

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council Meeting – August 6, 2019

Heritage designation process to begin for Gummerson House

Council passed a recommendation to begin the designation process for the 159-year-old farmhouse at 3176 County Road 27, known as the Gummerson or Thorpe House. The process includes serving a Notice to Designate and passing a designation by-law.

New home development on Melbourne Drive to take next step

Braidwood Homes plans to build 91 residential units (20 semi-detached and 71 townhomes) on vacant land between Sobey's supermarket and Holy Trinity Catholic High School. Council carried a recommendation to authorize the use of the Alternate Class 4 Area Land Use Designation for Area Noise Control, meaning that the developer will be required to take specific actions to ensure noise reduction between the subdivision and the commercial operation, such as acoustical fencing.

Once a subdivision agreement has been finalized, it will be executed and the holding symbol will be removed so that homes can begin to be sold.

Town makes strategic land sale, purchases to further projects

Council approved four transactions necessary to further ongoing projects in the Town of BWG and County of Simcoe:

- The Town will sell land on County Road 4 (Yonge St.) to the County to accommodate the County's plans to widen the road.
- The Town will purchase a portion of the land at 2659 Line 8 for road widening.
- The Town will purchase two properties on Simcoe Road (129 and 141) next to the Bradford & District Community Centre to permit redevelopment of the Community Centre. More information on this project is available online at www.townofbwg.com/BDMCC.

Town to apply for Economic Development funding

Simcoe County's 2019 Economic Development Funding Program provides one-time grants of \$50,000 to member municipalities to advance economic development activities and projects that meet local and county economic development objectives. The Town will apply to receive funds, which may be used towards programs including Community Improvement Plans, streetscape design, wayfinding signage, attracting skilled workers, downtown revitalization and more.

Demand for Fire & Emergency Services grew again in 2018

The Annual Report of BWG Fire & Emergency Services showed that the department responded to 1,610 calls for service in 2018 including 28 fires, 43 potential fires, 163 rescue/vehicle accidents and 931 medical calls.

Council approved hiring of one additional full-time firefighter in 2018, bringing the complement up to 18 full-time firefighters, 1 training officer and 35 volunteer firefighters within the Fire Suppression Division.

All of the BWGFES programs and services were well utilized in 2018. Fire prevention education was provided to schools on 21 dates, in addition to fire station tours and the popular annual open house. Staff also attended 48 public education opportunities in response to requests. A total of 140 fire code life safety inspections and 153 building code related inspections were conducted to ensure compliance with provincial legislation. Crews made visits to 1,273 homes in BWG to provide smoke and carbon monoxide alarm information, inspect alarms if requested and test/install/replace batteries as needed.

Town to step up ongoing urban forestry efforts

The Town of BWG is looking at ways to improve its “urban forestry” (trees on public lands including parks and boulevards) including planting more trees, furthering a survey of all Town-owned trees and increasing preventative and corrective maintenance. Since 2016, Council has budgeted \$100,000 each year to maintain and replace boulevard trees. In 2020, Council will consider a total request of \$250,000 to support this program and expand it in parks and other municipal properties. Funding will not be required in 2020 for treatment of ash trees against Emerald Ash Borer because treatment is taking place in 2019 and does not need to be repeated for 18 months.

Tweaking Community Improvement Plans to achieve goals

The Town of BWG operates several programs aimed at encouraging local business development and revitalizing key business areas across the municipality. The Office of Economic Development administers these programs, and have consulted with Council to determine what changes should be made to improve them.

At a Special Meeting on March 26, members of Council indicated that they’d like to revisit a few specific parts of the program. Complete details on the programs and the recommendations can be found here: <http://bit.ly/33i1awK>

Council passed the following recommendations:

- Option 1 for Item 3.1 pertaining to grants for fire audit compliance, at 50%;
- Option 1 for Item 3.2 pertaining to grants for drawings or renderings with a \$3000 maximum;
- Option 3 for Item 3.3 pertaining to age compliance criteria, restricting eligibility to buildings at least 25 years old;

- Option 1 for Item 3.4 pertaining to stand-alone submissions for accessibility, fire and safety upgrades;
- Option 1 for Item 3.5 pertaining to façade consideration for patios and accessibility;
- Option 1 for Item 4.1 pertaining to the removal of mutual exclusivity clause relating to Development Charges and Tax Incremental Grant programs.

Announcements:

- **Outdoor Movies** – *BWG Library west lawn (425 Holland St. W)*
Bring your blanket or lawn chair and snacks and enjoy free family films!
 - **Thursday, August 8, 8:00 p.m.:** *Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
 - **Tuesday, August 20, 8:00 p.m.:** *Wall-E*
 - **Thursday, August 22, 7:00 p.m.:** *Aladdin* (2019 live action) –special guests BWG Fire & Emergency
- **Bradford Farmers’ Market** – *BWG Public Library parking lot (425 Holland St. W)*
Saturdays, 8:00a.m.-1:00 p.m.: Enjoy live music, meet local community groups, and find produce and artisanal goods from the Holland Marsh and beyond.
- **Seed Saving Workshop** – *BWG Public Library (425 Holland St. W)*
Wednesday, August 14, 6:30 p.m.: Register at the Library for this free activity to learn how to harvest, save and replant.
- **Carrot Fest** – *downtown BWG and the Bradford & District Memorial Community Centre (125 Simcoe Rd.)*
 - **Friday, August 16, 4:00 p.m.-midnight:** Music, classic cars, local vendors and KidsZone. Visit www.carrotfest.ca
 - **Saturday, August 17, 9:00 a.m.-midnight:** Massive downtown vendors market, buskers, main stage performances, Kids Zone and many special events including pro wrestling, aqua dogs, BMW stunt show and more.
 - **Sunday, August 18, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.:** Ontario Aqua Dogs at the BDMCC.
- **Family Fun Fest** – *Lions Park (226 Colbourne St.)*
Sunday, August 18, 12:00-4:00 p.m.: Extend your Carrot Fest weekend with family activities, games and treats, hosted by Bradford Community Church.
- **SHARE YOUR FESTIVAL MEMORIES!**
The Town of BWG and the BWG Public Library are collecting photos, flyers, anecdotes and more to illustrate the history of Carrot Fest and other festivals that took place in Bradford over the years. Submit images and stories to events@townofbwg.com.

See the complete Community Events Calendar: www.townofbwg.com/events