

Mayor Don's Update – September 16, 2021

Wilson/Seadon/Carson Intersection

The Wilson (County Road 53) and Seadon/Carson intersection has been a topic of much discussion in recent weeks. I have heard and acknowledge residents' concerns regarding road safety and traffic at this location.

The road and intersection are the responsibility of the County. At the Township's request, the County installed a flashing beacon on Wilson Drive for the purpose of bringing motorists' attention to the Seadon/Carson Road cross traffic. We have also reached out to the County regarding the possibility of installing stop signs along Wilson Drive. The Township has also commenced a traffic calming investigation for the area, with the placement of a speed monitoring board on Seadon Road. Once the data is reviewed and analyzed, staff at the Township and the County will determine the potential next steps, which may include the implementation of further interim safety measures. The semi-permanent speed board the Township has placed on Seadon Road will help alert and educate motorists about speeding.

The Wilson/Seadon/Carson intersection was identified for improvements in 2017, and the County is undertaking work to deliver infrastructure that will accommodate the expected traffic growth in the area. Negotiations over the required property to be acquired to complete this are finished and the County is now conducting site preparation work for utilities to be relocated. Construction is expected to commence in spring 2022, with a roundabout option determined to be the preferred solution over a signalized intersection.

There are many proven benefits to roundabouts, including:

- **Safety:** lower speeds and fewer points of conflict between vehicles reduces the potential for serious crashes and injury
- **Lower speeds:** unlike at a green light at an intersection, vehicles need to slow down to use a roundabout, reducing the likelihood of a serious crash
- **Higher capacity:** a high volume of vehicles turning left is handled better by a roundabout than by a left turn signal at a traditional intersection
- **Fewer stops and shorter delays:** yielding at the entry of a roundabout takes less time than waiting for a green light at an intersection or for a gap in traffic at a stop sign
- **Less idling and air pollution:** fewer delays reduce fuel consumption and improve air quality by reducing emissions
- **Lower maintenance costs:** roundabouts eliminate maintenance and electricity costs associated with traffic signals

- **Aesthetically pleasing:** there is an opportunity for landscaping within the central island of a roundabout

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The Government of Canada recently passed legislation to make September 30 a federal statutory holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day is an important step in the reconciliation process. It provides an opportunity to recognize and commemorate the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools, which more than 150,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit children were forced to attend between the 1870s and 1997. The holiday was one of the 94 calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The Township of Springwater will observe this important day by providing education to our staff. In addition to conducting diversity and inclusion training, we will be screening several educational videos that shed light on the intergenerational trauma caused by residential schools. Staff will wear orange shirts to honour the survivors, the children who were lost, and the families and communities who continue to grieve. The vendor supplying the orange shirts is donating \$10 for every shirt that the Township purchases to the Barrie Native Friendship Centre—likely amounting to an \$800 to \$900 donation.

Additionally, the Springwater Public Library will be creating buttons with the *Every Child Matters* logo on September 30. Patrons may pick them up (while supplies last) in branch that day, with a suggested donation to the Barrie Native Friendship Centre. While you're there, check out their display of Indigenous library materials and list of resources for further learning.

Fundraisers for the Elmvale & District Food Bank

Help support the Elmvale & District Food Bank this month by participating in two very important local fundraisers:

1. **Smile Cookie Week** – From September 13 to 19, purchase a Smile Cookie at the Elmvale Tim Hortons and 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the Food Bank. Residents may pre-order their Smile Cookies by completing the form on the Township's website: <http://ow.ly/y0vg50G5GTG>.
2. **Stuff the Truck** – On Wednesday, September 29, Springwater Firefighters will be driving through the Township to collect food donations for the Food Bank. Be sure to leave a donation at the end of your driveway! Discover which neighbourhoods they will visit at <http://ow.ly/9BEU50G7Zfw>.

County Cart Delivery Update

The County of Simcoe is on schedule to deliver approximately 450,000 carts to 150,000 locations before the start of the new collection program on November 1, 2021. County staff anticipate that 225,000 carts will be distributed as of September 14. There are currently three companies sub-contracted by the County's cart manufacturer to perform assembly and distribution services. Approximately 34 crews began work on the project on August 3 and are working 10-hour days, Monday through Saturday, in order to distribute carts to eligible households by the end of October. Distribution is anticipated to be largely completed by October 23, with the final week of October designated for clean-up, i.e., providing carts to locations that were missed, collecting extra carts where the unit data was incorrect, rectifying errors and omissions, etc.

At its September 14 meeting, County Council decided to advance the timing of holding a follow up workshop to review the possible utilization of smaller cart sizes in addition to the ones currently being distributed. The County has received some requests (representing less than 1% of serviced units) for smaller carts. The follow up review of the carts was initially scheduled to occur after residents have had a chance to become familiar with the new collection system and respond to a user survey. The workshop is planned to occur within the next month as soon as possible.

