



Township of North Algona Wilberforce COUNCIL / COMMITTEE REPORT

Title: Bulk or Large Item Day and Site Hours	Date: June 16, 2020
	Council/Committee: Council Compliance
	Author: Andrew Sprunt
	Department: Administration

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council accepts the report and instructs staff to proceed with a Large item drop off at Berndt Road and OVWRC on specific days in August.

And further that Berndt Road waste Site be closed on Sundays and the hours be extended one hour on Mondays

BACKGROUND:

Council directed staff to prepare a report on having a bulk or large item day that explores options such as having bins located at various drop sites for limited hours.

Staff have looked at the possibility of placing bins in different locations. Staff would recommend using Township owned property that has a big enough foot print to be able to accommodate waste drop off without interfering with road traffic. This limits locations that are suitable and most tend to be somewhere close to the existing transfer sites.

To have bins that are moving around during the day, it is recommended that it be a day on a weekend, there will be the requirement to pay a premium for a driver and truck and a township staff member to supervise.

The Berndt road site is licensed to accept large items any day as well as the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre. It is recommended that instead of having special bulk days, that Berndt Road and OVWRC be open to accept large items from Township Residents on specific days. By having the drop off at controlled sites on these specific dates there would be less labour associated with the event and less haulage cost by using OVWRC.

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Residents would take advantage of this event through a coupon placed in each tax bill. The Township would pay the disposal fees for residents providing a coupon. This method is used in other townships.

The final option would be just to have the event as it has been traditionally operated. One day at Berndt Road and one day at Shaw Woods. Requiring two operators at overtime rates for two days along with haulage and tipping fees to OVWRC.

Presently, Berndt Road Transfer Site is open extra part days during the summer season. The site is open two hours on Sundays and Mondays. Sundays have not been very busy in the past two weeks with under 10 residents using Berndt Road on Sundays. On Mondays about 30 residents use the site. Staffing is a challenge for these days as it is only for two hours. The onsite regular staff member suggests that the site would serve residents better by opening longer on Mondays and not open on Sundays at all. Having the site open on Mondays for three hours would be a twenty-five percent cost savings and would also eliminate the Sunday attendant from working alone without a back-up. The suggested hours would be 3 (three) pm to 6 (six) pm on Mondays.

Staff recommend August 8 to 15 for large item drop off (only during regular posted hours).

ALTERNATIVES:

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

ATTACHMENTS:

CONSULTATIONS:

Author: _____
signature

Other: _____
signature

Treasurer _____
signature

C.A.O. _____
signature



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June 17, 2020

Hon Steven Clark
Minister
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Clark:

RE: County of Renfrew Official Plan Amendment No. 25

The County of Renfrew commenced their review of their Official Plan over five years ago, with a goal to make it a "made in Renfrew County Plan". Many public meetings were held throughout the County and a plan was finally adopted by County Council on April 25, 2018. This plan reflected the values of the County residents and recognized the unique characteristics of the largest geographical County in the Province.

Within days of your Government being formed, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing provided response to the plan, the comments were not well received by municipalities within Renfrew County due to the changes requested that ignored the "made in the County" plan. Following a meeting with Ministry Officials on November 9, 2018, consideration was given to adopt the policies that were not in conflict and this was done on March 22, 2019.

However, it was a shock to Council Members of North Algona Wilberforce and to ratepayers when the Final Approval of the Plan was made March 26, 2020. The Official Plan no longer reflects the uniqueness of Renfrew County.

Prime Agriculture Areas

In North Algona Wilberforce Township, it seems every open and deforested patch of rural land is now designated Prime Agriculture. North Algona Wilberforce is not prime agricultural lands, while there are areas where farms are tilled, which should be designated, there are many thousands of acres which only provide for limited production. Today's agriculture and farming practices are very different from when the original owners carved the open land from the forests. Several municipalities in Renfrew County have seen an increase in agricultural usage of lands, with farmers purchasing farms and moving into the areas from other locations in the Province. But this insurgence for the most part has bypassed North Algona Wilberforce Township.

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Agriculture is a small part of the mosaic that makes up our Township. The Township has several large developed lakes and vista properties with great views of the Ottawa Valley topography. Most of the Agriculture designated lands are better used for those purposes.

Natural Heritage Features

The largest area of the Township has been identified as Deer Wintering Area. The area of Deer Wintering Area as set out in Schedule "B" mapping is so large, there is very little area that would be left for "non winter" areas. If the Provincial Policy Statement requires Deer Wintering Areas to be identified on this Official Plan, The Province should carry out sufficient studies to accurately map out the actual wintering yards. To require the landowner who has property identified as such, to carry out an Environmental Impact Study to determine if in fact the property is a deer wintering yard, is contrary to Provincial responsibility and the best interests of its citizens.

Karst Topography

Numerous areas of the Township have been identified as Karst potential. The Township recognizes that development over Karst features needs to be controlled. The County Planning Department had an acceptable test method for the past 10 years or so to determine if there is actual Karst within the potential areas. This involved digging test holes within the potential building and septic areas. If Karst rock was discovered, further studies were required.

