

	<b>From</b>	<b>Re:</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Actions (if necessary)</b>
1.	Niagara Region	Media Release: Niagara Region marks National Nursing Week and Long-Term Care Week	May 10/2021	
2.	TOL – Planning	Notice of Public Meeting: Proposed Unopened Road Allowance Purchase - Concessions 4 to 5 PT	May 10/2021	
3.	Niagara Region	Media Release: Green Bin use is up six months after launch of new collection contract	May 11/2021	
4.	Niagara Region	Media Release: Third survey provides updated picture of COVID-19 impact on Niagara’s businesses	May 11/2021	
5.	Township of Georgian Bay	Support for the Township of the Archipelago: Road Management Action on Invasive Phragmites	May 12/2021	
6.	Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility	Nominations for Senior of the Year Award	May 12/2021	
7.	Niagara Region	Media Release: Niagara’s health and community leaders encourage residents to seek out reliable information on COVID-19 vaccines	May 12/2021	
8.	TOL – Finance	Memo: Reserves and Reserve Fund Project	May 14/2021	
9.	Town of Plympton-Wyoming	Resolution: request for the Province of Ontario to withdraw its prohibition on golfing and any other outdoor recreational activities.	May 14/2021	
10.	Town of the Blue Mountains	Town of The Blue Mountains Community Recovery Task Force Request regarding Provincial Re-opening Strategy and Frontline Business Experience	May 14/2021	
11.	Municipality of Chatham-Kent	Resolution: Time for Change Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act	May 14/2021	

May 10, 2021

## Niagara Region marks National Nursing Week and Long-Term Care Week

Over the past year, we've seen so many frontline healthcare workers selflessly answer the call as the COVID-19 pandemic took over our hospitals, long-term care homes, schools and workplaces.

Of those courageous and professional frontline healthcare workers, nurses, personal support workers and lots of others are an integral part of the equation. Whether that's helping us during a hospital stay, caring for our family and friends in long-term care homes or working at mass immunization clinics, nurses have been the backbone in the fight against COVID-19.

"On behalf of Regional Council, I want express my sincere appreciation for all who work in long-term care homes, or serve our community by being a nurse," said Regional Chair, Jim Bradley. "The week of May 10 marks both National Nursing Week and Long-Term Care Week, and I am honoured to recognize and thank the dedicated nurses, long-term care staff and frontline workers who provide quality care for some of Niagara's most vulnerable residents. COVID-19 has required our staff to go above and beyond to provide the very best care possible, and our talented employees make a real difference."

The theme this year is #WeAnswerTheCall and was developed by the [Canadian Nurses Association](#) to showcase the many roles that nurses play in a patient's health-care journey. The pandemic brought to light the courage and

commitment that nurses work under every day and showed the important role that nurses play in the community.

So this year, as we celebrate National Nursing Week, think about that special nurse in your life, whether it's a family member, friend or colleague, and thank them. Odds are you can say #IKnowANurse who has made an impact on your life.

## Quotes

"I would like to directly thank all of our nurses and long-term care staff as we celebrate National Nursing Week and Long-term Care Week across our 8 Regional long-term care homes this May. You certainly answer the call everyday in our long-term care homes, showing compassion and kindness to residents and supporting families and caregivers during these challenging times. Thank you for all you do." ~ **Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services**

"Throughout this pandemic, our Public Health & Emergency Services teams have answered the call to protect our community from this pandemic, and nurses have been an integral part of that. Whether it has been taking on new roles to combat COVID-19, absorbing the extra burden of supporting residents whose other health issues have worsened, or taking on more leadership opportunities, they have invariably shown the compassion and care of clients that defines nursing. Thank you to all of them for their service to our community." ~ **Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Niagara Region Public Health**

"On behalf of all senior leadership at the Region, I would like to express our gratitude and thanks to all nurses and long-term care staff for how you all have responded during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this celebratory week, we just want to recognize the contributions that you've made in our communities,

whether it be at a Community Services office, long-term care home, or public health facility. We appreciate you." ~ **Ron Tripp, Acting CAO**

## Media Inquiries

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1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way  
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

May 10, 2021

CN: 3-6-06-06  
Application: 2021-01

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING  
PROPOSED UNOPENED ROAD ALLOWANCE PURCHASE**

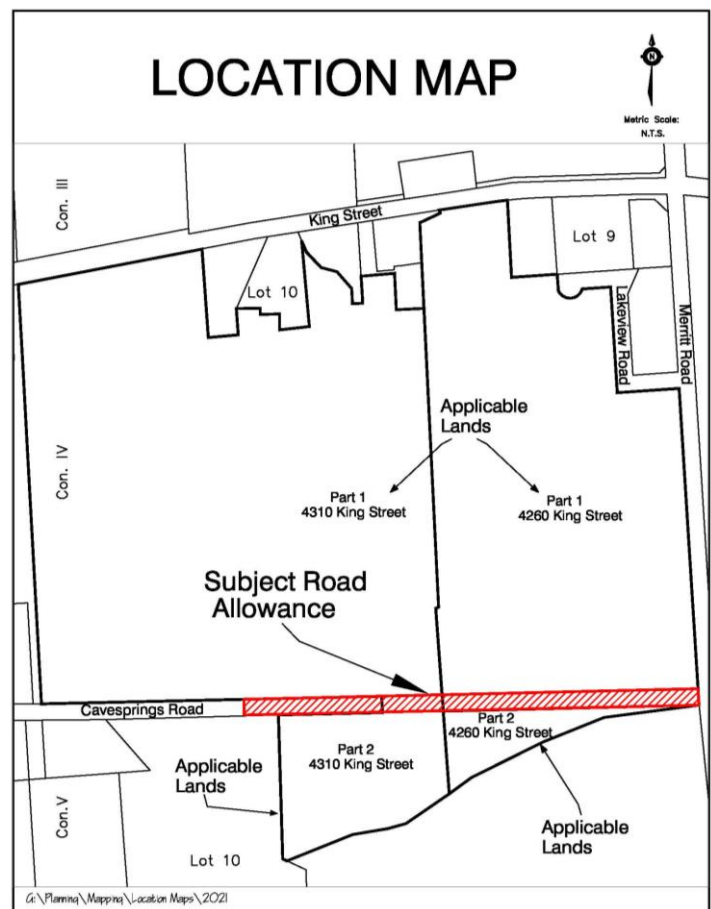
**PUBLIC MEETING**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**PROPOSED CHANGE**

Please be advised that the Town has been asked to consider an application that proposes to close approximately 11,240 square metres (2.78 acres) of unopened road allowance in Lots 9 and 10, Concessions 4 to 5 PT. The applicants are proposing to merge the subject road allowance with adjacent abutting lands.



