

Mayor Don's Update – September 30, 2021

Swaley Drain

A preliminary report dated July 21, 2021 done by Springwater Drainage Engineering Mr. Ken Smart was reviewed and accepted by Council. The final report, dated September 7, 2021, was reviewed and accepted by Council this week. Its recommendations include:

- The Swaley Drain's outlets in the flooded waters of the Minesing Wetlands are to be extended by 750 meters with a width of 9 meters and the work will be done using a barge expert;
- A monitoring program of the ongoing required work is being established;
- Agreed upon environmental enhancements are to be constructed as part of the Work;
- The Downey Drain channel will be "brushed" by the Drainage Superintendent as a separate project before or during the work of this project;
- The cost estimate of the project is \$357,700 to be paid as follows: \$127,000 paid by Springwater, \$35,000 assessed to Province of Ontario, \$27,000 to Simcoe County and \$165,000 to the resident landowners averaging, net of a grant provided by Springwater to raise its contribution to just over \$200,000, for a net cost to landowners of between \$17 and \$25 per acre;
- There will be 5 years of monitoring work done at an estimated cost off \$6,500 per year allocated as above;
- The remediation work will be sole sourced to a contractor with past successful and relevant experience with barge work on municipal drains. This will expedite the tendering process, with the goal of Winter 2021/2022 construction;
- To meet the 2021/2022 construction period and to avoid having to delay for a full year, appeals, if any, and final agency approvals will have to be addressed and resolved if necessary, expeditiously.

I will keep you updated on the progress of this.

Proof of Vaccination Policy - Elmvale Arena

In line with the provincial Vaccine Passport requirement for indoor recreational facilities, the Township will now require Proof of Vaccination, along with identification, for all visitors to the Elmvale Community Arena, unless otherwise exempt.

The Proof of Vaccination Policy will apply to all individuals entering the facility to attend, participate in, coach, or spectate a sporting event or activity, with exemptions for:

- Children 11 years of age and under;
- Youth 17 years of age and under who are actively participating in an organized sport;
- Those with a written medical exemption from vaccination.

Unless exempt, individuals will be asked by Township staff to show proof that they have received both doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days prior to entering the Arena and upon each visit. Everyone entering the building, except for confirmed participants under the age of 18, must show government-issued identification that includes their name and date of birth. The Township's online COVID-19 Pre-Screening Form will remain mandatory for all visitors, regardless of their exemption status.

Ontarians can print or download their vaccination receipt online from the [Provincial Booking Portal](#). Residents who do not have access to a computer or printer may print their vaccination receipt for free at the Springwater Township Public Library in Elmvale or Midhurst. Those who need further support obtaining a copy of their vaccination receipt can call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900.

For more information on the Township's Proof of Vaccination Policy for the Elmvale Community Arena, visit www.springwater.ca/VaccinePassport.

To register for one of the Public Information Sessions, visit <https://bit.ly/2XJAF4Z>. Sessions will be recorded and posted to the County's MCR project webpage for additional public access.

Anten Mills CRA 50th Anniversary

The Anten Mills Community Recreation Association (CRA) is celebrating their 50th anniversary! Share in the acknowledgment of the past 50 years by joining them at the Anten Mills Community Centre on October 3 from 1 to 3 pm. The festivities will include an artisan fair featuring Anten Mills artists, authors and crafters, door prizes, and an opportunity to see recent improvements to the park. To celebrate the 50th anniversary, perennial gardens have been installed on the grounds through the efforts of the CRA. Additionally, a 500-metre walking path around the park has been constructed to add to the community recreation. I commend the Anten Mills CRA and the many volunteers who have had an impact on the recreation and social activities of the community over the past 50 years. We are fortunate to be part of a community that wants to help build public spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Fire Prevention Week

During the 50th Anniversary event, the Springwater Fire & Emergency Services crew will kick off Fire Prevention Week. Stop by the firetruck to receive information handouts and free giveaways featuring this year's theme "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety".

Elmvale Blood Drive

Sign up to save a life! Canadian Blood Services will be hosting a Blood Donor Clinic at the Elmvale Community Hall on Saturday, October 16 from 9 am to 2 pm. Every donation counts. Book your appointment online at blood.ca or by phoning 1-888-2DONATE.

