

## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

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### **Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council Meeting – May 19, 2020**

#### **Report shows increasing demands on Fire and Emergency Services**

Bradford West Gwillimbury Fire and Emergency Services responded to 1,753 incidents in 2019, which is 143 more than in 2018. Volunteer firefighters were paged out to provide support during 553 of these incidents.

The significant majority of calls continue to be for medical emergencies, accounting for 1,055 calls in 2019. A total of 38 calls were for fires – of these, nine resulted in no dollar-value losses, while the other 29 had a total estimated loss of \$2,915,250.

Three of these fires were particularly significant: a fire still under investigation in a two-storey semi-detached house at 72/74 Holland St. E; a fire at Bradford Greenhouses in which two large greenhouses were destroyed; and a fire in an apartment building at 33 Centre St., believed to be smoking related, in which one person was rescued but later died from their injuries.

#### **Status of water and wastewater capacity in BWG**

Staff continually monitor the capacity of the Town's water and wastewater facilities to provide service to projected future homes and businesses as construction continues and the population grows.

Capacity is measured based on the water and wastewater needs of an average-sized detached home; therefore, one Allocation Unit Equivalent (AUE) equals service for approximately 3.45 people.

The current status report shows that without making any improvements to facilities, the Town has 7,690.11 AUEs of water available for new construction, and 3,368.33 of wastewater available. (This does not include AUEs set aside for developers who participated in an Early Payment Agreement with the Town, which is mainly for development in the Highway 400 employment lands area.)

Council received a preliminary staff report outlining several projects and plans to ensure the Town's continued ability to support growing water and wastewater needs through the year 2031. These include ensuring that all current facilities are in peak condition so they can reach their full potential, and upgrading existing facilities to create more capacity where possible. More comprehensive plans will be provided to Council at a later date.

## **COVID-19 Business Support Programs achieve success**

Programs to assist local businesses impacted by COVID-19 have been underway since April, and according to a report by the Office of Economic Development have achieved successes including:

- A total of \$12,600 was deferred for one year for businesses owing payments on Downtown Community Improvement Plan loans.
- Seven businesses used the Business Consulting & Assistance with Government Applications program established by the Town and implemented by Nottawasaga Futures to help them better manage their businesses during the pandemic. A further four businesses used the program to apply for COVID-19 relief programs.
- The entire \$250,000 Emergency Business Sustainability Fund (EBSF) has been allocated, providing assistance to 43 small businesses and 14 home-based businesses.

The COVID-19 Business Support Programs were implemented following a survey conducted by the Town and Simcoe County in March, which identified that businesses' most urgent need was for immediate funding to offset the effects of mandatory business closures and to bridge the gap until funds from other levels of government were received.

## **Industrial Area Community Improvement Plan applications approved**

Council approved two Industrial Area Community Improvement Plan grant applications – \$53,703.65 for Maple Leaf Foods and \$50,377.50 for Vins Plastics – with both businesses qualifying for a Development Fees and Building Permit grant and a Building Restoration, Renovation and Improvement Grant.

Both businesses are undertaking multi-million-dollar renovations that will result in up to 30 new full-time jobs. Maple Leaf Foods plans to retrofit its facility and add state-of-the-art freezers to expand its frozen food operations. Vins will be upgrading its on-site plastic manufacturing capabilities with new advanced machinery, as well as expanding its parking facility, which is presently over-capacity.

Maple Leaf Foods and Vins Plastics are among BWG's largest employers, and both companies have continued to provide essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Seeking authority to regulate nuisances related to cannabis cultivation**

Council agreed to lend their support to a request from the City of Hamilton to the province asking that they extend authority to Ontario municipalities to enforce odor and lighting nuisance complaints stemming from licensed and unlicensed cannabis cultivations within their jurisdictions.

## Town assumes Sandstorm Development Phase 3B

Sandstorm Development Inc. Phase 3B is located south of Line 8 and west of Professor Day Drive, primarily along Waterton Way. Council approved the Town assuming responsibility for the cost of ongoing maintenance and repairs of roads and services within the subdivision based on staff's report that a final inspection has been conducted and the developer has completed their obligations.

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**Council approved all Committee of the Whole decisions from May 5, 2020.**  
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## 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.*

### Application for Zoning By-law Amendment

The Committee of the Whole supported allowing an application to build 14 condominium townhouses on vacant land at 263 Barrie St. to proceed to next steps, including approving a Zoning By-law Amendment. The row of “bungaloffs” (single storey plus loft) would run east off of Barrie Street, facing the pathway to Lions Park to the south. A shared private driveway to the north would provide access to each unit's driveway/garage and terminate at a turnaround and parking area with six visitor parking spaces.

## Announcements:

- **Virtual Recreation – @bwgleisurecentre on Facebook and Instagram**  
 Stay active at home with tons of online content including daily fitness themes:
  - **Movement Mondays:** Stretches, yoga movements and more.
  - **Time-to-Train Tuesdays:** At-home workouts with no equipment needed.
  - **Wonder Wednesdays:** Answers to common fitness questions.
  - **Tabata Thursdays:** Interval training.
  - **Family Fun Fridays:** Fun exercises you can do with the kids.
 Find archives of past workouts and more at [bwgleisurecentre.ca](https://www.bwgleisurecentre.ca)
- **Virtual Library – @bwglibrary on Facebook and Instagram**  
 The Library shares ideas and inspiration for people of all ages, including:
  - **Live with Larissa - Mondays at 9:30 a.m.:** See what's in store for the week.
  - **Online Storytime - Tuesdays and Thursdays:** Songs, rhymes and stories.
  - **Knit Happens - twice a month on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.:** Handicrafts group meets by private videoconference. Email [events@bradford.library.on.ca](mailto:events@bradford.library.on.ca).
  - **Online Crafting - Wednesdays:** Step-by-step crafts for kids.
  - **Science Saturday:** Fun and engaging science experiments for kids
 Find a complete schedule plus digital books and more at [bradford.library.on.ca](https://www.bradford.library.on.ca)