Township of Cramahe Council Information Package

Date: Thursday, June 4, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Location: For Information Only

1. Council Information
   1.a Correspondence from MPP David Piccini re:

       Broadband Program  2

2. Resolutions from Other Municipalities
   2.a County of Northumberland Council Resolution regarding:

       Notice of Motion  4
Ontario’s new Broadband Program looks to Connect Residents & Business in Northumberland – Peterborough South

Province leveraging up to $500 million to help connect residents and businesses to the 21st century digital economy

NEWS

PORT HOPE, ON – The Government of Ontario has announced an investment of $150 million to address much needed broadband infrastructure across unserved and underserved regions of the province.

This investment looks to connect more residents and businesses in Northumberland – Peterborough South to reliable broadband and cellular service.

The Improving Connectivity in Ontario, or ICON, has the potential to leverage up to $500 million in total partner funding.

“I have heard from many of my constituents, especially now during the COVID-19 pandemic, the challenges they face in staying connected with limited to access to cellular and broadband connectivity,” said MPP Piccini. “I am proud to see our government announcing this significant investment to bring the people of Northumberland – Peterborough South one step closer to more reliable connectivity.

The ICON program opens its initial intake later this month, applicants like telecom companies, municipal governments, Indigenous communities and non-profits will be invited to submit innovative proposals to lend their investment, expertise and experience to improve connectivity in communities across Ontario. The province will fund a portion of each approved project.

“Now more than ever before, our government recognizes that the people of Ontario need to be connected to learn, work, and run their businesses. This program is an important step toward bridging the digital divide,” said MPP Piccini.

The Improving Connectivity in Ontario program is part of Up to Speed: Ontario’s Broadband and Cellular Action Plan, which includes $315-million to improve and expand cellular service and broadband in rural and remote communities across Ontario. In the span of a year, Ontario has advanced initiatives to improve access to broadband and cellular service across eastern, western and northern Ontario. All of these initiatives are expected to generate more than $1 billion in investments over five years.

QUICK FACTS

- As much as 12 per cent of households in Ontario – mostly in rural, remote or northern areas – are underserved or unserved, according to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.
- In the past several months, Ontario has partnered with the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) to leverage $213 million to improve access to cellular and mobile broadband in eastern Ontario.
• Ontario committed $71 million to the Eastern Ontario Regional Network’s (EORN) project to virtually eliminate coverage gaps in the region. The public-private initiative requires contributions from the federal government as well private sector and municipal partners. Total value of the project is estimated at $213 million and is expected to generate up to 3,000 jobs over 10 years and potential revenues of $420 million.

• Ontario has invested in initiatives to improve connectivity in northern Ontario, such as a project that will connect five remote Matawa-member First Nation communities, and investments in broadband projects through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and the Next Generation Network Program.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

• Connecting Ontario: Learn how Ontario is helping to improve connectivity across the province.
• Up to Speed: Ontario’s Broadband and Cellular Action Plan
• Ontario Builds map

MEDIA CONTACTS

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Resolution

Moved By ____________________________  Agenda Item 8i  Resolution No. 2020-05-20-143

Last Name Printed Martin

Secended By ____________________________  Council Date: May 20, 2020

Last Name Printed Cane

"Now Therefore Be It Resolved That Northumberland County Council supports the resolutions adopted by the Township of Perth South, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, the Municipality of West Nipissing; and

Further Be It Resolved That Northumberland County requests the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to review its practices and procedures to include a requirement to provide supporting evidence to impacted municipalities when designating Provincially Significant Wetlands within their boundaries; and

Further Be It Resolved That Council directs staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, MPP David Piccini (Northumberland Peterborough-South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, and all Ontario municipalities."

Recorded Vote Requested by ____________________________  Carried

Councillor's Name

Deferred ____________________________  Defeated ____________________________

Warden's Signature  Page 4 of 11
April 16, 2020

Sent by Email

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier’s Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON M7Z 1A1

Honourable Premier Ford;

Re: Provincially Significant Wetlands Designation

At the regular meeting of Perth South Council held on March 17, 2020 correspondence was received from the Municipality of West Nipissing, the Village of Merrickville-Wolford and Norfolk County (attached hereto) regarding the above noted issue. As a rural municipality, we share the same concerns raised and thoroughly support the resolutions passed and information provided by these municipalities.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and please contact our office if you require any further information.

