until such time as any agreement is presented in a fully transparent manner, Haldimand expects the levy apportionment methodology is consistent with the legislation.

Haldimand County would be agreeable to participate in any discussions focused on achieving a fair and equitable agreement to the satisfaction of all participating municipalities.

Sincerely,

Ken Hewitt
Mayor, Haldimand County

CC: City of Hamilton
County of Dufferin
County of Grey
County of Wellington
City of Guelph
Regional Municipality of Halton
County of Perth
Regional Municipality of Waterloo
County of Oxford
County of Brant
City of Brantford
Norfolk County



Municipality of Trent Lakes

Box 820, 701 County Road 36

Bobcaygeon, ON K0M 1A0

Phone: (705)738-3800 Fax: (705)738-3801

May 12, 2015

All Municipalities
In the Province of Ontario

Dear Municipal Representative:

Re: Demonstrated Need for Aggregates

At the Regular Council Meeting held on May 5, 2015 the Council of the Municipality of Trent Lakes passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. **R2015-279**

Moved by: Councillor Raymond
Seconded by: Councillor Persson

WHEREAS a primary concern for the Municipality of Trent Lakes is that due to our close proximity to the Greater Toronto Area there will be an increase in the demand for aggregates from this area resulting in an increase in the number and size of quarries in the Municipality; and

WHEREAS it is widely acknowledged that extracting aggregates from the landscape is an intrusive activity that has the potential to cause long-term impacts on publicly important environmental resources and farmland; increases in traffic, road damage and greenhouse gas emissions; and degrades the quality of life in local communities; and

WHEREAS in 2005 the Provincial Policy Statement was amended to allow aggregate producers to propose extraction sites without having to demonstrate the need for the additional supply of aggregate resources, thereby creating a barrier to comprehensive planning and favouring the protection of aggregate extraction at the expense of other provincial interests, and as a result encouraging the rapid and non-sustainable use of the resource; and

WHEREAS applications for licences under the current Aggregate Resources Act do not require proponents to demonstrate need to extract aggregate resources in a particular area;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Trent Lakes request that the Ontario Government amend the Provincial Policy Statement and the Aggregate Resources Act to require aggregate extraction proponents to demonstrate need for the particular supply of resource proposed for extraction; and further

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Ted McMeekin, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Provincial Opposition Party leaders, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, Barry Devolin, MP, Laurie Scott, MPP, FCM and AMO; and further

THAT through the circulation of this resolution to all municipalities in Ontario it be requested that they adopt a similar resolution in support of the requested changes to the Provincial Policy Statement and the Aggregate Resources Act.

Carried.

As per the resolution, it is requested that all municipalities in Ontario adopt a similar resolution in support of the requested changes to the Provincial Policy Statement and the Aggregate Resources Act.

Sincerely

Bob Angione

Bob Angione, M.P.A., B.Admin.
Municipal Clerk

RECEIVED
MAY 14 2015

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

May 11, 2015

Stephen O'Brien, Clerk
City of Guelph, City Clerk's Office
1 Carden Street, City Hall
Guelph, ON N1H 3A1

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

RE: Information Regarding Community Workshop #2 for the GTA West Transportation Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study, Stage 2

The second round of Community Workshops has been scheduled for this June. As with the last round of community workshops in June 2014, these workshops will be interactive in nature, and it is important that the attendance be kept to a manageable size. The team will be providing similar project information and providing similar opportunities for input during the municipal, regulatory agency and community advisory group meetings that are scheduled for May 2015. As such, **this letter is for information purposes only.**

The focus of this workshop is to update the community on work completed since Public Information Centre #1 including refinements to route alternatives, interchange locations, and the Focused Analysis Area. The project team will also be seeking input from the community on: issues and trade-offs associated with the route alternatives and potential interchange locations, and the route selection evaluation approach. While much of the material will be similar at each venue, **each night will focus on a different geographic section (refer to the attached map) of the GTA West study area as indicated below.** We welcome input on any part of the study area each night, so if you are informing members of your community of the events, you can note that it is only necessary to attend one of the workshops.