**HAVE YOUR SAY**

Input on the proposed road allowance closure and sale is welcome and encouraged. There will be no public forum during the public meeting. To speak at the public meeting you must fill out the online delegation request at <https://lincoln.ca/council/council-standing-committees/appear-delegation> by 12 p.m. on the Friday prior to the public meeting. Instructions on how to participate electronically in the open house and/or public meeting for the application will be provided by email or telephone.

You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Town. Please note that unless you do one of the above now, you may not be able to appeal the decision later. For more information about preserving your appeal rights contact Matt Bruder, Director of Planning and Development, [mbruder@lincoln.ca](mailto:mbruder@lincoln.ca) or (905) 321-2857.

**WRITTEN SUBMISSION**

As an alternative to addressing the Committee by video conference via the internet or by telephone, written correspondence can be submitted to the Planning and Development Department by Friday prior to the meeting by email at [mbruder@lincoln.ca](mailto:mbruder@lincoln.ca). Any written correspondence will be shared with Committee members and staff. Please note, written

correspondence will also be included on the agenda which will be published on the Town's website and will form part of the public record.

You will be able to watch the public meeting at the Committee of the Whole meeting on the Town of Lincoln's [YouTube channel](#).

### **MORE INFORMATION**

For further information please contact Matt Bruder, Director of Planning and Development at (905) 321-2857 or [mbruder@lincoln.ca](mailto:mbruder@lincoln.ca).

A copy of the Staff Report will be available on **Thursday, May 20, 2021** after 4 p.m. The Staff Report will be available on the Website: [lincoln.ca](http://lincoln.ca) (View upcoming events calendar, Committee of the Whole, Agenda) or from the Planning and Development Department.

May 11, 2021

## **Green Bin use is up six months after launch of new collection contract**

Last October, Niagara Region moved to every-other-week garbage collection for residents and businesses while continuing to provide weekly collection of Green Bin, Blue Box and Grey Box materials. Based on the early results, Niagara residents are responding well as Green Bin tonnage is up more than 34 per cent and garbage tonnage is down almost 16 per cent. Recycling tonnages have also increased by almost 12 per cent since the new collection changes came into place.

The results were part of an update given to Niagara Region's Public Works Committee on May 11, 2021 for the first six months of the new contract comparing tonnages versus the same period last year. The curbside collection changes, which came into effect Oct. 19, 2020 were intended to reduce the amount of garbage going to landfill and to increase recycling, in particular the usage of the Green Bin.

Catherine Habermehl, Director of Waste Management said, "We would like to recognize and thank Niagara residents and businesses for their enthusiastic participation. The increase in Green Bin usage and recycling materials is a direct result of their efforts. Our team intends to continue to seek ways to build on these early results and provide residents with the information they need to continue to Box It. Bin It. Sort It."

A driving reason for the changes was Niagara Region was seeing more than half of its curbside waste going into landfills, when it could have gone into the Blue / Grey Box or the Green Bin. Niagara Region waste audits showed that only 48 per cent of Niagara residents are using a Green Bin. Out of Niagara's Industrial, Commercial, Institutional and Mixed-Use properties only 14 to 20 per cent were using the Green Bin program.

### **About Niagara Region's Curbside Collection changes**

Niagara Region launched the new curbside collection changes on Oct. 19, 2020, which saw the following collection changes for low-density residential properties: recycling (Green Bin, Blue Box, Grey Box) collected every week, and garbage now collected every-other-week, with residents able to put out two bags/cans. The collection changes were supported with a communications campaign, which encouraged residents to Box It. Bin It. Sort It.

Large appliances and scrap metal, such as stoves, dishwashers, etc. are no longer collected at the curb. Residents can still recycle these items at [Niagara Region drop-off depots](#) free of charge, or through scrap metal haulers / dealers.

Appliances with CFCs, such as freezers and refrigerators, are subject to a \$20 fee per unit at the drop-off depots, unless the \$20 CFC sticker was pre-purchased.

For large household items, such as furniture, there is a four item limit for each residential unit, each garbage collection day. Large items must be booked for collection two working days before your regular garbage collection day.

The new collection contract also split Niagara Region into two areas:

- GFL Environmental Inc. is the contractor for Collection Area One (Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Wainfleet and West Lincoln)

- Miller Waste Systems Inc. is the contractor for Collection Area Two (Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Port Colborne, St. Catharines and Welland.)

Visit the [Niagara Region Waste Management website](#) for more information on programs and services or download the Niagara Region Waste Management App.

## Quotes

"This term of council made the progressive choice to move forward with every-other-week collection as it was the best decision for our local environment. After six months, we have seen exceptionally positive results that demonstrate that this change in policy lead to a significant increase in green bin usage, while diverting organics from our landfills. On behalf of Regional Council, I want to thank residents for their willingness to adapt to every-other-week collection as it is protecting our natural heritage." ~ ***Regional Chair Jim Bradley***

## Media Inquiries

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1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way  
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

May 12, 2021

## **Third survey provides updated picture of COVID-19 impact on Niagara's businesses**

Niagara's Economic Rapid Response Team (ERRT) now has up-to-date information on the state of recovery of Niagara's businesses, thanks to a recently completed Niagara COVID-19 Business Impact Survey - Part 3.

