

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending July 10, 2015

REPORTS

1. None

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Town of Aurora re: Bill 73, *Smart Growth for our Communities Act, 2015*
2. Town of New Tecumseth re: Electricity Rates
3. GRCA Current, July 2015

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

1. None

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. None



You're in Good Company

June 9, 2015

Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, P.O. Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1
mayor@aurora.ca
www.aurora.ca

The Honourable Chris Ballard
Newmarket/Aurora Member of Provincial Parliament

DELIVERED BY E-MAIL

RE: Bill 73: Proposed *Smart Growth for our Communities Act, 2015*

Dear MPP Chris Ballard,

Further to the comments submitted by Aurora's Planning and Development Services department to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding Bill 73, the proposed *Smart Growth for our Communities Act, 2015*, we, the undersigned members of Aurora Town Council are writing to express support for the provisions in Bill 73 that would give municipal councils more power and responsibility in planning decisions, and request those provisions be enacted as soon as possible.

Attached below for your reference is the approved motion from Aurora Town Council, passed on May 26:

THAT Planning and Development Services be authorized to send comments to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing prior to their June 3, 2015, deadline; and

THAT, in addition to supporting the staff comments identified in Report No. PL15-042, Council endorses restoring more decision-making authority for municipalities on local planning matters, and limiting the influence of the Ontario Municipal Board, essentially granting municipalities more powers to manage the demands caused by growth and intensification; and

THAT a letter signed by Members of Council be sent to Newmarket-Aurora MPP Chris Ballard and all other Members of Provincial Parliament, and to the leaders of the Ontario Liberal Party, the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, and the Ontario New Democratic Party, expressing support for the provisions in Bill 73 that would give municipal councils more power and responsibility in planning decisions, and requesting that those provisions be enacted as soon as possible; and

THAT a copy of the letter also be sent to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Regional Municipality of York, all municipalities within York Region, all municipalities within the Greenbelt (Golden Horseshoe) area, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Yours sincerely,

Mayor Geoffrey Dawe

Councillor Michael Thompson

Councillor Harold Kim

Councillor John Abel

Councillor Jeff Thom

Councillor Tom Makas

Councillor Sandra Humphries

Councillor Wendy Gaertner

Councillor Paul Pirri

Cc: All Members of Provincial Parliament
Leaders of the Ontario PC Party, Liberal Party, NDP Party
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Regional Municipality of York
All Municipalities within York Region & the Greenbelt (Golden Horseshoe) Area
AMO

CLERKS/ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

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Alliston, Ontario

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Email: cmaher@newtecumseth.ca

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Fax: (705) 435-2873

June 26, 2015

The Honourable Premier Wynne
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

RECEIVED

JUL 06 2015

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

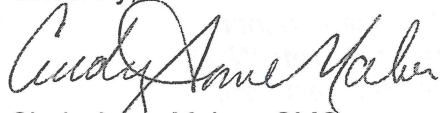
Dear Premier Wynne:

RE: MOTION – ELECTRICITY RATES

This is to advise that at the Council meeting held on Monday, June 22, 2015, that a motion to endorse the resolution of North Stormont was ratified (as attached), and staff were directed to forward a letter in support of Council's position to the Premier, the Ministers of Finance, Economic Development, Tourism, Energy, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, all Ontario Municipal and Regional Councils, and MPP Jim Wilson.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Cindy Anne Maher, CMO
Clerk/Director of Administration Services

Copy: Premier Kathleen Wynne
Minister of Finance Charles Sousa
Minister of Energy Bob Chiarelli
Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure Brad Duguid
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport Michael Coteau
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Jeff Leal
MPP Jim Wilson
All Municipal Councils
All Regional Councils

Electricity Rates
Adopted by Town of New Tecumseth Council
June 22, 2015

2015-175

Moved by Councillor Jebb
Seconded by Councillor Whiteside

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the verbal report of Councillor Jebb be received;

AND FURTHER THAT the following resolution, as introduced by Councillor Jebb be adopted;

WHEREAS the cost of electricity for Ontario manufacturers averages 10 cents a kWh and is less than 7.5 cents in the USA and under 7 cents a kWh in New York, Illinois, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina and Indiana, and under 6 cents a kWh in Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the cost of electricity for farms averages 18 cents a kWh in Ontario and less than half that in Quebec, Manitoba, and Ohio and many competing US states;

AND WHEREAS the high cost of power contributes to low investment in Ontario manufacturing, increased unemployment, reduced home markets for Ontario farm products and difficulties for young people starting and sustaining their working lives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of New Tecumseth endorse the resolution of North Stormont and ask the Government of Ontario to examine the proposal for Farm and Industrial Electricity Rates made by the Canadian Cement Association, Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Ontario Construction Secretariat, Canadian Foundry Association, Canadian Plastics Industry Association, Quinte West Manufacturers' Association and Northumberland Manufacturers' Association and enact that proposal, or a reasonable modification of it, with a view to returning competitive electricity rates to Ontario farms, industry and all hydro users, to renew a key part of the foundations for business and employment opportunity in Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to all municipal and regional councils in Ontario requesting that they endorse and support this resolution and communicate their support to the Premier, and her Ministers of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Energy, Agriculture and Rural Affairs and MPP Jim Wilson.
CARRIED

GRCA Current



July 2015 • Volume 20 Number 6

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

Municipality of North Perth and Township of Perth East
George Wicke

Halton Region Cindy Lunau

City of Hamilton George Stojanovic

Oxford County Bruce Banbury

County of Brant
Brian Coleman, Shirley Simons

City of Brantford
Dave Neumann, Vic Prendergast

Haldimand and Norfolk Counties
Bernie Corbett, Fred Morison

Funds sought through Canada 150 program

The GRCA has submitted a request for funding for three projects through the Canada 150 Infrastructure Program that was announced by the federal government in May.