Regards,

[Signature]

Lizet Scott
Clerk

Attachments
March 3, 2020

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier’s Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen’s Park
Toronto, ON  M7A 1A1

Honourable Premier Ford:

**SUBJECT: PROVINCIALY SIGNIFICANT WETLANDS DESIGNATION**

At its regular meeting held on February 25, 2020, Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing passed resolution **2020/080**, attached hereto. The resolution supports a request circulated by the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, asking the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to respectfully review its practices and procedures to include a requirement to provide supporting evidence, to impacted municipalities, when designating Provincially Significant Wetlands within their boundaries.

We trust the enclosed is self-explanatory.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Deputy Clerk / Assistant to the
Chief Administrative Officer

\Encl.

cc: Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Ontario Municipalities
WHEREAS the Municipality of West Nipissing received resolution no. R-029-20 from the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, attached hereto; pertaining to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s practices and procedures when designating of Provincially Significant Wetlands;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing supports the Village of Merrickville-Wolford requesting that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to respectfully provide supporting evidence with respect to the expansion of wetlands designations within their boundaries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing calls upon the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to respectfully review its practices and procedures to include a requirement to provide supporting evidence, to impacted municipalities, when designating Provincially Significant Wetlands within their boundaries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and all Ontario municipalities.
February 5, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Provincially Significant Wetlands Designation

Please find attached the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford’s Resolution No. R-029-20, with respect to the Village’s concerns surrounding the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s practices and procedures while implementing designations of Provincially Significant Wetlands.

While the attached resolution is tailored to a Village-specific issue, it is Council’s position that the concerns expressed therein are being experienced by municipalities Province-wide.

Thank you in advance for the consideration that you give this matter.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

Doug Robertson
CAO/Clerk/Director, Economic Development

c. Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
   Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
   Andy Brown, CAO of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
   Association of Municipalities of Ontario
   Rural Ontario Municipal Association
   All Ontario municipalities
Resolution Number: R - 029 - 20

Date: January 27, 2020

Moved by: Cameron Foster Halpenny Molloy

Seconded by: Cameron Foster Halpenny Molloy

WHEREAS the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is endeavouring to adopt a new Official Plan as required per Section 17 of the Planning Act and the Village is required to incorporate the Provincial Policy Statements of the Act;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Policy Statements require the Village to provide in its Official Plan the updated provisions of new and expanded Provincially Significant Wetlands designations;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that the expansion of these wetlands is detrimentally affecting certain landowners and the Village's assessment base;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that designations of Provincially Significant Wetlands have occurred throughout the Province of Ontario without the provision of supporting evidence;
VILLAGE OF MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned about the expansion of the Provincially Significant Wetlands in the Northeast quadrant of the Village;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford is concerned that these wetlands designations have been expanded without the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry having provided to the Village supporting evidence to justify said expansion;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford does hereby respectfully request that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry provide the Village with supporting evidence with respect to the expansion of these wetlands designations;

AND THAT the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re-evaluate the subject properties without delay;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried / Defeated

J. Douglas Struthers, Mayor
March 1, 2020

Ontario Municipalities

Dear Heads of Council and Councillors:

Re: Issues regarding the mapping of Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs)

Norfolk County Council is working to address significant issues that have come to our attention regarding the mapping of Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSWs).

Following the Ministry's updated mapping related to PSWs, the County updated its Official Plan to bring its policies in line with the new mapping. Following that, the County planning staff introduced a Zoning By-Law amendment to update the zoning to reflect the new mapping and to provide consistency between the Zoning By-Law and the Official Plan. Though the mapping is wholly outside the County's process and control, the zoning by-law amendment was not approved by Council, flowing from significant public concern about the updated mapping affecting people's properties. In some cases, some of these changes were very significant.

The County submitted comments to the province as part of the review of the Provincial Policy statement requesting that the process for PSW mapping be significantly improved to allow for transparency and better land owner engagement, including, for example, a right of appeal or formal dispute resolution process. This will allow for land owners to be properly informed and engaged where land use designations that affect their property may result. The current process appears to be severely underfunded and without any meaningful way for affected residents to engage.

The County is seeking support from other rural municipalities who may be affected by this to address this issue with the province.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Yours Truly,

Mayor Kristal Chopp
Norfolk County

cc. The Honourable Steve Clark,
    Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing