

**COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE SUMMARY**  
**2019 11 22**

- 272. Received from the Niagara Region Re: Natural Environment Work Program – Phases 2 & 3: Mapping and Watershed Planning Discussion Papers and Comprehensive Background Study
- 273. Received from the Niagara Region Re: On-Demand Transit – Pilot Authorization (Simulation Results) PW 60-2019
- 274. Received from Crime Stoppers of Niagara Re: Request for flag raising ceremony at Wainfleet Town Hall in January, 2020
- 275. Received from the Niagara Region Re: Analysis of Niagara Region’s Role in Tourism ED 12-2019
- 276. Received from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority Re: Good Forestry Practices Permit Application, Tree and Forest Conservation Bylaw 30-2008, CON 6 PT LOT 29, 63051 Perry Road, Wainfleet
- 277. Received from Lars Bjerno, Chair of the Wainfleet Seniors Housing Committee Re: Request for \$800.00 as a start-up fund to assist in committee initiatives
- 278. Received from the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Re: Ban of Single-Use Disposable Wipes
- 279. Received from the Town of Fort Erie Re: Resolution supporting the City of Niagara Falls resolution on school bus camera legislation
- 280. Received from the Township of Ramara Re: Conservation Authority Exit Clause
- 281. Received from the Municipality of South Huron Re: Support for Town of Prescott resolution on the transformation of building services and creation of a new delegated administrative authority with regard to building service delivery
- 282. Received from Niagara Regional Housing Re: Quarterly Report (July 1 to September 30, 2019)
- 283. Received from MPP, Sam Oosterhoff’s Office Re: News Release – Ontario Launches Free Routine Dental Care for Low-Income Seniors
- 284. Received from the Township of Larder Lake Re: Main Street Revitalization Grant – Extension Request
- 285. Received from the City of Welland Re: Endorsement of presentation regarding OHNIA Kara Aspiring Geopark

CC: SLT  
Planning  
Drainage

RECEIVED NOV 15 2019  
E-272-2019



**Administration**

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November 15, 2019

CL 20-2019, November 14, 2019  
PEDC 11-2019, November 6, 2019  
PDS 32-2019, November 6, 2019

**SENT ELECTRONICALLY**

**RE: Natural Environment Work Program – Phases 2 & 3: Mapping and  
Watershed Planning Discussion Papers and Comprehensive Background  
Study  
PDS 32-2019**

Regional Council, at its meeting of November 14, 2019, approved the following recommendation of its Planning and Economic Development Committee:

That Report PDS 32-2019, dated November 6, 2019, respecting Natural Environment Work Program – Phases 2 & 3: Mapping and Watershed Planning Discussion Papers and Comprehensive Background Study, **BE RECEIVED** and that Report PDS 32-2019 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Area Municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA).

A copy of Report PDS 32-2019 is enclosed for your information

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ann Marie".

Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk  
:me

CLK-C 2019-256

Cc: G. Wood, Interim Chief Administrative Officer, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority  
Local Area Municipalities

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**Subject:** Natural Environment Work Program – Phases 2 & 3: Mapping and Watershed Planning Discussion Papers and Comprehensive Background Study

**Report to:** Planning and Economic Development Committee

**Report date:** Wednesday, November 6, 2019

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### **Recommendations**

1. That Report PDS 32-2019 **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,
2. That Report PDS 32-2019 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Area Municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA).

### **Key Facts**

- The purpose of this report is to present the Mapping Discussion Paper, Watershed Planning Discussion Paper, and Natural Environment Background Study for information. These background reports have been completed as part of Phase 2 of the Natural Environment Work Program for the new Niagara Official Plan.
- As recommended by the Mapping Discussion Paper staff will be initiating an update to key environmental mapping layers (including a field-verification component) in support of the ongoing Natural Environment Work Program. This work will be done concurrently and the costs will be accommodated within the budget for the new Niagara Official Plan.
- This report also presents an overview of Phase 3 of the Work Program - "1<sup>st</sup> Point of Engagement: Inform on Background Study", including a list of activities undertaken, summary of input received, and a link to the Consultation Summary Report.
- The next step of work program is Phase 4 which is the identification and evaluation of options. This will be followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Point of Engagement – which will include two points of contact with Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC).