LDD Moth update

On the direction of Council, County staff have prepared an information report to review the extent of the LDD Moth infestation in Simcoe County as well as to estimate the scope of the problem and the potential costs of dealing with it in the future. The report provides several options for municipal consideration and will help inform the 2022 budget process.

County Forestry staff began LDD monitoring through surveys of egg mass densities in susceptible County Forests in 2019. This year, staff observed smaller egg masses and significant viral and/or fungal levels. Although there are likely to be problematic areas continuing throughout the County in 2022, it is clear that the LDD outbreak is in decline overall.

Control Options	
1) Take no direct action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recent surveys indicate declining outbreak levels.- Low cost and minimal staff resource requirements.- Some losses may occur to municipal and/or private trees/woodlands.

2) Provide enhanced supports to residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May include bulk purchases and distribution of burlap for tree banding or other supports but not including support for aerial spraying. - Low cost and minimal staff resource requirements. - Some losses may occur to municipal and/or private trees/woodlands.
3) Adopt 'Good Neighbour' approach (enhance private aerial spraying by treating adjacent municipal lands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderate cost and staff resource requirements. No forest or egg mass surveying requirements. - Enhanced support for private landowners. - Improved efficacy of treatment areas. - Uncertain budget allocations as area sprayed will depend on private landowners.
4) Monitor and assess municipally-owned property for treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key municipal forest assets protected. - Improved public enjoyment of high use areas. - High cost and staff resources. - Spraying could occur on areas where it is not required if LDD population collapses. - Significant levels of surveying required to estimate impacts and define spray boundaries.
5) Monitor and assess municipal and privately-owned property for treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key municipal forest assets protected. - Improved public enjoyment of high use areas. - More effective control in areas where multiple private landowners are involved (treating large contiguous areas improves efficacy). - High cost and staff resources. - Spraying could occur on areas where it is not required if LDD population collapses. - Significant levels of surveying required to estimate impacts and define spray boundaries.

In consideration of the declining outbreak and considerable cost and resources required to plan, initiate, communicate and conduct a municipal aerial spraying program, proceeding with Options 4 or 5 is not recommended. Depending on the level of demand, the County could support residents' efforts through Options 2 or 3. County Forestry staff view adopting a 'good neighbour' approach (Option 3) and supporting private initiatives by agreeing to spray a minimum buffer within a municipal property as a reasonable approach. Staff do not predict significant forest health issues and as a result will not proceed with an aerial spraying program within the Simcoe County Forest in 2022.

Springwater will continue to review this and consider options as part of our budget process.

Springwater Farmers' Market – Elmvale

The last day of the season for the Springwater Farmers' Market – Elmvale is Friday, September 17. Make sure you get out and support our local farmers, producers and artisans. The Market runs from 9 am to 2 pm in the municipal parking lot at 33 Queen Street West. We thank our vendors for another great summer and look forward to seeing them again next year.

Election Information

The next federal election will take place on Monday, September 20, 2021. To find your polling station, check your voter information card or use the Voter Information Service at elections.ca.

To vote in the federal election, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen;
- be at least 18 years old on election day; and
- prove your identity and address.

I hope all Springwater residents take the opportunity to become informed of our local candidates and the solutions they propose. Talk to the candidates about the issues that matter to you, and most importantly, exercise your right to vote on September 20!

Strategic Priorities

Springwater Council has commenced Phase One of a new long-term strategic planning process which will result in the development of a Community Based Strategic Plan (CBSP) for the Township. As a municipality with a great deal of forecasted growth, a number of changes are anticipated in the social, economic and cultural make-up of the community. The CBSP will assist in guiding the municipality in decision-making, planning and execution of key initiatives and projects throughout the next 20 years. In addition to outlining long-range components, such as vision, mission and values, the CBSP will identify Strategic Priorities to be addressed during each successive Term of Council.

Phase One of the process involves reviewing submissions received by members of Council in order to identify Strategic Priorities for the remainder of the 2018-2022 Term of Council. This phase will help to ensure that the Township's resources are properly aligned to meet the priorities of Council over the next year. In Phase Two of the process, staff will seek a consultant to develop the CBSP. Community engagement will be a key element of Phase Two and the public will have opportunities to share their feedback during a consultation process in early 2022. The results of the engagement will be incorporated into the CBSP, which is expected to be finalized by the new Term of Council in 2023.

As per Phase One, Council has identified the following Strategic Priorities for the remainder of its Term:

- 1) Continue progress on Phase 1 and 2 Development of Community Hub (Hasty Tract)
- 2) Completion of Service Delivery Review, including IT Master Plan
- 3) Completion of Official Plan
- 4) Completion of Comprehensive Compensation Review
- 5) Enhance Staff Recognition Program/Negotiate Collective Agreement
- 6) Continue to manage growth in a sustainable manner
- 7) Finalize formation of new OPP Detachment Board
- 8) Continue developing our Asset Management Roadmap, which includes Township Facilities (i.e., Future of Grenfel Community Hall)
- 9) Creation of Financial Policy Framework

These represent my views and not necessarily those of Council. Have a great September.