This survey ran from March 29 to April 16, 2021 and was completed by 786 respondents from all 12 municipalities. The data gathered provides current business-level insight into the particular impacts on businesses, and will help Niagara's economic development officials advocate for programs and policies that will support businesses in the recovery process.

The survey follows two previous editions, the first completed in spring 2020, in the early stages of the pandemic, and the second in the fall of 2020. Taken together, the data will help create a long-range picture of the ongoing economic effects of the pandemic.

### **Key survey findings**

- 81 per cent of businesses reported a loss of revenue in 2020. 354 businesses reported a combined loss of \$388.5 million in revenue, an average of \$1.1 million per business.

- Businesses expect a prolonged recovery process, with 30 per cent expecting a recovery within one year, 22 per cent within two years, 24 per cent within three years, and 18 per cent in over three years.
- The top obstacles facing businesses included a slow return of customers, cash flow/increased debt loads, and hiring/training staff, among others
- Business indicated their immediate needs for the next six months included marketing and promotion, financial assistance, employee training, sourcing critical supplies, and hiring staff
- The top five factors reported that are negatively affecting workforces during the pandemic include employee mental health, ownership mental health, overall business stability, uncertainty regarding employment stability and demand for products and services

You can download the [full report](#) online.

## Quotes

"Niagara's business community continues to struggle with the effects of COVID-19, and it is important that we continue to listen and respond to the needs and challenges they are facing. We have seen throughout this pandemic that our businesses are incredibly resilient, and given the right tools and support, have what it takes to thrive. I am hopeful that these results will give us the data we need to provide those supports." ~ ***Regional Chair Jim Bradley***

"We know Niagara businesses have been hit hard from the pandemic, and we still face a long and difficult recovery. Our hope is that this data, taken together with our previous surveys, will help us better understand the immediate needs of businesses, and inform our support and advocacy efforts going forward." ~ ***George Spezza, Director, Niagara Economic Development***

## Media Inquiries

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1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way  
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**THE TOWNSHIP OF GEORGIAN BAY  
Council**

DATE: 10 May 2021

	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>	
Councillor Bochek	_____	_____	MOVED BY: <u>Jarvis</u>
Councillor Cooper	_____	_____	
Councillor Douglas	_____	_____	SECONDED BY: <u>Cooper</u>
Councillor Hazelton	_____	_____	
Councillor Jarvis	_____	_____	
Councillor Wiancko	_____	_____	
Mayor Koetsier	_____	_____	

**DEFERRED** \_\_\_\_\_ **CARRIED** X **DEFEATED** \_\_\_\_\_ **REFERRED** \_\_\_\_\_

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council endorse the Township of The Archipelago Resolutions 21-073 regarding road management action on invasive phragmites.

**Peter Koetsier**  
Mayor



## Township of The Archipelago

9 James Street, Parry Sound ON P2A 1T4

Tel: 705-746-4243/Fax: 705-746-7301

[www.thearchipelago.on.ca](http://www.thearchipelago.on.ca)

April 9, 2021

21-073

**Moved by Councillor Barton  
Seconded by Councillor Manner**

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**RE: Road Management Action On Invasive Phragmites**

**WHEREAS** Phragmites australis (Phragmites) is an invasive perennial grass that continues to cause severe damage to wetlands and beaches in areas around the Great Lakes including Georgian Bay; and

**WHEREAS** Phragmites australis grows and spreads rapidly, allowing the plant to invade new areas and grow into large monoculture stands in a short amount of time, and is an allelopathic plant that secretes toxins from its roots into the soil which impede the growth of neighboring plant species; and

**WHEREAS** Phragmites australis results in loss of biodiversity and species richness, loss of habitat, changes in hydrology due to its high metabolic rate, changes in nutrient cycling as it is slow to decompose, an increased fire hazard due to the combustibility of its dead stalks, and can have an adverse impact on agriculture, particularly in drainage ditches; and

**WHEREAS** invasive Phragmites has been identified as Canada's worst invasive plant species by Agriculture and Agrifood Canada; and

**WHEREAS** the Ontario government has made it illegal to import, deposit, release, breed/grow, buy, sell, lease or trade invasive Phragmites under the Invasive Species Act; and

**WHEREAS** Phragmites occupy over 4,800 hectares of land around Lake St. Clair alone, while 212 hectares of Phragmites occupy land along the St. Lawrence River. The Georgian Bay Area is particularly affected by Phragmites australis, with more than 700 stands along the shorelines and multiple visible stands on the highways and roads that threaten valuable infrastructure and wetland areas; and

**WHEREAS** volunteers, non-governmental organizations, and various municipalities have invested tens of thousands of dollars in investments and labour annually for more than eight years in executing managements plans to control invasive Phragmites on roads, coasts, shorelines and in wetlands; and

**WHEREAS** roads and highways where Phragmites that are left untreated become spread vectors that continually risk new and treated wetlands and coastal shoreline areas; and

**WHEREAS** according to “Smart Practices for the Control of Invasive Phragmites along Ontario’s Roads” by the Ontario Phragmites Working Group, best road management practices for Phragmites australis include early detection, herbicide application, and cutting; and

**WHEREAS** these best management practices are most effective when used in a multi-pronged approach as opposed to when used as stand-alone control measures; and