Elmvale Virtual Thanksgiving Event

Thanksgiving weekend is a special time in Elmvale, providing us with opportunities to spend time with loved ones and celebrate the richness of our local agriculture. Though we will not be able to hold our annual Fall Fair, the Flos Agricultural Society has teamed up with the Township to bring you the Elmvale Virtual Thanksgiving Celebration once again. This hybrid event will carry forward traditions of the Fall Fair in an online capacity and offer socially distanced activities that families can do together safely. Submit a craft, enter a baked good, or show off your produce through the Online Photo Contest. There are a number of contest categories, through which you can submit photos for a chance to win a great local prize. Each submission is equal to one ballot entry. All entries must be received by October 4. The contest is open to all Springwater residents at springwater.ca/ElmvaleVirtualThanksgiving.

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—amounting to an \$800 to \$900 donation.

Additionally, the Springwater Township 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.

Farm to Retail Workshop

Starting October 28, the County of Simcoe is partnering with the counties of Grey and Bruce along with the Henry Bernick Entrepreneurship Centre to run an 11-week Farm to Retail Workshop. Delivered by the Food Venture Program, this workshop will help farmers take an idea and learn the process of developing it from ideology to finished product. Information will be provided on topics ranging from health requirements to financing to consumer intelligence and more. The workshop will be conducted virtually, with sector experts from the Food Venture Program leading each of the 11-week sessions on Thursdays from 1 to 3:30 pm. For more information, visit edo.simcoe.ca/Agricultural-Resources.

Program spaces are limited and those interested in participating will need to apply by October 11, 2021. Applications are available at <https://bit.ly/3i7VU7R>.

New Chief Building Official Announcement

The Township is pleased to announce the appointment of Darren Verstraten as the new Chief Building Official. Mr. Verstraten has been with the Township of Springwater since 1999 when he joined as the Recreation Assistant. Since then, he has held the positions of Building Inspector and Deputy Chief Building Official. In June of this year, he was appointed as Acting Chief Building Official. He has done a tremendous job in leading his team, ensuring minimal to no interruption to our building community and launching our new CityView software.

Throughout his career, Mr. Verstraten has remained committed to expanding his knowledge and skills in the building sector. He holds his CBCO designation through the Ontario Building Officials Association (OBOA) and is qualified in all 12 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing building code categories. He has served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Simcoe County Chapter of the OBOA and played an active role on both the education and social committees as well. In 2015, he received the Gar Payne Award for his contributions to the chapter.

We are thrilled to continue working with Mr. Verstraten and congratulate him on his new role!

County Municipal Comprehensive Review Public Information Sessions

The County of Simcoe is undertaking a Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) process to bring its Official Plan into conformity with Province's *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. The MCR is a specific planning process that all upper and single-tier municipalities in the County are required to complete by July 2022. The County initiated its MCR process in 2018 to specifically review and update planning policy regarding key themes. The MCR will establish the overall pattern of development and land resource management in the County, and sets the stage for more detailed local planning.

As part of the MCR process, a number of virtual Public Information Sessions will be held throughout October regarding the following themes:

Growth Management and the Land Needs Assessment

- Tuesday, October 5, 1:30 – 3:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 5, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Provincial Natural Heritage System Mapping Refinement

- Monday, October 18, 10:00 – 11:30 am
- Tuesday, October 19, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Provincial Agricultural System Mapping Refinement

- Monday, October 18, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 19, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Climate Change

- Monday, October 18, 3:00 – 4:30 pm
- Tuesday, October 19, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Watershed Management

- Monday, October 18, 1:00 – 2:30 pm
- Tuesday, October 19, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

For further details on the Public Information Sessions or to review materials related to these sessions, visit the County's [MCR project webpage](#).

Simcoe County receives designation as a Bee City

The County of Simcoe was given official designation as a “Bee City” by Bee City Canada for its effort to support and raise awareness of pollinator protection. In conjunction with Economic Development Officers from the region, Tourism Simcoe County has led several innovative bee and honey initiatives, including the development of a pilot tourism trail in 2018 related to bees and honey production. The County plans to expand its Honey Trail into a County-wide *Bees and Honey* program, which is intended to bring awareness to the importance of pollinator health. Tourism Simcoe County is also developing a Bees and Honey themed video and written materials that will be used to provide education and promote local operators.

These are my thoughts and not necessarily those of Council. Keep well.