

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council Meeting – January 23, 2018

Key dates finalized for 2018 municipal elections

Residents and property owners in BWG can look forward to several changes affecting both voters and candidates in the municipal elections coming up in October 2018.

One of the most noticeable changes is that voting will be done only by telephone and internet, with no paper ballots used. This method allows electors to vote from any location using a touch-tone telephone or using the internet through their smartphone, computer, laptop or tablet.



Council approved a list of key dates including:

- The nomination period begins on May 1, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 2:00 p.m. on July 27, 2018. Candidates may begin to campaign as soon as their nomination has been filed. At an upcoming meeting, council will establish the date on which candidates may begin to put up signs.
- The voting period will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 12, 2018 and will end at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, October 22, 2018. The telephone and online systems will be accessible 24/7 throughout this period.

While it will no longer be necessary to go to a specific location to place a vote, there will be Voter Help Centres established at the BWG Library and the Town's Administration Office at 100 Dissette St. to provide services to voters needing assistance or the use of a computer. Public information sessions will be held in advance of the voting period where voters can drop in to learn more about internet and telephone voting.

For more details, please visit www.townofbwg.com/elections.

Additional funds for road reconstruction in southeast Bradford

Council approved an additional \$171,208.55 for the project to reconstruct Scanlon Avenue, Back Street, Rebecca Street, Townsend Avenue and Buce Avenue. The project is in the final phase of construction and will be complete by the spring of 2018.

The additional funding is mainly for overages on a tender item and additional work not anticipated at the time of tender. This work came about from discoveries made once construction was underway, such as sanitary maintenance holes not being up to standard, a gas main that had to be relocated and pipes unexpectedly encased in concrete.

BWG and East Gwillimbury share traffic concerns

Council provided their support for a resolution passed by the Town of East Gwillimbury requesting that the Ministry of Transportation expedite the design and construction of the Hwy 400-404 Connecting Link, since no feasible detour route exists in reasonable proximity. They are also respectfully requesting that the Region of York and the County of Simcoe review further options to improve east-west connectivity along Highway 11 through East Gwillimbury, King Township and Bradford West Gwillimbury, and that a comprehensive review of the recently reconstructed Bathurst Street/Hwy 11/Holland Landing Road intersection be done to improve traffic flow, reduce excessive queuing and improve safety.

Sign by-law variance allowed for design of Food Basics

Council approved a variance to the Town's Sign By-Law requested by Food Basics for the store at 493 Holland Street West to allow signs that exceed the size stipulated in the by-law. In their report to council, staff noted that the proposed signage appears to be incorporated within the design of the building elevations and does not appear to be visually excessive in nature.

Agreement with Innisfil renewed for fire protection services

The Town of BWG has had a Fire Protection Agreement with the Town of Innisfil since 1992 to allow Innisfil to respond to areas of BWG where the Innisfil fire station is closer than the one in Bradford.

The agreement is renewed every three years, so the new agreement is for the term from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020. The Town of BWG receives invoices for the cost of the services and the use of equipment for each call that Innisfil Fire responds to.

Request to province: improve MCEA process times and reduce costs

The Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) is seeking reforms to the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process. They state that in its current form, the MCEA process has made municipal infrastructure projects longer in duration and more costly. Analysis by the Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario has demonstrated that between their 2010 and 2014 studies, the time to complete an EA rose from 19 months to 26.7 months and costs went from an average of \$113,300 to \$386,500.

Council carried the resolution that OGRA is proposing to all Ontario municipalities, calling on the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to accelerate the Application for Review of the MCEA process.

Statutory Public Meetings

The *Planning Act* requires the Town to hold a Public Information Meeting to consider any application for amendments to the Official Plan or Zoning By-laws and Plans of Subdivision. The purpose of the meeting is introduce the proposal to the public, share information, invite questions and seek feedback.

During these meetings, Town staff and/or the applicant present the proposal. Council has the opportunity to ask questions of planning staff, the applicant or their representative, but does not make decisions. The public can write in or attend the meeting to ask questions. Staff report to Council with a recommendation at a later date, once a comprehensive review has taken place.

At the January 23 council meeting, a Public Meeting was held regarding applications for Draft Plan of Subdivision Approval and Zoning By-law Amendment by Sunrise Acquisitions (Bond Head) Inc. The subject property is located on the east side of County Road 27, south of its intersection with County Road 88 (to the east) and Line 7 (to the west), and is currently occupied by a detached dwelling and accessory buildings. The proposed development includes 50 detached dwelling lots, three streets and a park.

If any member of the public would like to share a comment or receive notice of future council meetings where these applications will be considered, please send an email to: planninginfo@townofbwg.com

Committee of the Whole

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

Transit camera policy and procedures get initial approval

Last fall, Council directed staff to purchase and install security cameras on BWG Transit buses. MTC was the successful bidder for a three-camera HD system for each of the three existing buses, as well as the expansion vehicle that will arrive later this month.

In accordance with regulations, a policy was developed governing the installation and use of the cameras. The Committee of the Whole approved the policy and procedures, which address the use of the cameras and handling of the recordings.

Cameras are being installed now, but will not be activated until after Council confirms approval of the policy at their February 6 meeting. Brochures will be made available on buses and at Town locations, and public information sessions will be held in February. Once the cameras are active, stickers will be put up on buses to advise passengers that recording is taking place.

Announcements:

- **Sunday, January 28, 12:00-3:00pm: Royal Canadian Air Cadets Open House**
– *Bradford Legion (115 Back St.)*
Learn about the new Air Cadet Squadron for youth 12-18, and try a flight simulator.
- **February 2-4: Friends of the Library Book Sale**
– *BWG Library & Cultural Centre (425 Holland St. W)*
Support the library by choosing from thousands of gently used paperbacks, fiction, non-fiction, CDs, DVDs and more!
 - **Friday, February 2, 7:00-9:00pm:** Special preview - \$10/family.
 - **Saturday, February 3, 9:30am-5:30pm:** Free admission
 - **Sunday, February 4, 1:00-3:30pm:** Free admission
- **Sunday, February 4, 2:00-4:00pm: Jack de Keyzer: Blues Guitar**
– *BWG Library & Cultural Centre (425 Holland St. W)*
Enjoy an afternoon of live music with renowned blues guitarist Jack de Keyzer. Sponsored by the BWG Friends of the Library in conjunction with the Barrie Jazz and Blues Festival.
- **Saturday, February 10, 7:00-10:00pm: Hailiah Knight Concert and SpaceFinder Simcoe County Launch**
– *Bradford Arts Centre (66 Barrie St.)*
Enjoy a night of music with artist Hailiah Knight, performing original songs using piano, guitar and loop pedal. In conjunction with this event, celebrate the launch of SpaceFinder Simcoe County, a web-based tool for booking and renting out public venues. Tickets \$20 (\$10 for students) through bradfordartscentre.org/whats-on/
- **Monday, February 12, 7:00pm: Watershed 101**
– *BWG Library & Cultural Centre (425 Holland St. W)*
Join Dana Eldon from the LSRCA and learn the basics about our watershed and what you can do to prevent harmful chemicals from flowing into Lake Simcoe and your sources of drinking water.
- **Friday, February 16, 9:00am-3:00pm: 2018 AgKnowledge Forum**
– *Club at Bond Head (4805 Line 7, Bond Head)*
This year's forum, featuring "Fresh Air Farmer" Andrew Campbell, will focus on succession planning, climate change and challenges for young farmers. Free event includes lunch. RSVP: robin@nottawasaga.com
- **Friday, February 16, 7:00-9:00pm: Tribute to the Bradford Times**
– *BWG Library & Cultural Centre (425 Holland St. W)*
The community will say thank you to the Bradford Times with a brief program and casual reception. Bring your thoughts and memories to add to the guest book. Space is limited, RSVP required: kgill@townofbwg.com

For the complete Town of BWG Community Events Calendar, go to:
www.townofbwg.com/events