The projects would see an elevator added to Apps' Mill Nature Centre, near Brantford, as well as several other improvements to provide easier access for those with mobility challenges. The total cost of these is about \$424,000.

Renovations to the 61-year-old Kay Marston Pavilion at Elora Gorge Park would strengthen the structure, upgrade the kitchen and improve accessibility in the washrooms. This project would cost about \$167,000.

Rehabilitation of the FWR Dickson Nature Trail and boardwalk near Cambridge is the third project that was submitted. The boardwalk would be replaced, the trail network re-established and sections of trail would be restored to provide greater access to more people. This project is estimated to cost \$187,000.

Federal funding through this infrastructure program could cover one-third of the Apps' Mill upgrades and half the cost of improvements to the Kay Marston Pavilion and the FWR Dickson trail. The GRCA and Grand River Conservation Foundation would contribute the remaining funds.

Very wet June

June was a very wet month throughout the watershed.

Rainfall at Conestogo and Guelph dams was more than twice the average rainfall during the month. This resulted from local thunderstorms and watershed-wide rainfall events.

The Low Water Response Team met June 3 and declared a Level 1 condition based on below average precipitation in March, April and May. But by June 17, this condition was removed due to heavy rainfall.

Water levels in the large reservoirs (Shand, Con-

estogo, Luther and Guelph) were in the normal operating range by the end of the month, however high rainfall resulted in numerous reservoir operations to manage these water levels.

The GRCA issued Watershed Safety Statements on June 9, 12 and 26. No major flooding occurred, but high reservoir discharges resulted in flooding of some low-lying areas. Water levels in Lake Erie were also high during the month.

June saw a return to temperatures slightly below the long-term average after above seasonal temperatures in May.

Plans underway for multi-use Grand River trail

The GRCA is among many organizations interested in a multi-use Grand River trail that would incorporate other trails within the watershed.

Two meetings included representatives of local municipalities, tourism organizations and operators, GRCA, local hiking groups and members of the public.

A small steering committee has been formed to develop the trail concept and the first meeting took place June 16. The group has noticed increasing interest in inter-regional trails from all levels of government, organizations and the general public.

The GRCA will not lead this project, but will provide some GIS mapping, meeting facilities and limited administrative support. The eventual goal is for a formal association or other organizational structure to manage future development of the trail.

Snyder's Flats Master Plan

A progress update about the future of Snyder's Flats in Waterloo was presented to the board.

GRCA staff is working on an updated Snyder's Flats Master Plan that outlines appropriate use of the area. This includes consideration of an off-leash dog park. The area does not currently have this type of facility, however many local dog own-





On June 26 two young osprey were removed from their nest at Belwood Lake to be banded by master bird bander David Lamble. From left, Lamble puts a band on the leg of one of the young osprey; close up of the banded feet; and a parent watching over the young once they had been returned to the nest. Banding takes place before the nestlings begin to fly and this is expected at the end of July. Check www.grandriver.ca/osprey for more photos and to watch the live osprey cam.

ers have expressed an interest in establishing an off-leash dog park at this location.

Inventories of plant communities through the seasons will be completed by early July and this is an important element of the master plan. The draft master plan will be completed by the fall. This will be followed by public consultation before the plan is finalized and comes into effect.

Research has been undertaken into off-leash dog parks within southern Ontario and the Grand River watershed as part of this process.

Mill Creek Rangers receive \$10,000

Nestlé Waters Canada announced that it has donated \$10,000 to the Friends of Mill Creek Stewardship Rangers program.

The donation helps to support the Friends of Mill Creek in its efforts to undertake fisheries and stream rehabilitation, including stream bank reconstruction, stream bed regrading, tree planting, culvert replacement and farm fencing repair. The work is performed by the Mill Creek Stewardship Rangers, four local high school students and a crew leader hired over an eight-week period each summer. Educational opportunities are combined with practical experience. The Rangers will complete their work on Aug. 21.

Nestlé Waters has donated \$121,350 to the Friends of Mill Creek since 2003. Many

other local companies have also supported this project through the years.

Tourism award for Elora Gorge

Elora Gorge Park was awarded a certificate of excellence by Tripadvisor.

The popular website considers this “a prestigious award that can only be earned through consistently great reviews”.

When the park opened in 1954, it was Ontario's first official conservation area and has grown in popularity due to its spectacular scenery, location and numerous recreational opportunities.

50 Things contest

The GRCA is holding a 50 Awesome Things to Do contest between July 4 and Sept. 8.

Participants in nature programs at the Grand River Parks will have the chance to win a weekend for two glamping at Elora Gorge Park, an eco-birthday party or an annual Grand River Parks pass.

The contest encourages participation in family interpretive programs at Grand River Parks. These programs are led by GRCA nature guides. Park visitors can experience nature-themed activities at seven parks within the central part of the Grand River watershed, including Laurel Creek (Waterloo),

Rockwood, Guelph Lake, Shade's Mills (Cambridge), Pinehurst Lake (near Paris), Brant Park (Brantford) and Elora Gorge.

At each event, people will receive a contest ballot for a chance to win a prize. The more park programs attended, the greater the chance of winning.

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

It is a summary of the June 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 distribution, photocopying and forwarding of *GRCA Current*.

Next board meeting:

July 24 at 9:30 a.m.,
GRCA Administration Centre.

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GRCAcurrent-subscribe@grandriver.ca

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www.grandriver.ca/Calendar

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