**WHEREAS** mother nature does not recognize political boundaries. Therefore, it is imperative that Municipalities, Districts, the Province, and the Federal government work together in collaboration to eradicate Canada’s worst invasive plant species Phragmites australis;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Council for the Corporation of the Township of The Archipelago directs its staff to implement best management practices to promote early detection of invasive Phragmites, and to implement best management practices for invasive Phragmites, and to join the Ontario Phragmites Working Group to collaborate on the eradication of Phragmites in Ontario.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Council for the Corporation of the Township of The Archipelago directs staff to insert clean equipment protocols into tenders and that there is oversight that the protocols are followed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Council for the Corporation of the Township of The Archipelago requests the Ontario Ministry of Transportation to map and treat invasive Phragmites annually on all its highways; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) communicates the strategy on mapping (detecting sites) and controlling invasive Phragmites on provincial highways, the specific highway management plans and results by each MTO region and each highway in the region and work in coordination with the Township of The Archipelago; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Council for the Corporation of the Township of The Archipelago directs its staff to send this resolution to all municipalities that are part of the Georgian Bay watershed, to all municipalities in the Great Lakes watershed, to the Minister of Transportation, Christopher Balasa the Manager, Maintenance Management Office, and MPP Norman Miller.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Council for the Corporation of the Township of The Archipelago requests all levels of government to consider funding support to aid the Township of The Archipelago in managing invasive phragmites; and directs staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

**Carried.**

**Ministry for  
Seniors  
and Accessibility**

**Ministère des Services  
aux aînés et de  
l'Accessibilité**



Minister

Ministre

College Park  
777 Bay Street  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 1S5

College Park  
777, rue Bay  
5<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 1S5

May 7, 2021

Dear Mayor, Reeve and Members of Council:

I am writing to invite you to submit a nomination for the 2021 [Senior of the Year Award](#).

Our seniors have worked hard to help to build this great province that all Ontarians enjoy today. This award gives each municipality in Ontario the opportunity to honour one of their outstanding local seniors and the contributions they've made to enrich the social, cultural, or civic life of their community.

**This year, the nomination deadline has been extended to May 31, 2021.**

For more information and to download the nomination form, please visit the [Senior of the Year](#) webpage. Once you submit a nomination, a personalized certificate with your nominee's name will be sent to you. I encourage you to present it to your nominee in June in conjunction with Seniors' Month.

I would also encourage you to promote Seniors Month in your community, as much as possible. This year's theme is Stay Safe, Active and Connected. For more information, keep checking the Seniors' Month webpage: [Celebrating seniors in Ontario](#).

The government of Ontario is proud to work with municipalities on this initiative. Seniors have generously offered their time, knowledge and expertise to make this province a great place to live, and it is important we recognize those valuable contributions.

If you have any questions about the 2021 Senior of the Year Award, please contact the Volunteer Recognition team at [OntarioVolunteerServiceAwards@ontario.ca](mailto:OntarioVolunteerServiceAwards@ontario.ca).

Thank you in advance for your support of local seniors and Seniors' Month.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Raymond Cho'.

Raymond Cho  
Minister for Seniors and Accessibility

May 13, 2021

## Niagara's health and community leaders encourage residents to seek out reliable information on COVID-19 vaccines

Niagara's health care, public health and community leaders are taking to social media to encourage everyone in our community to get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines.

In recent weeks, Niagara Health has seen a dramatic increase in the [strain placed on its critical care capacity](#) due to the third wave of COVID-19 infections. Encouraging as many people as possible to get vaccinated is key to controlling infections and relieving the pressure on our hospital system.

Leaders from [Niagara Health](#) and [Niagara's Community Coordination Task Force for COVID-19 Vaccination](#) have created a series of short videos that answer common questions and misconceptions about the vaccine, including:

- Can I get the virus from the vaccine?
- Why should I get a vaccine?
- Should I get the vaccine if I'm pregnant or have health complications?

The videos can be viewed on [YouTube](#), or through Niagara Region and Niagara Health's social media channels, and more will be added in the coming weeks.

The videos compliment a host of frequently-asked-questions, information, and other resources available on [Niagara Region Public Health's website](#).

Residents and community leaders are encouraged create their short videos using the hashtag #VaccinateNiagara sharing their own vaccination experiences to encourage their own family, friends and neighbours to seek out reliable sources of information on the vaccine, and make informed decisions.

As of May 13, over 208,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered, thanks to collaborative efforts between Niagara Region Public Health and Niagara Health, as well as pharmacies and doctor's offices across the region.

In addition to getting vaccinated, it's never been more important to continue following public health guidelines and provincial regulations to help stop the spread of infection. Practice physical distancing and avoid gathering with anyone outside your own household. Only go out for essential trips, wear a mask in all public places, and practice good hand hygiene.

## Quotes

"We are beginning to see case numbers decline in Niagara however our ICUs are still under serious pressure and we need everyone's support to get this third wave behind us. We have lived experience from countries like the U.K., where vaccinations and public health measures are starting to bear fruit. We will get there too and soon. We all have a responsibility to remain vigilant with masking, physical distancing, hand washing, staying home and getting vaccinated." ~ **Dr. Karim Ali, Director, Division of Infectious Diseases and Antimicrobial**

## ***Stewardship Program, and Emergency Preparedness Lead for Niagara Health***

"“People understandably have many questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, and there are many misconceptions that might deter people from the getting the vaccine. One reason Niagara’s Community Coordination Task Force for COVID-19 Vaccination was formed is to encourage and facilitate the sharing of reliable information and expert advice about vaccines, a task our members have taken to enthusiastically. I’d like to encourage others to join us in this campaign and make a real dent in vaccine hesitancy.” ~ ***Dr. David Dec, Chair, Community Coordination Task Force for COVID-19 Vaccination***

## **Media Inquiries**

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1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way  
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

**Date:** May 14, 2021

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**From:** Lawrence Wagner, Director of Finance, Administration & Innovation  
Teri Trewolla, Associate Director of Finance  
Kayla Snow-Croft, Finance Clerk

**Subject:** Reserves and Reserve Fund Project

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## **PURPOSE:**

The Town of Lincoln has recently engaged Watson and Associates Economists Ltd. to review the Towns of Lincoln's current Reserves and Reserve Funds. This comprehensive review is fundamental to the financial viability, fiscal responsibility, and continuous improvements to assist in long-term planning strategies. It will assist in validating what is working well and identify where if required any future focused changes should be implemented. This can be setting updated limits and validating existing thresholds and limits with respect to the appropriate amount of funds, that are being set aside for future use while following statutory or legal requirements.