With the new Official Plan, this initial testing is no longer an option, and a full investigation is required. From experience, Council Members are aware that many of the "potential" identified properties would not pose a restriction to development as none would be identified through a study. Council calls for the previous initial review to be reinstated. If Karst is identified, the further studies set out in the Official Plan are acceptable.

Environmental Impact Study Requirement

The new Official Plan shifts the responsibility of proving the Provincial policies exist onto the landowner. Council respectfully rejects this requirement. If there are sufficient criteria for the Province to determine a feature exists on a property, it should not be left to the landowner to conduct a study to prove the feature exists or does not exist on their property. The Provincial mapping requirements are very specific in areas of Prime Agriculture Lands, but too general in other designations.

Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Resources

Previously, large developments along waterfront has required various stages of Archaeological studies. The new Official Plan includes this provision but reduces the size of development to a single lot severance that requires the Archaeological studies. All North Algona Wilberforce's developable waterfront is around four large lakes (Mink Lake, Lake Dore, Wilber Lake and Golden Lake) and along the Bonnechere River. With very few exceptions, development already exists along all the shoreline, and only infilling opportunities exist. To require a landowner to carry out an Archaeological study on property being developed between existing development should not be a requirement. Reconsideration of the policy would be appreciated.

Wildland Fire

The Wildland Fire designation is another policy that places the onus on the developer or landowner to determine the actual risk and mitigating measures. With the mapping and technology available today to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry staff, specific property mapping should have been completed by the Ministry requiring such designation.

General Comments

Council believes that the County Official Plan Amendment No. 25 greatly diminishes the potential of development in our Township. Development in North Algona Wilberforce Township is greatly influenced by tourism and residential uses. The Township is not a large agricultural producing area. As with all municipalities in Renfrew County, encouraging small commercial and industrial properties is a paramount to survival and sustainability. With the limiting growth potential that is set out in the County Official Plan, taxation will increase dramatically, and maintenance of existing infrastructure will fall further behind.

The idea of a "made in Renfrew County" Plan was scuttled by Provincial Officials, using the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) to support its decisions. But the PPS can't be a "one policy for the entire Province. However, it appears that until this realization is made by the Province, rural areas in general and Renfrew County in particular will slowly become a ghost town with areas that will be much harder to provide health and emergency services to.

Council invites the public servants who develop policies like the PPS to come to Renfrew County and to spend time to get to know us as communities and neighbourhoods and see firsthand our unique civilization and cultures to assist in their development of future policies.

Yours truly,

Council of North Algona Wilberforce Township
James Brose,
Mayor

Encl. John Yakabuski, Minister of MNRF, and
MPP Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke,

Warden Debbie Robinson
County of Renfrew

From: Margaret McLeod
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2020 8:35 AM
To: Maria Robinson <mrobinson@nalgona.wil.com>
Subject: Website

Hello Maria:. When talking to you some time ago, you were interested in having a more accurate website for the township.

Please accept the following comments.

I had thought when the website was launched it would be complete.

1.Under Points of Interest - Parks and Recreation - the website lists Shaw Woods, not the property of the township, and does not list Biederman Park which is part of township property.

There is a boat launch on Lake Dore, not listed.

2. Golden Lake Community Centre shows a picture of the G.L. Post office. No municipal building, no playground, no firehall, no picnic area.

Thanks for reading this. Margaret.

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**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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234-2020-2382

June 12, 2020

Dear Heads of Council / Clerks and CAOs:

Nothing is more important than protecting the health and well-being of Ontarians. Since first learning of COVID-19, Ontario has taken decisive action to stop the spread of this deadly virus, and we thank you for your support in our efforts.

We appreciate that the current situation for municipalities is not “business as usual”, and that all municipalities have had to make adjustments to adapt to new priorities and shifting ways of doing business.

When municipalities requested our help, we listened and acted quickly to legislate changes to the Planning Act and make the necessary regulation to suspend decision-making timelines. These changes balanced the need to suspend the timelines that would allow a municipality to refocus time and resources on the COVID-19 outbreak, while allowing councils to continue to make decisions on planning matters as municipal capacity evolved.

As we move forward with our gradual approach that will allow Ontario to emerge from the COVID-19 outbreak, we know that getting shovels in the ground is key to moving forward on the path to economic recovery together. Many municipalities may be well on their way to a more normalized planning review process, and we want to ensure that the land use planning system is in step with a municipality’s expanding capacity during this time. As a result, we intend to end the temporary suspension of the Planning Act timelines as of June 22nd, 2020.

We understand that the safety of your constituents must remain a priority, and that there are certain provincial restrictions in place regarding public gatherings. Therefore, we encourage you to continue to use electronic and virtual channels, as appropriate, to engage and provide the public with an opportunity to make representations on planning matters, while following the advice of Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health.

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It is vital for our economic recovery from this outbreak that we work together to help move the planning approvals process forward. We need to continue the important job of creating housing and keeping infrastructure projects moving while also ensuring we maintain public health. Development has always played a key role in supporting growth in our communities, and it will play an especially important role on our road to economic recovery from COVID-19.

Let me assure you that our government is working to support you, our municipal partners, and will continue to work collaboratively to keep all Ontarians safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Clark" clearly distinguishable.

Steve Clark
Minister

c. Association of Municipalities of Ontario