

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council Meeting – February 7, 2017

2017 business plan approved

Council approved the Town's 2017 business plan, giving staff direction on the work to be undertaken this year.

Property taxes paid by BWG residents help pay for more than just Town services. A bit less than half of property taxes support Town services including Fire and Emergency, library, leisure, water, wastewater, road maintenance and more. The rest goes to the County of Simcoe, the South Simcoe Police Service and education. Each organization sets its own budget and a blended tax rate is calculated.

The total average increase to taxpayers in BWG in 2017 is expected to be 1.91%, which comes to an additional \$79.65 per year for the average house. The final number will be calculated once tax rates are received from the County and for education. The final tax levy by-law is expected to come to Council in May 2017.

Town to maintain current election model in 2018

Municipalities in Ontario now have the option to hold "ranked ballot" elections instead of the current system generally referred to as "first past the post". BWG Council considered the implications of changing systems – including increased costs as well as a learning curve for voters – and decided not to make the change for the 2018 election.

Looking for savings on bank fees

The Town will extend its agreement with RBC Royal Bank to the end of 2017 to allow time to participate in the RFP process for banking services through the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM). The OECM is a not-for-profit group that helps public sector organizations get more competitive prices for products and services.

Traffic Committee recommendations approved

Council approved the following Traffic Committee recommendations:

- That a temporary speed limit reduction to 50km/h be put in place on Line 6 from Sideroad 5 to Highway 27 during construction.
- That two flashing lights be placed on the east/west stop signs at the intersection of Line 5 and Sideroad 10.

Council approved all Committee of the Whole decisions from January 24, 2017.

Committee of the Whole

Please note that decisions made in Committee of the Whole (CoW) are not final until approved at a subsequent Regular Council meeting.

Recommendations made to amend four key areas of the Official Plan

The Town is in the process of a complete review and update of its Official Plan (OP). The OP is essentially a guide to the Town's future growth.

In Phase 1 of the review, Town staff and consultants examined four key subjects and made recommendations for amendments to the OP. These include:

1. Seniors housing – new age-friendly community policies, clarifying locations appropriate for seniors housing developments and introducing design standards that consider the needs of seniors.
2. Downtown revitalization – expanding the boundary of “downtown” to the west end of Bradford, implementing height restrictions for buildings in the downtown area and recommending a downtown parking strategy.
3. Employment lands – new policies on development in the Highway 400 employment lands, and updated policies for pre-existing employment areas.
4. Growth and population – addressing the expected growth in population of BWG and the land needs for residential and employment areas.

The Committee of the Whole accepted the draft recommendations with minor changes to the height recommendations for buildings in downtown Bradford. The current drafts can be viewed on the Town's website at www.townofbwg.com/planbwg.

If the four amendments are adopted by Council, they will then be sent to the County of Simcoe for approval. Phase 2 of the OP review will begin this spring, considering all aspects of the OP not addressed in Phase 1.

Road closures for 2017 events

Each year, Council authorizes road closures to accommodate special events such as parades, runs and festivals.

The list of events requiring road closures in 2017 is as follows (times and locations are published in the Bradford Times and the Town's Facebook page before each event):

- May 13 – Run for BWG
- May 13 – Candlelight Vigil for Our Lady of Fatima
- May 14 – Procession for Our Lady of Fatima
- June 18 – Procession of Holy Martyrs of Japan Parish

- July 1 – BWG Canada Day and Canada 150 Parade/Celebrations
- August 18 & 19 – BWG Carrot Fest
- August 19 – BWG Carrot Fast Run
- September 17 – Terry Fox Run
- November 11 – Bradford Legion Remembrance Day Parade
- November 18 – BWG Santa Claus parade

Announcements:

- **February 11, 2:00pm: Black History Month**
– *BWG Public Library, Zima Room*
The BWG Diversity Group hosts a public event in honour of Black History Month.
- **February 15, 1:50pm: National Flag Day**
– *BWG Courthouse (57 Holland St. E)*
Raising of the Canada 150 flag.
- **February 18, 8:00am-12:30pm: Hockey Day in BWG**
– *Bud Brown Park, Bond Head*
Pond hockey tournament for Tyke and Novice teams, pancake breakfast and BBQ lunch hosted by the Bond Head Lions, entertainment and airbrush tattoos.
- **February 20, 8:00am-4:00pm: Family Day**
– *BWG Leisure Centre*
Free skating sponsored by RBC, plus fee-for-use activities including leisure swimming, parent and toddler gym time and open gymnasium.
- **February 25, 7:45-11:35am: Megathon**
– *BWG Leisure Centre*
Help raise funds for Southlake Regional Health Centre's Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation "Walk of Life. Available activities are: spin, yoga, walking, bootcamp, Kelani, MMA Circuit, Step, Tai Chi and Aquafit - choose one event for \$10 or five for \$30.
- **March 5, 1:00pm: Bowl for Kids' Sake (Big Brothers Big Sisters of York)**
– *Bradford Underground (54 Holland St W)*
Register a team or sponsor a player. To sponsor a councillor, see Councillor Dykie.

For the complete Town of BWG Community Events Calendar, go to:

www.townofbwg.com/events