## **EXPECTED OUTCOMES:**

A framework will be developed for the Reserves and Reserve Funds. All Reserves and Reserve Funds will be evaluated to obtain a better understanding of why the fund was set up and to assess their purpose and objectives. The Town's asset plans, potential financing sources and investment policies will also be reviewed. The review will help ensure sufficient funds are in place for long-term financing and will identify opportunities for improvement or areas where funding is required. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the General Business and Finance Committee have been engaged to provide a Councillor perspective throughout the process and a Workshop for all of Council is being planned for Summer 2021 (Q3). The Workshop will cover reserve funds, reserve basics, establishing thresholds, general requirements, planning, and recommendations on improving existing processes.

## **ESTIMATED TIMELINES:**

- Committee of the Whole – Workshop (Q3)
- Finance Report to Council with recommendations (Q3)



Hon. Doug Ford, Premier  
Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Sent via email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

May 14<sup>th</sup> 2021

Attn: Premier Ford,

Please be advised that at the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council Meeting held Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 2021, the following resolution was adopted:

**Motion 20**

*Moved by Mike Vasey, Seconded by Netty McEwen that Council support item 'p' of correspondence from the City of Brantford regarding a request for the Province of Ontario to withdraw its prohibition on golfing and any other outdoor recreational activities.*

**Motion Carried.**

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at [ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca](mailto:ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca).

Sincerely,

Erin Kwarciak  
Clerk  
[ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca](mailto:ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca)

Cc: (via e-mail)  
Bob Bailey, MPP  
AMO  
All Ontario Municipalities



April 30, 2021

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier  
Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Sent via email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford,

Please be advised that at the Brantford City Council Meeting held April 27, 2021, the following resolution was adopted:

**Request - Province of Ontario withdraws its prohibition on golfing and any other outdoor recreational activities**

WHEREAS COVID-19 restrictions have had significant impacts; and

WHEREAS many forms of socializing, recreation and sport have been curtailed; and

WHEREAS the game of golf can be enjoyed while maintaining proper social distancing;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Corporation of The City of Brantford recommends:

- A. THAT The Province of Ontario withdraws its prohibition on golfing and any other outdoor recreational activities which can be enjoyed while maintaining proper social distancing; and
- B. THAT the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of this resolution to the Premier of Ontario; Will Bouma, MPP, Brantford-Brant, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Big City Mayors; and the list of other Municipalities in Ontario.

Yours truly,

Tanya Daniels  
City Clerk  
[tdaniels@brantford.ca](mailto:tdaniels@brantford.ca)

cc MPP Will Bouma, Brantford-Brant  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Ontario Big City Mayors  
All Ontario Municipalities



# Town of The Blue Mountains

32 Mill Street, Box 310

THORNBURY, ON N0H 2P0

<https://www.thebluemountains.ca>

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**OFFICE OF:** Mayor Alar Soever

Email: [asoever@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:asoever@thebluemountains.ca)

Phone: 519-599-3131 Ext 400

## Sent via E-mail

May 12, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, 1 Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1A1  
Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

### **RE: Town of The Blue Mountains Community Recovery Task Force Request regarding Provincial Re-opening Strategy and Frontline Business Experience**

Dear Premier,

I am writing to you at the direction of the Town of The Blue Mountains Community Recovery Task Force.

Let me begin by communicating our Council's appreciation for the difficult work you and your Cabinet have done to help manage public health in this extraordinary and unprecedented situation.

Our community is doing its best to comply with the 3rd lockdown in one year but there is an ever-increasing level of frustration and anxiety in our community because of the lack of a clearly communicated "exit plan" from this cycle of social and business restrictions. This "exit plan" needs to prioritize health outcomes, while giving clear direction to our residents and businesses on how we are going to emerge from this lockdown. I understand that the Province of Saskatchewan has just released their plan.

Local businesses, many of which have barely operated for 2 weeks during the last 5 months, are desperate for some sign of what the "new normal" will look like and how Ontario might get there. The COVID-19 Science Advisory table has recently advised you that if the stay-at-home order is lifted in the weeks and months ahead, daily cases would reach 10,000 cases a day by the beginning of July! There is no advice coming from that table on how our massive vaccination program can be a step toward some return to normalcy. I am writing to encourage you and your Cabinet to begin to lay out to the public your plan for how Ontarians can begin to return their lives back to some semblance of normal, whatever that "new normal" looks like.

Our local businesses have been community partners in health outcomes and COVID-19 transmission prevention from the beginning of the pandemic. They have implemented new operational protocols working closely with our Grey Bruce Public Health team. Many of our local businesses implemented standards that went above and beyond the public health guidelines. Our local businesses served as educators of the public to ensure that protocols were followed by visitors and guests.

Premier, our small businesses do their best to hire people, and they invest time and money in training and developing employees so that these employees can have a career. Our local small businesses hire extra part time staff where they can make some extra cash while going to school and summer break. However, our small businesses have become terrified to invest further in their businesses, drying up inventory orders that will have dramatic impacts on supply chains across many sectors. More importantly, this fear will shut down local employment and economic growth. The repeated opening and closing have forced our businesses to incur unrecoverable costs from lost perishable food items, training etc. and are not supported by current government programs.

Destinations, collaborative networks and municipalities across Ontario can work even closer with public health agencies and the Province to ensure that safety protocols are front and center as part of a planned re-opening. Early on in the pandemic, the Town of The Blue Mountains created a local Community (COVID) Recovery Task Force, and this group meets regularly to do what it can to assist local businesses deal with the devastating impact of the prolonged public health lockdowns. This group stands ready to help implement any provincially designed full recovery plan.