June 18, 2015 6:30 – 9:00 PM <i>Venetian Salon</i> Château Le Jardin 8440 Highway 27 Woodbridge, ON Focus on the East Section of the GTA West Study Area	June 22, 2015 6:30 – 9:00 PM <i>Alcott Arena Floor</i> Mold Masters SportsPlex 221 Guelph Street Georgetown, ON Focus on the West Section of the GTA West Study Area	June 25, 2015 6:30 – 9:00 PM <i>Peel Junior Farmers Hall</i> Brampton Fairgrounds 12942 Heart Lake Road Caledon, ON Focus on the Central Section of the GTA West Study Area
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If any members of your community are interested in attending one of the workshops listed above, we ask that you please urge them to contact the project team through one of the options below by **June 5, 2015 to indicate their preference:**

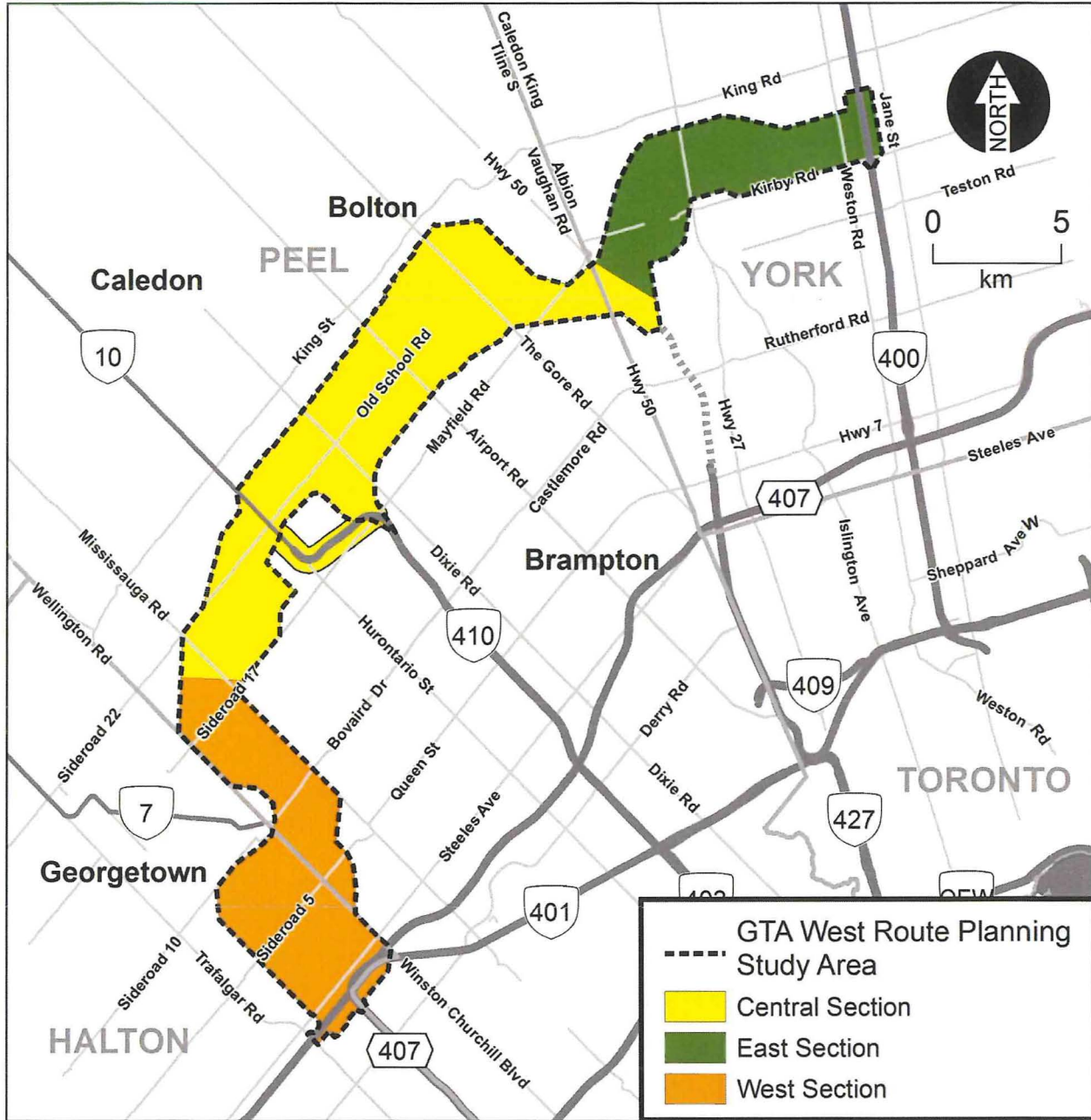
- Telephone: 905-882-4401 ext. 1765 (Melissa Raffoul); OR
- Toll-Free Telephone Line: 1-877-522-6916.

