

# Mayor Don's Update – May 12, 2022

## Official Plan Review Update

The Township continues to plan for the future through its Official Plan Review (OPR) process. At this time, WSP (the Township's OPR consultant) has shared final copies of the Phase II Background Studies (Population-Related Employment Market Study, Intensification Strategy, and Bayfield Street Corridor Study) along with a draft version of the new Official Plan and associated mapping schedules. Township staff have provided initial comments on these preliminary materials and expect them to be available for public release and comment in June 2022.

In-line with Council's priority to adopt a new Official Plan within this current term, the following timeline has been proposed to complete the OPR process:

Date	Milestone
Ongoing	Complete draft Official Plan and Schedules
June, 2022	Present Draft Official Plan to Council
June, 2022	Release draft Official Plan online for public review and circulate to approval authority and commenting agencies
June, 2022	Statutory Public Open House
July, 2022	Revise Official Plan based on feedback
August, 2022	Statutory Public Meeting
August, 2022	Final revisions
September, 2022	Council Adoption

I encourage you to get involved in the OPR process by letting us know the issues that matter to you. Opportunities to provide feedback will be posted online at [springwater.ca/OPR](http://springwater.ca/OPR).

## Changes to Regional Library Structure

At its April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, County Council voted to implement a new Information Library Service (ILS). The ILS will replace the Simcoe County Library Co-operative, which currently provides supplemental services to fourteen municipal public libraries across Simcoe County. The decision to move to a new ILS structure was based on recommendations contained in an external report and made following consultation with the local libraries. The recommendations were brought forward to County Council by the Regional Government Review (RGR) Task Force, which is charged with identifying service delivery efficiencies for the County and its member municipalities.

Under the ILS, taxpayers will see annual savings of \$295,000 moving forward. There will be no downloading to the local libraries, and benefits to the local library branches include:

- Upgraded, cloud-based e-services IT platform
- Upgraded library computers software to Microsoft365 (which will allow for greater IT support and security)
- Speed and direct control over technical challenges by library CEOs through immediate resolution with IT HelpDesk and vendor
- State-of-the-art government grade cyber security threat protection

- Single electronic library card, opening resources for all patrons regardless of municipality supported through reciprocal borrowing agreements
- Continued support with regional procurement efforts
- Elimination of over \$50,000 in licencing fees paid by municipal library branches to the County
- Existing collections of materials owned by the County of Simcoe will be donated to library branches for public access at no cost to the individual municipal branches; this includes multilingual collections

A meeting between the County, Library Co-operative Board and library CEOs to discuss issues and implementation is scheduled for May 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 am.

## **2021 Budget – Unaudited Year End Results**

On December 16, 2020, Township Council approved the 2021 Budget & Business Plan. The Plan included gross expenditures and revenues in the amount of \$44.6M. After accounting for all transactions, staff have reported a 2021 tax based operating surplus in the amount of \$1,192,203. The surplus is largely the result of operational savings due to the pandemic and salary/benefit savings/gapping. At its May 4, 2022 meeting, Council voted to allocate the 2021 tax based operating surplus as follows:

- \$36,003 to the Library Capital Discretionary Reserve Fund,
- \$107,074 to the Winter Maintenance Reserve;
- \$155,188 to the Technology Reserve; and
- \$893,938 to reduce the Township’s unfunded capital.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Public Information Centre – County Transportation Strategy**

Help guide transportation plans in Simcoe County for the next 30+ years. The County of Simcoe is currently developing an update to its Transportation Master Plan that will outline transportation infrastructure needs and priorities to 2051. As part of this process, they are seeking feedback from residents through a virtual Public Information Centre. The input received will help provide direction for the planning, coordination and implementation of:

- a multi-municipal road and transit network,
- active transportation amenities (including bike lanes and trail networks), and
- commuter facilities.

The Public Information Centre is an interactive engagement space containing project display boards, a public opinion survey, and an area to submit feedback and comments. Visit [www.simcoe.ca/tmp](http://www.simcoe.ca/tmp) to access the Public Information Centre. Interested parties have until May 29, 2022 to participate.

## **Building Safety Month**

We rarely question our safety when we are in the buildings where we live, work, shop or play. This is because of the high standard in which buildings in Ontario are constructed. In Ontario, the minimum standard for new construction, additions and alteration to existing buildings is set out in the Building Code. Our Springwater Building Services Department enforces the Building Code locally by

examining building plans and specifications, issuing permits and performing inspections through the various stages of construction. In May, we celebrate Building Safety Month to highlight the vital role our Building Officials play in ensuring the safety of buildings and their occupants. Follow along with the Township's social media updates this month to learn about building safety, and what goes into creating a safe and sustainable structure.

### **Construction Along Wilson Drive**

Please be advised that there will be three construction projects taking place at various points along Wilson Drive (County Rd 53) beginning this spring. Residents may experience temporary disruptions and delays while construction is active due to required lane closures. Every attempt will be made to minimize these disruptions, and access to roads and businesses will be maintained at all times.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Effluent Main Installation	Wilson Dr and Highway 26	Work is in progress and is expected to be completed in July 2022.
Traffic Signal Installation	Wilson Dr and Snow Valley Rd	Work will commence in May and is expected to be completed in July 2022.
County Road 53 Roundabout	Wilson Dr and Seadon Rd / Carson Rd	The relocation of utilities is currently underway. Construction of the roundabout is planned for 2022/2023.

Residents are advised to plan ahead and leave extra time for travel or take alternate routes where possible. For the safety of workers, everyone travelling through the work sites are advised to take extra care and adhere to the posted signage.

### **Springwater Swing**

We're just one month away from the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Springwater Swing charity golf tournament taking place on Monday, June 13 at the Barrie Country Club. We still have a number of sponsorship opportunities available for anyone looking to support this great cause while enjoying a fun day of golf. Proceeds from the tournament will go towards physician recruitment, our community assistance program, and other worthwhile initiatives. The \$225 registration fee per golfer includes a round of golf, cart, lunch and a delicious dinner. For registration information and sponsorship opportunities, visit [springwater.ca/SpringwaterSwing](http://springwater.ca/SpringwaterSwing).

These are my views and not necessarily those shared by Council.

Best regards. Don