Most of our businesses are independently and locally owned and are near completely closed with most employees furloughed. Lack of liquidity is the greatest risk facing businesses at present, which threatens their ability to bounce back upon reopening. Uncertainty and an unclear roadmap to next steps makes the financial and emotional burden that each employer, employee, and local resident faces more difficult.

The Town of the Blue Mountains' small accommodation businesses have been prevented from qualifying for the Ontario Small Business Grant. This is a challenge in tourism-driven communities because accommodations are the key visitation driver. A loss of small accommodators will have a negative ripple effect across retail, restaurant, attractions, and other related sectors. Annual tourism receipts in the RT07 region equal more than \$1.3 billion dollars annually. With regional tourism sector losses somewhere between 30-50% year over year, the economic impact is dramatic.

Businesses urgently need to understand what the criteria will be for a full re-opening, with data points that are measurable, and understandable, in order to better plan and manage their businesses. They are also calling for time to prepare for reopening. Supply chains have been severely impacted by over a year of restrictions. We fully understand that some of the "exit" milestones and the timing of these may be subject to further change, but a plan is needed. More recovery business debt is not possible. Many of our local businesses will not survive if this next recovery is not well planned or managed by ALL PARTIES.

For our municipality, we are unique in that we are the “home” to over 2.5 million visitors each year, and during this “staycation” pandemic, likely many more. We need time to plan for these visitors so that their visit experience is something they will fondly recall and not regret. Like our local businesses, this planning needs to be based upon a public health restriction easing that is well laid out and not designed as we go. While we fully understand that the timing of this plan is subject to the achievement of certain public health milestones, we nevertheless need that plan.

Over 60,000 people recently gathered at a stadium in New Zealand to celebrate herd immunity as that country has reached its target vaccination goals. They were not wearing masks and looked to be enjoying themselves. Here in Canada, aside from the everchanging vaccine rollout parameters, we are told by the science experts that, on the one hand, everything will be normal once we reach our vaccination goal for herd immunity and then told that we will still have to wear masks and stick to public health distancing guidelines because we can still spread the virus, in spite of the vaccine. So, which is it? We need a clear positive statement of how we can return to normal.

Premier, we stand ready to help and I know many of our small business owners do so as well. Perhaps one way to move forward with some input from municipalities and businesses is to establish a COVID recovery advisory group that is tasked with providing government with economic and business recovery advice and planning. You have numerous “science” tables advising you on ways to combat the virus but is it not time to establish a COVID business and economic recovery task force outside of the Jobs and Recovery Committee of Cabinet to help you guide the Province out of this devastating lockdown sequence?

Premier, hopefully we have made a strong case for a clearly communicated plan for this province’s transition out of this pandemic that our residents and businesses can rely on. We want to see the light at the end of the tunnel!

Yours Truly,



Mayor Alar Soever  
Town of The Blue Mountains

Enclosed:       Samples of Frontline Business Experience

CC:               Community Recovery Task Force members (via email)  
                      Department File – C2657

## SAMPLE OF FRONT LINE BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

### From a Small Local Art Gallery:

*"I suppose we are still in the game as a small gallery started in late fall of 2019. If Jeff and his business weren't backing it we would have probably closed up a year ago. These closures are a killer.*

*We start to move ahead and generate foot traffic and sales then boom! We're closed.*

*- we are allowed curbside sales etc but no visits by appt or reduced number.... yet the very people who are our biggest supporters aren't supposed to travel from their homes. How do you sell art online or at the curb?*

*- everyone followed guidelines, our space wasn't overrun etc. but here we are. Closed. I could load up my van and try and show art in the Walmart parking lot like a sleazy salesperson in a trench coat.*

*- what are the numbers based on? I would like more details as to those who have tested positive... I have questions but am made to feel like a trouble maker when I question what is going on.*

*- the idea that we can't interact outside boggles my mind. I think it is possible to plan outdoor activities where the art is shown in a safe hygienic way.*

*- things taped off and not sold... it's insane. It means I will buy online and it may be Amazon that gets my business instead of say Dollarama. You're robbing these stores of sales and robbing employees of an income. Their hours are being depleted and it's depriving our neighbors of an income.*

*- so many shortsighted laws being put in place.*

*- the means by which this vaccine is being rolled out. Don't get me started People who need it still not able to get it or are due for #2. We aren't supposed to travel but some are traveling way out of their district to get the vaccine?*

*Eventually I think some of should be allowed to venture out into the world and not be fearful of anything invisible .... or Afraid of a nosy neighbor or of or someone who thinks we aren't following guidelines as they interpret them.*

*We're all just tired.*

### **From a Small Local Art Gallery**

*“As you know, I have relocated my gallery, once again, and am impatiently awaiting the opportunity to reconnect with the public. Last year was one I wish to move on from with great haste, both for the covid crisis as well as challenges at my last address.*

*While I understand the moving target that the crisis presents our government, it is none the less quite frustrating to not be able to plan for the year ahead with any certainty.*

*If we are a low risk area, which the lack of vaccines coming this way would suggest, then why are we forced to close all our businesses in the meantime? I’m concerned the lack of vaccines with mean we will be forced to remain closed after the cities have been reopened.”*

### **From a Small Local Fitness and Wellness Facility**

*“What I have to share is that our business has been greatly affected by covid. We removed all in-person services from our offerings like yoga & massage and with that we also moved to downsize & try and focus on what we thought were the areas we had more control within with things being so uncertain. We’ve had people assume we closed altogether. It literally feels like we started a new business with trying to navigate the ebbs & flows of it all. We’re working hard to be based more online but we also still want to be and have mostly operated as in-person retail with our brick & mortar. It’s been extremely difficult not keep people engaged with our offerings when there is so much online and we can’t be face to face with people. So our hope for when things reopen is that we are able to operate as functionally and consistently as possible.*

