

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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

Slower real estate market means fewer residential building permits

A volatile real estate market has resulted in a sharp dip in building permits issued for residential construction. Only 321 permits were issued in 2018 for residential construction – less than half of the 669 issued in 2017 – and of these only about a third were for new home construction, with the rest being for things like additions, garages, swimming pools and demolitions.

The remaining 262 permits were issued for commercial development, up from 151 issued the previous year. The largest increase (80 in 2018 vs. 33 in 2017) was in the Mercantile category, which includes stores and small restaurants.

Town will seek Heritage Designation for ‘Earl Rowe House’

Council directed staff to begin the Heritage Designation process for 4304-4306 Line 10, located at Highway 27 in the Newton Robinson area.

The property is best known as the home of the Honourable William Earl Rowe, who owned it from 1917 to 1984. Rowe was a prominent member of the community and served as the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario from 1963-1968. He also ran a successful horse breeding and harness racing business. The property includes a farmhouse, barn and other outbuildings as well as the remnants of a harness racing track.

Town staff will be working with the current property owner, who has indicated a desire to demolish the house and other structures.

2018 Council remuneration report

An annual report declares all of the amounts paid to members of Council including salary, mileage, benefits and any additional honorariums for participating on special committee and boards.

In 2018, the salary paid by the Town of BWG to the Mayor was \$38,951, the Deputy Mayor received \$25,875 and each ward Councillor received \$20,410. Complete details of Council remuneration and expenses are available in the agenda of the March 5 meeting at bradfordwestgwillimbury.civicweb.net.

Council approved all Committee of the Whole decisions from February 19, 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 to formalize method of naming parks and properties

The Committee of the Whole received a draft policy and process for naming parks, facilities and other Town property to recognize donors, prominent citizens and other people and groups.

If the policy is approved by Council at a subsequent meeting, then the process including application form will be implemented. The policy proposes that preference be given to names that:

- Have a direct relationship with the park, facility or property;
- Reflect the location of the park, facility or property;
- Recognize the historical and cultural significance of the area;
- Reflect unique characteristics of the site;
- Are in keeping with a specific theme;
- Recognize the contribution of an individual/family or group to the community.

Bringing the Building By-law up to date

The current Building By-law was passed in 2013, and since then the Ontario Building Code has been revised a few times. The amended Building By-law would include the following changes:

- Amend security deposit amount to help alleviate financial burden for smaller homeowner projects, reclassify project type with required security amounts, and include security release procedures.
- Include new definitions, revised administrative fees, additional sections, and subsections to clarify some of the terminology in the By-law to follow the requirements of Ontario Building Code.
- Include new alternative solution fee under Division C-Part 2 of the Ontario Building Code applicable to the review, approval of the application, and clarification of fee(s) for third party consultation(s).

Town prepares to assume several residential developments

The Town has received three requests to proceed with final assumption. In each case, the developer has submitted all of the required documents and Town staff has performed a final inspection of the site and agree that the developer has completed their obligations for the phase.

Two of the requests are from Sandstorm Development Inc., for Phase 6 and a final portion of Phase 5. This area is located on the south side of Line 8 to just south of Wandering Glider Trail, and includes properties and roads from Stewart Crescent and Sundragon Trail on the west side to Summerlyn Trail on the east side.

The third request is from FNB Developments Inc. for Phase 2, which is located on the north side of Line 8 up to Vipond Way, and includes the road and properties on McCann Crescent.

Announcements:

- **International Women’s Day – Portuguese Cultural Centre (767 Simcoe Rd.)**
Saturday, March 9, 6:30 p.m.: This annual event for women includes dinner, music by local performers, a fashion show and dance for \$35 per person (\$15 ages 7-12) – cash bar. Tickets available from any committee member (Aldina: 905-775-4938).
- **March Break (March 11-15) –**
 - *BWG Leisure Centre (471 West Park Ave.)*
 - Register for March Break workshops for a variety of ages, including babysitting, crafts, cooking and baking.
 - The Leisure Centre also has a special schedule of drop-in programs during March break for swimming, skating and gymnasium use.
 - For more information and program registration, visit www.bwgleisurecentre.ca
 - *BWG Public Library (425 Holland St. W)*
 - The Library is offering a wide variety of drop-in and pre-registered programs for children of all ages. For details, visit bradford.library.on.ca. The calendar of drop-in programs is available on the main page of the website – just scroll down.
- **Ultimate NERF Battle – BWG Public Library (425 Holland St. W)**
Friday, March 15, 6:00-7:30 p.m.: Kids age 10 to 13 are invited to participate in a free, Library-wide NERF event games including zombies vs. humans, capture the flag and more. The event will take place after the Library’s regular hours.
- **Love Canada Wedding Show – Club at Bond Head (4805 Line 7, Bond Head)**
Sunday, March 24, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.: The annual event features swag bags, live music, prizes, local wedding professionals, inspiration and more. Tickets are \$10 - purchase at the door (cash, exact change only) or go online to www.lovweddings.ca

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