### **Financial Considerations**

The ongoing costs associated with the Natural Environment Work Program will be accommodated within the Council approved Regional Official Plan project budget.

## Analysis

### Background

PDS 6-2018 (January 2018) was the project initiation report for the natural environment work program. PDS 18-2018 (April 2018) provided a summary of the early consultation process; framework for the work program moving forward; an outline of the proposed consultation and engagement process; and a schedule for reporting to Committee and Council. PDS 10-2019 (February 2019) provided a status update on Natural Environment Work Program.

The Mapping Discussion Paper, Watershed Planning Discussion Paper, and Natural Environment Background Study are now complete and a brief summary is provided in the following sections. For the complete documents see the web links at the end of this report.

### Mapping Discussion Paper

Through the process of scoping the work program with local planning staff and the NPCA - mapping was identified as a key issue in almost all discussions. There were a range of concerns about the Region's existing natural environment mapping - most related to its accuracy and reliability. There were discussions related to the degree in which the Region would be field-verifying mapping as part of the Official Plan process. The need to have reliable mapping to support local planning was stressed, as was a need for the Region to consider a range of mapping options.

*Key findings of the Discussion Paper were:*

- The Province provides direction on the type of features and areas that should be included in natural heritage and water resource systems. The methodology for mapping varies across municipalities.
- The mapping of natural environment systems requires the use of dozens of sources of data – each with varying ages, degrees of accuracy, and ownership. The Region is responsible for producing and maintaining the data for some features. For other features, the Region is reliant on datasets maintained by others.
- The woodland dataset is one of the most important and extensive datasets/layers. It is the responsibility of the Region to produce and maintain this layer – and an update is required. The discussion paper provided several options for how this could be done, the most practical being to generate a new ELC (Ecological Land Classification) dataset for the Region. This would involve updating the existing data that was produced through the Natural Areas Inventory (NAI) through a combination of aerial image interpretation and field-verification.

Although there is a higher level of effort associated with an update of the ELC dataset, it will have a range of other uses including updates to datasets for other features, a more holistic understanding of the natural environment in the Region, assisting with watershed planning, and supporting site-specific environmental impact studies (EISs). Following the identification of woodlands across the region, criteria are then applied to determine which woodlands are considered 'significant'.

*Key mapping next steps:*

- Prepare a work plan, and initiate a process for updated ELC dataset based on the recommendations of the discussion paper. Regional staff will consult with NPCA staff as part of preparing the work plan.

Watershed Planning Discussion Paper

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) requires that watersheds be the ecologically meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning. It is not a new concept. However, recent Provincial changes have reinforced the need for watershed planning to 'inform' municipal land-use planning. The purpose of the Watershed Planning Discussion Paper was to better understand the history, new provincial direction, and the updated process, roles, and responsibilities related to watershed planning in the Region.

*Key findings of the discussion paper were:*

The Region will now have a lead role in coordinating watershed planning, with the NPCA continuing to provide technical expertise and partnering where appropriate. The discussion paper provides direction in three key areas:

1. Watershed planning that is required to 'inform' the new Niagara Official Plan.
2. Policies for watershed planning that should be included in the new Niagara Official Plan.
3. A suggested framework for watershed planning in Niagara moving forward.

*Key watershed planning next steps:*

- Staff to prepare a report and work plan for the implementation of a watershed planning program - based on the direction and recommendations of the discussion paper. This will include a consideration of options, costs, funding, and other resources.