*We also never heard back about the grant being offered to businesses and have relied solely on what we can pull in other than cerb which doesn’t cover it. I would love to see more resources for businesses, not just on a financial level but resources for people looking for small businesses to support & ways for small businesses to advertise to more people. Essentially I would love to see the government advocate more for the little guy & want to see that flourish more than currently allowing the box stores to take over.”*

### **From a Small Locally Funded Arts and Culture Facility:**

*“I think the one of the biggest impacts to the community has been the inability for groups to gather and socialize, especially over the winter. Normally, gatherings would be facilitated by our facility, the local Legion and even the churches but all of us have been severely hampered by pandemic restrictions.*

*It is our sincere hope that, when restrictions ease, we can provide that meeting hub which will help the community heal over the coming year; not only offering a place for simple socialization but also enrichment and fitness programmes and venues for celebrations previously postponed.*

*The biggest hurdle for us is that, with almost no opportunity to fundraise in our normal manner, the fundamental building expenses such as insurance and utilities have drained our finances. Critical to our growth upon opening will be our ability to hire and rehire the staff we will need. This will be our largest financial challenge and we are exploring all grant options to assist.*

*We would love a clear roadmap of the stages of reopening but we are fully aware that uncertainty remains a factor and will do so for some time."*

**From a Small Local Retailer:**

*"I definitely am in the languishing state, don't know how to get myself motivated. Difficult to curb side, people have to look and see what we have. Online has its problems too, silly silly questions, want it for nothing etc. Our landlord wants his rent regardless, even though he knows we are not open! He just threatens to close it all down. Hopefully they do not add more time to the existing lockdown. It would have been nice to be able to let at least one person in at a time under covid rules."*

**From a Small Local Retailer:**

*"I believe that the uncertainty around vaccine effectiveness will be a barrier to people feeling comfortable to go out and shop. Unfortunately, both levels of government have been unclear on what the world will look like once we have achieved the required level of vaccinations.*

*I recently saw on The National a report on over 60,000 people gathered at a stadium in New Zealand to celebrate herd immunity as that country has reached its target vaccination goals. They were not wearing masks and looked to be enjoying themselves. Here in Canada, aside from the ever-changing vaccine rollout parameters, we are told on the one hand that everything will be normal once we reach our vaccination goal for herd immunity and then told that we will still have to wear masks and stick to public health distancing guidelines because we can still spread the virus in spite of the vaccine. So which is it? We need a clear positive statement of how we can return to normal."*

**From a Small Local Health Professional:**

*Unfortunately I purchased this business March 1st 2020 right before the first lockdown. We have been forced to close (now without the possibility of CERB or EI) and my assets are draining quickly. I understand there needs to be restrictions but to restrict a regulated health professional, furthermore a nurse, from her ability to practice is cutting me at my knees. I have supported local vaccine role out but would still be able to work at my clinic. I do have patients who have medical reasons to be treated but most are cosmetic. If I can keep the public safe as a nurse in other areas of practice (ie. Emergency department) I can also keep them safe in a quiet Clinic.*

*The government has failed in getting vaccines out to the public and now our economy has catastrophically gone further in the red.*

*This will take decades to recover from and it is a true shame for our children.*

*Please make a reopening plan and support moving forward that includes better equipped stakeholders to the table to support our small businesses."*

## **From a Small Local Retailer:**

*“It’s a tough to capture succinctly the impact of the pandemic as it relates to me: an entrepreneur and proud small business owner, as there are many layers to this impact. The most obvious and easiest to measure is financial. The tougher to describe are the less measurable impacts such as cultural and emotional.*

*On the financial front there have been programs that have assisted but even with the hours of soul sucking paperwork and applications I know I still have a huge financial hole to dig out of as we re-start. The funds received have been appreciated but they fall short on many fronts (such as the wage subsidy doesn’t allow me to apply as I am not arms length yet I continue to work hard everyday during lockdown) and don’t account for the impact of stress created knowing you are not in control in anyway of the risk of loosing your business.*

*The personal emotional impact is significant, as small business owner I invested heavily personally into my startup, in addition I invested uncountable hours into bringing my business to life and making it a success, I poured my heart and soul into my business. Only to see it crushed through no fault of my own, for the third time. Enthusiasm is one of those unique characteristics of a small business owner that helps you create and recreate your business, its so hard to stay enthusiastic as we keep attempting to pivot with pardon the pivot pun to nauseating results. For our team, I have great empathy. The heartbreak of re-issuing ROE’s for your team members is both a lot of paperwork and emotionally tough.*

*The team here at my business is a combination of employees and contractors, regardless of their status I consider the 40 plus people here part of the team, the essence of our work community. The impact of closing and the empathy for our team members is tough. On a business front the impact to how we operate equates to changes in the requirements for additional skills, new protocols to train and cultural impact. Please don’t underestimate the impact that culture has on a small business. I have invested a lot into creating a great work culture, every time we close and reopen the stop and start destroys our culture, having to reboot it every time! I believe a great guest experience starts with a great team experience – the challenges of keeping a great team experience at work at the time are difficult.*

*Community wise we supported many local entities including other small business and charities. The ripple effect is significant!*

*There are several questions that I have:*

*Financial – how do I dig out of the hole that has been created from over 6 months of closures? (forgive the CEBA)*

*Talent – Will people want to work? Will I find the right talent to fuel the business and at what cost? Is there housing available for my team that they can afford ( with the crazy housing market here)? How do I retain those that have gone through the last 3 stops and starts and might prefer a more guaranteed work environment ( government/ banks etc)*

Re-igniting enthusiasm- How do I get personally motivated, then how to I get this great culture rolling for the team again? How do I increase employee engagement? How do I incent the team to be engaged? How do I personally get the covid fatigue away?

Consumer Demand – How do I crystal ball recovery and know what is on consumer's minds?

