

## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

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### **Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council Meeting – June 19, 2018**

#### **Council okays constructing new fire hall and operational facilities**

The Town is taking the first step towards ensuring it has the facilities needed to serve a growing municipality. Council approved a detailed plan that will allow Fire & Emergency Services to build a larger fire hall at their ideal mid-town location without disrupting service.

The 5.8-acre site on Melbourne Dr. houses not just the fire hall, but also both Water Operations and the Urban Operations arm of Transportation Services. Therefore, the first step will be to build a new 12,000 ft<sup>2</sup> structure on the municipal property at 3541 Line 11, where Water Operations will be relocated permanently. The Urban Operations group, which is responsible for things like winter maintenance on roads in urban Bradford, will be temporarily relocated either to a rented property or to a combination of existing municipal properties.

Once those two services have been moved, construction will begin on a new 19,000 ft<sup>2</sup> fire hall on the portion of the property between the current hall and the police station, leaving the current hall intact. Finally, after Fire & Emergency Services have moved into the new hall, the old hall will be reconfigured to be the new permanent location of Urban Operations.

The overall project is expected to begin this fall, with construction on Line 11 anticipated to be completed in 2019 and construction on Melbourne Dr. to be completed in 2021. Because the work is required as a result of growth, about two-thirds of the \$14 million total cost will be covered by Development Charges, which are paid to the Town by developers.

#### **Town services able to meet growing water/wastewater needs**

The province's growth plans call for BWG to house 50,500 people by 2031. To meet the needs for water service and wastewater treatment, a number of projects were scheduled to increase capacity.

Some projects have now been completed, including work to supply service to the Highway 400 Employment Lands and Bond Head, where significant residential and commercial growth are expected. Two remaining projects are now being put on hold, as study shows that we now have enough capacity to meet growth over the next decade or more.

A plan to “twin” the existing Innisfil to BWG Transmission Main to bring more water to BWG’s reservoirs will be postponed until 2029. Thanks in large part to reduced per-person water use, there is adequate water supply and transmission capacity to service growth for the foreseeable future.

Likewise, plans to expand the wastewater treatment plant are on hold because there is sufficient capacity to support residential and non-residential development for the foreseeable future.

### **Town program encourages local business improvement**

To support Council’s strategic priority to revitalize Bradford’s downtown area, a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) was devised to encourage property owners in the downtown area to invest in improvements to their businesses.

Council approved several applications for support from the Downtown CIP under a combination of these three program areas:

- Program 1: Façade, Landscape and Signage Improvement Program
- Program 2: Building Restoration, Renovation and Improvements
- Program 3: Planning Fees and Building Permit Grant

The first application is for improvements to the unit at the far west end of the plaza at 121 Bridge St., which will house an automotive restoration business. A total of \$64,142 was approved under programs 1, 2 and 3 for improvements including a new façade with new windows, doors and lighting, new signage and a full interior renovation including office and bathroom.

A total of \$49,773 was approved for the Bradford United Church at 66 Barrie St. under programs 1, 2 and 3. Work includes a new LED sign and front walkway, as well as new HVAC, elevator and electrical, drywall, lighting, framing, plumbing and tiling upgrades in basement to create a meeting space for up to 200 people to accommodate conferences, art shows and performances.

Two separate applications were approved for improvements to the plaza at 66 Holland St. W. The owner of the plaza was approved for \$53,784 under programs 2 and 3 for improvements to create three new spaces, including drywall, electrical, plumbing and painting, as well as expenses related to fire remediation. Plaza tenant Bradford Underground Bowl was approved for \$50,045 under programs 2 and 3 for improvements to the bowling alley including drywall, painting, HVAC renovations and sprinklers.

## Report reviews BWG's relationship with County of Simcoe

In July 2017, the Town retained StrategyCorp to undertake a BWG/Simcoe County Inter-Tier Structural Review that would help answer the following key questions:

- From a financial and/or service level perspective, what would an improved deal within Simcoe County look like?
- Should BWG become an independent municipality like Barrie and Orillia?
- Would BWG be better served by joining York Region?

StrategyCorp conducted research and interviews and produced a report with key findings including:

- Regarding the operating portion of the levy (the money we pay towards day-to-day services like waste collection and paramedics), BWG appears to contribute more than it receives in services; this means that BWG is subsidizing other municipalities in the County that have lower assessments.
- Regarding the capital portion of the levy (the money we pay towards assets like roads and facilities), BWG gets more in return than it contributes (approximately \$3M more between 2011 and 2017).
- BWG pays more than the separated cities (Barrie and Orillia) for comparable services.
- BWG would likely pay more if it were to become a lower-tier municipality in York Region.

A copy of the report will be provided to Simcoe County for distribution to the member municipalities, and the County will be requested to establish a committee of councillors, CAOs and treasurers to explore cost mitigation strategies as generally set out in the report. Simcoe County staff will also be invited to present an annual update to Town council on County programs and services in an effort to broaden local knowledge and awareness of those programs.

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***Council approved all Committee of the Whole decisions from June 5, 2018.***  
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## Committee of the Whole

Committee of the Whole was not held due to the upcoming July recess of Council. Council and Committee of the Whole will resume on August 7, 2018.

## Announcements:

- **Saturdays, 8:00am-1:00pm: Bradford Farmers' Market**  
– *BWG Public Library (425 Holland St. W)*  
Market organizers have announced their special event calendar for the outdoor season:
  - **June 30:** Strawberry Festival and Canada Day celebrations
  - **July 21:** Caribbean Carnival Day
  - **August 25:** Peach Festival and Elvis Day
  - **September 15:** Buttertart Festival
  - **October 6:** Thanksgiving Harvest Festival (last day of outdoor market)
- **Sunday, July 1, 4:30-10:30pm: Canada Day Celebration**  
– *Bradford & District Memorial Community Centre (125 Simcoe Rd.)*  
The festivities commence at 4:30pm and include entertainment, music, food, the official ceremonies, the presentation of the annual Civic Awards and closing with an amazing show of fireworks at 10:00pm. Wear your red and white, join your neighbours and meet new friends as the whole community celebrates the nation's birthday!
- **alternate Thursdays, 7:00-9:00pm: Music in the Park**  
– *BWG Public Library – west lawn (425 Holland St. W)*  
Live musical performances in a variety of genres. Bring your own chairs, blankets and snacks.
  - **July 5:** New Kid in Town (Salute to The Eagles)
  - **July 19:** Neon Rain (country music)
  - **August 2:** Big Shiny '90s (rock & alternative hits of the '90s)
  - **August 16:** The Argues (indie-rock family band)
- **alternate Thursdays, 8:00pm: Outdoor Movies**  
– *BWG Public Library – west lawn (425 Holland St. W)*  
Family friendly movies on the big screen. Bring your own chairs, blankets and snacks.
  - **July 12:** *Lady and the Tramp*
  - **July 26:** *Peter Rabbit*
  - **August 9:** *Coco* – BWG Fire trucks on site!
  - **August 23:** *A Wrinkle in Time*

For the complete Town of BWG Community Events Calendar, go to:  
[www.townofbwg.com/events](http://www.townofbwg.com/events)