

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council Meeting – April 18, 2017

Town to take a closer look at upper-tier services

Town of BWG Council unanimously supported a motion by Mayor Rob Keffer directing staff to take the first steps in a comprehensive review of the relationship between the Town and the County of Simcoe. The Mayor emphasized that this is a fact-finding exercise only and no assumptions have been made about the outcome.

The action is driven in part by standard due diligence, but also by recent concerns regarding the amount of taxes BWG residents are being asked to pay to the County. Of the taxes BWG property owners pay to the Town, approximately 20-25% go to the County. Following the latest MPAC assessments, the County has indicated that their portion will go up by approximately 7.5% for residents of BWG. This would result in BWG residents paying the County more than residents in other municipalities do for the same services.

Staff will prepare terms of reference for a review that considers three possible options:

- an improved deal within Simcoe County;
- becoming an independent municipality, like Barrie and Orillia; or
- joining York Region.

The terms of reference will also address how the public will be consulted on the topic and whether third-party experts will be required. The public is encouraged to watch the Town's Facebook page and local media for updates and opportunities to provide input.

Office of Economic Development helps grow business in BWG

BWG welcomed 134 new businesses from 2015 to 2016, boosting the total to 2,998 – a growth rate of nearly 5%. BWG also saw the number of jobs grow by 2% over this period, according to the annual report of the Town's Office of Economic Development (OED).

The OED promotes BWG as a preferred place to establish and expand business, and works with partner organizations to help local businesses thrive. Among the numerous programs overseen by the OED are three Community Improvement Plans, which provide grants to establish, refurbish or expand businesses in BWG. In 2016, the Town invested \$2.8 million through these programs, resulting in \$124.7 million in private-sector investment.

Council approved all Committee of the Whole decisions from April 4, 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.

Town achieves greater than expected cost savings from LED streetlight retrofit

In 2015, the Town retrofitted 2,673 streetlights, converting high pressure sodium and mercury vapour lights to LED lights. Through an agreement with Honeywell, the Town paid nothing upfront, and the \$2 million cost of the project will be paid for through the resulting savings on energy costs.

The energy cost savings for the first year has exceeded expectations, coming in at \$221,080 versus the original guarantee of \$200,118. Streetlight maintenance costs were also down \$73,629 compared to the previous year.

The Committee of the Whole supported staff's recommendation that any additional savings be reserved for future streetlight repairs and for use in the second phase of the retrofit, which will replace the heritage-style streetlights in downtown Bradford.

Funds allotted for Middletown Park, Brookview Parkette, connecting trails

The Committee of the Whole supported allocating additional funds required to complete two new parks and connecting trails this year. Funds to construct Middletown Park and Brookview Parkette were included in the 2017 budget; however, the final design has come in at \$400,000 more than the projected \$1.2 million.

Combined park amenities will include trails, basketball court, playground, splash pad, arbors, shelters, benches, water service for a future natural ice surface, trail lighting and extensive plantings throughout.

The design includes extending Westbrook Trail to connect the two parks and link the trail system. This work accounts for most of the higher cost estimate because the grade of the land requires retaining walls and switchback paths.

Announcements:

- Thursday, April 20, 7:30-9:00pm: Author Visit: Marina Nemat**
 – *BWG Public Library & Cultural Centre (425 Holland St. W)*
 Q&A and book signing with Marina Nemat, the bestselling author of *Prisoner of Tehran* and *After Tehran*. Cost \$5/person. Tickets available at Borrower Services.
- Saturday, April 22, 9:00am-4:00pm: Bradford Home & Lifestyle Show**
 – *Bradford & District Memorial Community Centre (125 Simcoe Rd.)*
 Looking to renovate? Want to shop locally? Fun for the kids? Decorate your home? Come see what BWG has to offer. Chase & Skye from Paw Patrol will be greeting the kids!
- Sunday, April 23, 11:30am: Khalsa Day Flag Raising**
 – *BWG Courthouse (57 Holland St. E)*
 Join us for a flag raising and celebration.
- Saturday, April 29, 8:00am-2:00pm: Bond Head & District Lions Club Spring Arts & Crafts Sale**
 – *Bond Head Community Hall (2892 Simcoe County Rd 27)*
 Pancake breakfast (\$5 per person) from 8am-noon, and the sale from 9am-2pm, with a wide range of vendors offering everything from jewellery and home decor, to items for the patio and garden, baked goods and more.
- NEW DATE:**
Saturday, April 29, 9:00am-12:00pm: BWG Community Clean-up Day
 – *Bradford & District Memorial Community Centre (125 Simcoe Rd.)*
 Help clear litter and debris from public spaces. Participants meet at the Community Centre and are bussed to selected areas for clean-up, then back for a thank-you lunch.
- Sunday, April 30, 8:15am: Run or Walk for Southlake**
 – *along Davis Drive, Newmarket*
 Support Southlake Hospital by participating in the run/walk or sponsoring a team or participant. To join or support Team BWG visit www.runforsouthlake.ca
- Sunday, May 7, 9:00am: Bradford Lions Walk for Mobyss**
 – *starts at BWG Public Library & Cultural Centre (425 Holland St. W)*
 Support the Mobyss mobile youth walk-in clinic, helping youth aged 12-25 with a focus on mental health issues. For a pledge form contact roddie3417@rogers.com

For the complete Town of BWG Community Events Calendar, go to:
www.townofbwg.com/events