

BWG Participates in Provincial Regional Government Review

Bradford West Gwillimbury, ON (*February 25, 2019*) – Bradford West Gwillimbury Mayor Rob Keffer shared his views on the future of Simcoe County with representatives of the provincial government during a meeting held February 19th.

The province has launched a review of regional governments and Simcoe County to help ensure they are working effectively and efficiently, and can continue to provide the vital services that communities depend on. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has appointed two special advisors to help with this review – Ken Seiling and Michael Fenn. As a first step, the advisors have been meeting with the heads of council of all affected municipalities.

“I found Mr. Fenn to be very receptive to the ideas and information that I shared during our meeting,” says Mayor Keffer. “Tax dollars generated by property owners in Bradford West Gwillimbury contribute significantly to the programs and services offered by Simcoe County. I advised Mr. Fenn that change is needed to ensure that the level of service provided by the County to our residents properly reflects our contributions.”

The Town of BWG collects property taxes on behalf of the municipality, Simcoe County, South Simcoe Police Services and the school boards. The County’s portion of the tax bill is approximately 29%.

“I also pointed out to Mr. Fenn that some of the services offered by Simcoe County overlap with our own and those of other municipalities,” added Mayor Keffer. “There are opportunities to reduce overlap and implement more efficient ways of doing business that can benefit all of us.

“I applaud the province for initiating this review and I encourage them to adopt a governance system for our area that provides for a better level of accountability and cost control by granting further autonomy to local municipalities.”

The special advisors will seek public input on the Regional Government Review later this spring. The advisors intend to present their findings and recommendations to the provincial government this summer.