

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council Meeting – February 5, 2019

Town to receive nearly \$279K in gas tax money for transit

The Town will receive \$278,939 in gas tax funds from the province of Ontario for the 2018/19 period. This is almost \$22,000 more than was received for the 2017/18 period.

Two cents per litre of the gas tax collected by the province is distributed each year among municipalities with public transit systems. The amount received by each municipality is calculated based on ridership, population and municipal investment in transit.

Council approved all Committee of the Whole decisions from January 22, 2019.

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.

Town seeks ways to reduce burden caused by non-paying insurance providers

Most home and business owners' insurance includes some coverage to help pay for services provided by fire departments when there's been a fire or other emergency. This can be collected by the property owner and passed on to the Town, but as a convenience to the policy holder and to ensure as much of this money is collected as possible, the Town collects it from the insurance agency.

The Town uses a third-party agency called Fire Marque to file these claims and collect money from the insurance providers. The money helps pay for things like specialized fire equipment and training, thus reducing the cost to taxpayers.

Unfortunately, there are times when insurance providers decline to pay the claim, even if it's included in the homeowner's policy. Since only the property owner can dispute this (through the Financial Services Commission of Ontario), the Town invoices the homeowner for the amount that the insurer owes, and advises them to pursue their insurer for repayment. Delays in this process can put a financial burden on the property owner, and Town staff and council members would like to see this change.

The Committee of the Whole voted to continue the contract with Fire Marque, but asked staff to revisit policies that require property owners to cover the payments that their insurers are refusing to make.

BWG Transit to implement “flex-route” to accommodate Holland Court stop

A BWG Transit stop located on Holland Court was removed effective January 1, 2019, due to very low rider use and difficulties parking the bus on the curved road. The removal had the benefit of reducing the former 35-minute route to 30 minutes, making travel planning easier for riders. Council decided to revisit the decision after residents on the street expressed concerns over the loss of the stop, and asked staff to present options.

The Committee of the Whole voted to implement an on-demand option that would allow riders to call in advance if they wanted to be picked up by the bus, or ask the bus driver to drop them off on Holland Court when they board. This service will be available only during non-peak hours (9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday to Friday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday) so that it will not affect the existing schedule.

If Council ratifies the decision at their February 19 meeting, the Town will announce details of how the program will work and provide a start date for the modified service.

Everything you want to know about by-law enforcement in BWG

The Manager of Enforcement provided an annual report detailing the work done in 2018 in four areas: by-law enforcement (5 officers), licensing (1 staff), animal control (1 officer) and school crossings (12 crossing guards). This includes:

- 1,232 service requests, primarily related to traffic, garbage and clean yards
- 5,517 parking tickets issued
- 69 charges issued under the *Provincial Offences Act*
- 103 business licenses issued
- 846 dog tags sold
- \$3,000 worth of toys collected and donated to local families in need through the new Toys-for-Tickets campaign
- continued prioritization of traffic enforcement and school zone patrols

Looking ahead to 2019, the division will be working on new by-laws relating to smoke-free public places and licensing tow trucks.

Santa Claus Parade stays on third Saturday of November

Council asked staff to investigate the possibility of changing the date of the Santa Claus Parade to ensure that the event is respectful of Remembrance Day, which in 2019 will be only five days prior. The Committee of the Whole decided that the parade should remain on the third Saturday of November to ensure that organizers can continue to book the bands and floats that are only available to BWG on that weekend, but that the Remembrance Day banners honouring local veterans would remain up rather than being replaced by Christmas banners.

Announcements:

- **Friends of the Library Book Sale** – *BWG Public Library (425 Holland St. W)*
 - **Friday, February 8, 7:00-9:00 p.m.:** Exclusive pre-sale – just \$10 per family.
 - **Saturday, February 9, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 10, 1:00-3:00 p.m.:** Regular sale, free admission.
- **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.
- **Family Day** – *BWG Leisure Centre (471 West Park Ave.)*
Monday, February 18, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.: Bring the family to the Leisure Centre to enjoy FREE Family Day skating from 9:40-11:20 a.m. sponsored by Royal Bank Financial Group. Other activities are available at regular drop-in rates including leisure swim, parent/tot swim, parent/toddler gym, family sports and open gym. Visit www.bwgleisurecentre.ca/familyday for the full schedule.
- **Black History Month** – *BWG Public Library (425 Holland St. W)*
 - **Wednesday, February 20, 6:30-9:30 p.m.:** The BWG Diversity Group is hosting a creative exhibit featuring visual and written art. The event is free and all are welcome to browse the show. Would you like to contribute your art? Contact lmarks@bradford.library.on.ca
 - **Saturday, February 23, 1:30-2:30 p.m.:** The BWG Public Library is hosting a free event for all ages featuring West African storytelling, music and crafts.
- **Megathon** – *BWG Leisure Centre (471 West Park Ave.)*
Saturday, February 23, 8:00-11:45 a.m.: For a minimum donation of \$10 you can participate in one activity, or for \$30 up to five activities – ten different 35-minute classes to choose from! The full schedule is available at www.bwgleisurecentre.ca/megathon. Funds raised support Southlake Regional Health Centre’s Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Program.
- **Bowl for Kids Sake** – *Bradford Underground Bowl (54 Holland St. W)*
Sunday, March 3, 1 p.m.: Get together with friends, family and co-workers and have fun bowling in support of Big Brother Big Sister mentoring programs helping to benefit at-risk youth in our community. To register visit york.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca/event/bowl-kids-sake. To pledge your support by making a charitable contribution, contact Councillor Peter Dykie at pdykie@townofbwg.com.

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