Please note that confirmation of attendance is necessary to ensure adequate accommodations at the venue. It will not be possible to accommodate those who do not RSVP in advance.

Sincerely,



Mr. Patrick Puccini, P. Eng.
GTA West Project Team Member
AECOM
1-877-522-6916
project_team@gta-west.com



Invite

GUELPH POLICE SERVICE SOLICITS CIVIC LEADER INPUT INTO ITS NEXT BUSINESS PLAN

The Guelph Police Services Board and the Police Service will be hosting several community town hall sessions to seek input into its next business plan (for the years 2016-2018). We want to know what you believe are Guelph's policing priorities, how you think we are doing, and what questions or concerns you believe can assist us with moving forward with our policing priorities and strategies. The Board invites our **Civic leaders**, along with our community groups, and community partners to attend one of the three sessions to share your thoughts. The town halls will be held on the following dates;

- **Ward 1 & 2 May 21st, 2015** at Brant Ave, School - 64 Brant Ave, Guelph. 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- **Ward 5 & 6 May 26th, 2015** at Salvation Army Citadel- 1320 Gordon St, Guelph, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- **Ward 3 & 4 June 2nd, 2015** at the Shelldale Center - 20 Shelldale Crescent, Guelph 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

This is an excellent opportunity for you to assist us and your Wards in establishing a strategic direction and setting priorities and goals that our Service would like to accomplish during the next three years.

GRCA General Membership

Chair Jane Mitchell

Vice-Chair Vic Prendergast

Townships of Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Melancthon and Southgate and Town of Grand Valley
Guy Gardhouse

Townships of Mapleton and Wellington North Pat Salter

Township of Centre Wellington
Kelly Linton

Town of Erin, Townships of Guelph/Eramosa and Puslinch
Chris White

City of Guelph
Bob Bell, Mike Salisbury

Region of Waterloo
Les Armstrong, Sue Foxton,
Helen Jowett, Geoff Lorentz,
Jane Mitchell, Joe Nowak,
Wayne Roth, Sandy Shantz,
Warren Stauch, Wayne Wettlaufer

Municipality of North Perth and Township of Perth East
George Wicke

Halton Region Cindy Lunau

City of Hamilton Jeanette Jamieson

Oxford County Bruce Banbury

County of Brant
Brian Coleman, Shirley Simons

City of Brantford
Vic Prendergast

Haldimand and Norfolk Counties
Bernie Corbett, Fred Morison

Successful Brant Park burn

Perfect weather led to a very successful prescribed burn on six hectares of mature tallgrass prairie habitat at Brant Park April 12.

Burns are held periodically to create or improve tallgrass prairie habitat at specific locations on GRCA land. Tallgrass prairies require occasional fires to remove non-native invasive plants and woody plants and help germinate native prairie seeds.

The GRCA hires an experienced contractor to develop and carry out these burns. This will help bring back native species such as little bluestem, Indian prairie grass, green milkweed, round-headed

bushclover and wild bergamot, as well as provide habitat for native wildlife.