Pivot – What do I need to change and at what cost and is now the time to invest? Do I invest or dig out of the hole created financially?"

**From a Small Local Restaurant Owner and Operator:** *The impact of being shut down for so many months, is massive. Rent relief and wage subsidy have been a great help, but this is just not enough, the repeated opening and closing incurs unrecoverable costs from lost perishable food items, training, etc. Rent is not covered 100%, and in the case of a restaurant we are planning to open, no rent is covered, which does not incent operators opening new businesses. Grants are very limited in their scope, in our case we can only receive 1 grant for 5 restaurants, because we are affiliates..... How is our industry going to continue to absorb these costs for another year?*

*On the staffing side, the impact on their livelihoods & mental health cannot be underestimated - we have lost 10-20% of our staff on every reopen due to this."*

**From a Small Local Retailer:**

*"We are a small retail business. We do our best to hire people, invest time and money in training and developing them so they can have a career. We hire extra part time staff where they can make some extra cash while going to school and summer break.*

*We offer great fashion to our customers and give amazing service so they can return back to our stores. We search many suppliers to bring great quality at the best prices.*

*Having said that this pandemic as been incredibly challenging. In retail if you don't buy the product on time before the seasons starts, you won't be able to find units available. At the same time if we don't purchase the product, many suppliers won't make it as they also buy the product before the seasons starts and rely on customers like us to purchase similar to the year before so they can stay in business.*

*If all retailers become scared and don't do their purchase according to making their sales, some suppliers will go bankrupt. So we did our purchases to the max because we were ready for business. However with the last two shutdowns, mind you without any notice, has put us in a bad situation as we invested tens of thousands of dollars to just sit there in our closed locations and have NO ROI!*

*We believe that the Blue Mountain did not have to shut down as they did an amazing job in controlling the traffic and follow Ontario safety guidelines, if anything they did over and above the expectations. We feel as business owners we would have been fine controlling our traffic and have a safe environment, however that did not matter and we were all shut down anyways.*

*It did not matter what the Blue Mountain and it's stores did to control the pandemic and were labeled as a grey zone when we were one of the best in Ontario for lowest covid cases. Many stores are still open like Shoppers Drug Mart as an example, someone can buy perfume but can't buy a top from our store, what is the difference? You can go inside Starbucks and a have a line up from inside to outside the door, wait 10 to 15 minutes inside for a cup of coffee, but you can't come into our store a buy a dress. There are many examples as to how unfair this has been for everyone. Many of us have lost a lot of money for no reason what so ever, while many are making more money. There was no need to close retail stores and outdoor dining, as no proof has been provided that is where you catch Covid.*

*This has been a very challenging time for us and it will take some time to recover our losses, like many others."*

May 10, 2021

Via Email: [Lisa.Thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:Lisa.Thompson@pc.ola.org)

Hon. Lisa M. Thompson  
Minister of Government and Consumer Services  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Hon. Thompson:

**Re: Time for Change  
Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at its regular meeting held on March 1, 2021 passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act R.S.O. 1990 (MFIPPA) dates back 30 years;

AND WHEREAS municipalities, including the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, practice and continue to promote open and transparent government operations, actively disseminate information and routinely disclose public documents upon request outside of the MFIPPA process;

AND WHEREAS government operations, public expectations, technologies, and legislation surrounding accountability and transparency have dramatically changed and MFIPPA has not advanced in line with these changes;

AND WHEREAS the creation, storage and utilization of records has changed significantly, and the Municipal Clerk of the Municipality is responsible for records and information management programs as prescribed by the Municipal Act, 2001;

AND WHEREAS regulation 823 under MFIPPA continues to reference antiquated technology and does not adequately provide for cost recovery, and these financial shortfalls are borne by the municipal taxpayer;

AND WHEREAS the threshold to establish frivolous and/or vexatious requests is unreasonably high and allows for harassment of staff and members of municipal councils, and unreasonably affects the operations of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Act fails to recognize how multiple requests from an individual, shortage of staff resources or the expense of producing a record due to its size, number or physical location does not allow for time extensions to deliver requests and unreasonably affects the operations of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the name of the requestor is not permitted to be disclosed to anyone other than the person processing the access request, and this anonymity is used by requesters to abuse the MFIPPA process and does not align with the spirit of openness and transparency embraced by municipalities;

AND WHEREAS legal professionals use MFIPPA to gain access to information launch litigation against institutions, where other remedies exist;

AND WHEREAS there are limited resources to assist administrators or requestors to navigate the legislative process;

AND WHEREAS reform is needed to address societal and technological changes in addition to global privacy concerns and consistency across provincial legislation;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services be requested to review the MFIPPA, and consider recommendations as follows:

1. That MFIPPA assign the Municipal Clerk, or designate to be the Head under the Act;
2. That MFIPPA be updated to address current and emerging technologies;
3. That MFIPPA regulate the need for consistent routine disclosure practices across institutions;
4. That the threshold for frivolous and/or vexatious actions be reviewed, and take into consideration the community and available resources in which it is applied;
5. That the threshold for frivolous and/or vexatious also consider the anonymity of requesters, their abusive nature and language in requests to ensure protection from harassment as provided for in Occupational Health and Safety Act;
6. That the application and scalability of fees be designed to ensure taxpayers are protected from persons abusing the access to information process;
7. That administrative practices implied or required under the Act, including those of the IPC, be reviewed and modernized;
8. That the integrity of the Act be maintained to protect personal privacy and transparent governments.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Judy Smith at [ckclerk@chatham-ketn.ca](mailto:ckclerk@chatham-ketn.ca)

Sincerely,

Judy Smith, CMO  
Director Municipal Governance  
Clerk /Freedom of Information Coordinator

c.

Lianne Rood, MP  
Dave Epp MP  
Rick Nicholls, MPP  
Monte McNaughton, MPP  
Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
AMCTO Legislative and Policy Advisory Committee  
Ontario municipalities