

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council Meeting – January 8, 2019

Town of BWG will opt in to allow retail cannabis stores

Town of BWG Council voted to opt in to allow private cannabis retail stores to be located within the municipality. This does not mean that retail stores will be able to set up shop in BWG immediately – the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) has the authority to decide how many and where retail outlets will be permitted; at this time, BWG does not qualify because it does not meet the 50,000 population threshold.

To aid council in making their decision, the Town of BWG conducted an online survey from December 21, 2018 to January 8, 2019.

Survey results showed (rounded to nearest half-percent):

- 64% support or strongly support allowing recreational cannabis retail stores in BWG, while 35% oppose or strongly oppose, and only 1% were undecided.
- 62.5% recommend opting in immediately to be considered as a possible location for retail stores, while 9.5% prefer to opt out for now and potentially reconsider later and 28% would like BWG to opt out permanently.
- Of those who indicated they might purchase recreational cannabis, the most desired method was through legal “brick-and-mortar” retail stores.

Council also directed staff to prepare a report outlining how smoking regulations might be tightened up to limit places where smoking of either tobacco or cannabis (including vaping) is permitted.

BWG Councillor Gary Lamb appointed alternate County Councillor

Council chose Ward 3 Councillor Gary Lamb to be appointed as alternate to serve on County of Simcoe Council. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of each municipality in Simcoe County work together to form County Council. The alternate Councillor may be asked to attend in case either the Mayor or Deputy Mayor is unable to attend a County Council meeting for any reason.

First group of committee members named

The Town of BWG operates several committees over the course of each term of office. Some committees are required by legislation, while others are optional and are struck by council to reflect the needs and priorities of the Town for the four-year term. Optional committees will be selected by council later this month and volunteer opportunities will be advertised on the Town's website, Facebook and via the media.

The Town received a significant number of applications from highly qualified residents, and Council reviewed them carefully before selecting the following members:

Accessibility Advisory Committee (2 council, 5 public) –
James Leduc, Mark Contois, Andrew Belanger, Herbert Madden, Tracy Doncses, Wendy Williams Gordon, Tina Martins-Morrison

Committee of Adjustment (5 public) –
Mario Vittiglio, Andrew Gameiro, James Slykhuis, Rick Turner, Aamir Mahmood

Library Board (1 council, 6 public) –
Raj Sandhu, Elve Kavchak, Ericka Brosseau, Jonathan Scott, Jennifer Harrison, Natalie Petra, Noora Akhavan (if a second council member is permitted, Mark Contois will also be appointed)

Holland Marsh Drainage System Joint Municipal Services Board (2 council, 2 public) –
Gary Lamb, Gary Baynes, David Munshaw, Dan Sopuch

Council approved all Committee of the Whole decisions from December 18, 2018.

Committee of the Whole

Please note that decisions made in Committee of the Whole are not final until approved at a subsequent Regular Council meeting.

Funding approved for truck replacement

The Committee of the Whole approved a plan to replace a malfunctioning 2018 Freightliner tandem axle plow/dump combination unit with a 2020 model at a cost of \$20,000. This solution was arrived at after the vendor was unable to resolve and repair an issue in the front end of the 2018 vehicle. The Committee agreed that this was preferable to the no-cost solution of replacing only the cab and chassis and then attaching the equipment from the existing unit, which could result in premature wear to the entire vehicle. The funding will come from the Roads Related Facilities and Vehicles Development Charges Reserve.

Announcements:

- **Kids Great Minds**
– *BWG Leisure Centre (471 West Park Ave.)*
Multiple dates: Kids Great Minds is a series of programs to help youth explore interest in technology. There are 10 different options starting as early as this month, including JAVA programming, mobile app development and computer animation. Some classes are held on-site, while others take place online from the comfort of your own home, with the aid of a live facilitator.
- **Barbie Party**
– *BWG Public Library (425 Holland St. W)*
Saturday, January 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: Join in for crafts and play inspired by Barbie. No registration required – recommended for children ages 2 and up.
- **Jack de Keyser presents “Britain’s Got the Blues”**
– *BWG Public Library (425 Holland St. W)*
Sunday, February 3, 2-5 p.m.: Discover the history of blues, the impact of American musicians on British bands and the ongoing global influence of British musicians with famed British-born Canadian blues guitarist Jack de Keyser. Register for your free ticket via the Library’s website.
- **Hockey Day in BWG**
– *Bud Brown Park (2892 Simcoe County Rd 27, Bond Head)*
Saturday, February 9, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.: IP and Novice teams from the BWG Minor Hockey Association compete against each other in a day of outdoor on-ice fun. A pancake breakfast and lunch will be hosted by the Bond Head Lions Club.

For the complete Town of BWG Community Events Calendar, go to:

www.townofbwg.com/events