Burns require very specific conditions and must be carried out during early April when the weather is dry. Burns have taken place at Brant Park in 2006, 2008 and 2010.

Osprey cam operating

A new webcam is giving watershed residents a bird's eye view of an osprey family living near the gatehouse at Belwood Lake Park.

The nest has been occupied by osprey for several years. A breeding pair arrived back at the Belwood nest on April 8, when the camera had already been put in place.

The live feed was set up on April 25 and at that time, the osprey were sitting on the nest which had two eggs. The camera is now operational and there are three eggs in the nest. The live feed can be viewed at www.grandriver.ca/osprey.

This webcam is a special project that helps people connect with nature, and it generated a lot of interest when it was announced on social media even before the camera went live. Donations were solicited for the set-up cost.

Osprey numbers declined between 1940 and 1970 as a result of eggshell thinning and egg mortality which has been linked to DDT and other

compounds used in pesticides. After DDT was banned in 1972, osprey have come back.

Based on the dates the eggs appeared, they should hatch sometime close to June 2.

Water Festivals

The Grand River Conservation Authority is a proud partner in three children's water festivals that all take place this month and all are celebrating significant anniversaries this year.

The Waterloo Wellington Children's Groundwater Festival (May 25 to 29) turns 20 and was among the first in Ontario. Over the past 20 years, this festival has educated 80,000 Grade 2 to 5 students at Doon Heritage Village and the Waterloo Region Museum in Kitchener. Water consumption is well under the Canadian average for both these municipalities, and the festival has helped bring about that change. The Brantford/Brant Children's Water Festival May 12 to 14 turns 10 this year. It is exclusively for Grade 4 students and about 15,000 from Brantford, Brant and Six Nations have attended this event through the years.

The toddler of the trio is the Haldimand Children's Water Festival which took place for the first time last fall at Taquanayah Nature Centre, Cayuga. This year it will held in September for the second time with funding committed for the next three years.

While the GRCA assists with these festivals, funding comes from donors.

Source protection consultation complete

All public consultation meetings for updates to the Grand River Source Protection and the Long Point Region Source Protection Plan are now complete.

Revised plans will be submitted to the Source Protection Authority in June 2015, with submission to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to follow.

The Ministry has confirmed funding for this



program for the 2015/16 fiscal year, with \$572,000 allocated to staffing and \$909,000 allocated to Tier 3 Water Quantity Risk Assessments.

New Guelph agreement

The GRCA and the City of Guelph have negotiated a new updated maintenance agreement for recreational use of GRCA land within the city limits.

The GRCA has 63 different municipal maintenance agreements across the watershed, many of which date back 30 to 50 years. Four previous agreements with the City of Guelph have expired. The new agreement replaces these four agreements. It also clearly outlines the responsibilities of Guelph for maintaining those lands.

Most GRCA lands are passive parkland, but some have become more actively used with sports fields, playgrounds, trails and swimming facilities. The GRCA owns some land along the rivers and Hanlon Creek Conservation Area within Guelph.

Over the next five years, the GRCA and Guelph will work together to evaluate all the lands and related water infrastructure and determine if the GRCA or the City are the appropriate landowners.

The GRCA owns 19,400 hectares within the watershed, including urban parkland. Many of these land parcels were acquired for flood control purposes or were purchased by the GRCA at the request of the municipality with provincial grants for land acquisition that are no longer available.

Normal weather in April

Precipitation was close to or above average for April, allowing the GRCA to fill the reservoirs to seasonal levels.

Temperatures were 5.8 degrees, which is very close to the long-term average. Daytime highs were above freezing and reached 20 degrees C April 13, however it snowed April 23.

Higher stream flows helped bring the reservoir levels back to their normal operating range. All of the large reservoirs have met the filling target level for April 1 and are on target for May 1.

