

## MAYOR'S BUSINESS BREAKFAST

November 16, 2017 – Deputy Mayor James Leduc

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- Thank you once again for the opportunity to share an update on the work of our many Advisory Committees.
- Committees are a very important way for residents to use their interest and expertise to help guide the Town's plans and policies.
- The combined input of staff, council members and committee members ensures that every issue is examined from a variety of perspectives, and that council continues to achieve its goal of being open and transparent in its decision making.
- We currently have 10 committees, and I am privileged to sit on several of these.
- At last year's breakfast I provided an overview of the activities of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee and the Downtown Revitalization Committee.
- This year I'm going to share an update on three different committees.
- **The first is the Heritage Committee, which is chaired by Councillor Ron Orr.**
  - The Heritage Committee was formed in order to provide advice to Council on heritage preservation in BWG.
  - The members help to identify historically significant buildings, structures and land. They then make recommendations to Council about which ones should receive heritage designation, so that Council can make the formal application.

- Recently, the Committee has made recommendations regarding properties in the downtown area that are looking to redevelop.
  - The Committee, along with the Bradford West Gwillimbury Local History Association, has helped oversee preservation work at the Auld Kirk including new plaster and windows.
  - They passed a recommendation to designate St. John's Presbyterian Church, on Coulson's Hill at Line 11.
  - They are also involved in a study that will be conducted in Bond Head to assess the need for a Heritage Conservation District.
  - Another important role of the committee is to promote public participation in heritage matters.
  - This includes hosting the annual Doors Open event, which is popular not only with residents but also brings tourism to BWG.
  - And they are working on a plaque program for homeowners who wish to have their property recognized as having historical significance.
  - With so much growth and development going on in our town, this committee has continued to play a very important role, ensuring we balance the new with the old, and that we protect our heritage assets.
- **The next committee I'd like to look at is the Traffic Committee, which is chaired by Councillor Gary Lamb.**
    - The purpose of the Traffic Committee is primarily to field concerns from residents regarding traffic issues in BWG.
    - This includes topics like parking control, speed limits, crosswalks, crossing guards, load restrictions, school safety zones, traffic lights, traffic signs and more.

- As you might imagine, this is a very busy committee, as we are all very passionate about community safety.
- The Committee gathers information as required to help make recommendations to Council, including regular review of Traffic Counts, and receiving information about programs for things like red-light cameras and traffic calming measures.
- This Committee has been critical in bringing together the right people with the necessary expertise to the same table, and ensuring that the concerns of our residents are given due consideration.
- **Finally, I'd like to provide an update on the Active Transportation and Recreation Committee, which I sit on with Councillor Gary Baynes.**
  - Active Transportation began as an initiative of our Leisure Services department, and was eventually resolved into a committee with the aim of making BWG a healthier community.
  - Active Transportation refers to any form of human-powered transportation – walking, cycling, using a wheelchair, in-line skating, skateboarding, skiing or even snowshoeing.
  - The Committee works together to encourage the public to use these physically active means of getting from one place to another, and thinking twice before getting in the car to travel short distances.
  - This past September, the Committee worked with Town staff and local schools to host its fourth Walk 'n' Wheel event.
  - The objectives of these events are to encourage students to use human-powered methods of getting to school in order to promote healthy living, while reducing traffic congestion near schools.

- Each year, more schools have participated in the event, and within those schools more students have taken part, and it's our hope that this will become a regular activity for families, rather than just on special occasions.
- The Committee has also hosted several trail walks, where the public is invited to explore the Town's extensive trail system, as well as other nearby facilities such as Scanlon Creek Conservation Area.
- Physical activity is important not only for a healthy body but also for a healthy mind. A growing emphasis on mental health means that we need to continue to find ways for our residents to put down the car keys and use their bodies instead.
- Committees generally serve for the same four-year term as Council, so following next year's elections, the new council will have the opportunity to evaluate the needs of our community and determine what committees are the highest priority for the next term.
- I strongly encourage you to watch for openings on these committees, to share your abilities and insights and help build positive change in BWG.