Lake Erie was slightly below the long-term average at the end of the month. Ice cover on the lake gradually melted throughout the



Photo by Kevin Tupman

A successful controlled burn took place at Brant Park in April to improve the tallgrass prairie habitat. The burn kills invasive plants and gives a boost to native vegetation. This area of the park has been burned in previous years.

month with no ice left at the end of April.

Two watershed conditions statements were issued in April, both for water safety. The first was issued April 2 and warned of rising water levels from precipitation and melting snow. The second on April 9 was based on a forecast of 35 mm of rain. No major flooding occurred during either event.

Foundation turns 50

The Grand River Conservation Foundation dates back 50 years to April 12, 1965, when it received its letters patent from the province.

Over the years it has raised \$11 million for GRCA-related projects and programs. It is gaining momentum, with \$1 million raised in each of the last three years.

As of April, the GRCF has a new logo. The update will help prepare for the next 50 years. The new logo continues themes of water, land and trees, with a new modern twist.



Parks opened May 1

Grand River Parks opened for business May 1 and will close Oct. 15.

The weather on opening weekend was ideal and the camping reservation system is fully functional.

This issue of *GRCA Current* was published in May 2015.

It is a summary of the April 2015 business conducted by the Grand River Conservation Authority board and committees as well as other noteworthy happenings and topics of interest.

The Grand River Conservation Authority welcomes the photocopying, forwarding and distribution of *GRCA Current*.

Next board meeting:

May 22 at 9:30 a.m.,
GRCA Administration Centre.

Subscribe to GRCA Current:

GRCAcurrent-subscribe@grandriver.ca

Meeting reports

www.grandriver.ca/MeetingReports

Coming events:

www.grandriver.ca/Calendar

Grand Actions newsletter:

www.grandriver.ca/GrandActions



Waterloo Wellington Caregiver Recognition Awards



The neighbour who shovels your driveway. The personal support worker who makes you laugh, even in tough times. The family member who provides loving care 24/7. The care coordinator who takes time to listen and share. The volunteer who delivers smiles along with the meals. These are just a few of the people who go above and beyond to provide care at home and in our community. They are unsung and often unseen heroes.

The Waterloo Wellington Heroes in the Home program is an opportunity to recognize the special people who care for you or your loved ones.

It's simple, here's how it works:

- Anyone can make a nomination (see the next page for the form). Tell us why you think your nominee is special.
- Nominees will be recognized (provided the nomination is received by the deadline, July 15, 2015).
- Your nominee and a guest will be invited to one of two events:

Wednesday, September 23rd from 3:00pm to 5:00pm
Concordia Club, 429 Ottawa Street South, Kitchener

or

Wednesday, October 7th from 3:00pm to 5:00pm
Cutten Fields, 190 College Street East, Guelph

- During the event, your nominee will receive a special certificate and Heroes in the Home pin.



NOMINATION FORM

NOMINATION DEADLINE: JULY 15, 2015

Email: events@ww.ccac-ont.ca | Fax: 519 823 8682
c/o Heroes in the Home, 450 Speedvale Ave., W., Suite 201,
Guelph N1H 7G7

Who can be nominated? Anyone who provides care and support at home or in the community, such as:

- Family member
- Support worker
- Therapist
- Friend
- Care coordinator
- Physician
- Community volunteer
- Nurse

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY IF HANDWRITING/MAILING YOUR NOMINATION

THE HEROES IN THE HOME AWARD GOES TO...

CAREGIVER _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

TELEPHONE (DAY) _____ (EVENING) _____

The caregiver has consented to receive this recognition and has given permission for his/her story, including photos and/or video, to be shared publicly.

NOMINATED BY...

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

TELEPHONE (DAY) _____ (EVENING) _____

NAME OF THE PERSON(S) BEING CARED FOR... (if different from the person nominating)

FIRST & LAST NAME _____

WHY DO YOU THINK YOUR NOMINEE IS A HERO IN THE HOME?

Describe him or her using up to 150 words.

Your story will be the basis of what is read at the ceremony.

Please indicate which location is most convenient for the person who is nominated:

**Kitchener on
September 23**

**Guelph on
October 7**