## Natural Environment Background Study

The Natural Environment Background Study was designed to be the primary source of information for the project moving forward, and to ensure that policy development will be informed by science and the best available information. The background study covers both general topics, as well as issue and trends that are specific to Niagara. Several key findings are overviewed as follows:

### *Provincial Direction –*

Much of the direction for natural environment planning is provided by the Province. Provincial direction starts with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS). The PPS identifies the types of natural features, areas, functions, and systems that must be identified and protected.

In Niagara, the Region is responsible for implementing the Provincial Greenbelt Natural Heritage System (NHS) and the Provincial Growth Plan NHS. The Greenbelt NHS has been in place since 2005 and is generally reflected in existing Regional Policies. The Growth Plan NHS was introduced in 2017, and is being implemented in Niagara through the new Official Plan for the first time. The implementation of the Growth Plan NHS itself represents a significant shift to natural environment planning in the Region.

A second major shift in provincial direction is the need to identify and protect a 'water resource system'. Watershed planning in addition to the joint Niagara Region/NPCA 'contemporary mapping of watercourses' project will play an important role in the identification and protection of the water resource system.

### *Fish Habitat -*

The PPS and Provincial Plans require the protection of 'fish habitat'. Fish habitat, is defined by the Federal Fisheries Act, and means: "spawning grounds and any other areas, including nursery, rearing, food supply, and mitigation areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes". This is a broad definition that includes direct and indirect habitat.

One of the issues to be considered through the new Niagara Official Plan is relationship between fish habitat and agricultural infrastructure – this has been subject to ongoing discussions for at least 15 years – and required a detailed review to ensure the history and nuisances of the issue could be understood. Some of the key facts include:

- Agricultural infrastructure (i.e. drains and irrigation systems) in Niagara includes a combination of natural, altered, and man-made watercourses.

- The definition of fish habitat does not include a specific exemption for man-made or altered watercourses. In fact, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) produced a document 'Guidance for Maintaining and Repairing Municipal Drains in Ontario' which discusses the relationship between fish habitat and municipal drains.
- There is on-going concern that agriculture infrastructure may be identified as fish habitat and could restrict the construction of agricultural buildings and other agricultural infrastructure, and possibly normal farm practices.
- Beyond the PPS, Provincial Plans, and Fisheries Act, there are other pieces of legislation that must be taken into consideration including the Drainage Act, the Conservation Authorities Act and Regulations, and applicable Private Member Bills.

#### *Offsetting -*

Offsetting is generally defined as the positive actions that are taken to address the partial or whole loss of environmental features or ecological functions with the goal of achieving an equal (i.e. no net loss) or greater gain (i.e. net gain) in the amount of a natural feature or ecological function.

There is a recent and controversial history related to the concept of offsetting in Niagara. As a direct result of this, during early consultation on the project, Staff were asked many questions on the topic. Stakeholders, including PEDC, requested more information, as well as clarification on its official position in land-use planning in Ontario. Some of our stakeholders simply wanted to know what it was.

To that end, it was identified as a topic for specific inclusion in the background study. Its inclusion in the report does not take a position, rather it is intended to provide a review of the topic to better inform our partners, stakeholders, and the public. Some key facts include:

- Currently, the PPS and Provincial Plans do not address offsetting.
- Offsetting is not considered an approach to be used to meet the test of 'no negative impacts' as required by the PPS.
- There are concerns about the use of offsetting due to poorly written policies, incorrect interpretation/application, and/or lack of enforcement of policies or regulations.
- Not all features can or should be considered for offsetting. The more complex a feature the higher the risk of not achieving a no-net loss or even net gain. The irreplaceability of some types of features must be acknowledged.
- Several Conservation Authorities and Municipalities in Ontario have policies and guidelines which contemplate compensation/offsetting. In general, they were

developed in response to the development approvals system which in some cases allow impacts to natural features.

- The current NPCA policy document in some cases does permit a compensation approach for wetlands which are not considered to be 'provincially-significant'. It is however understood that this policy is currently under review by the NPCA Board and Staff.

#### *Climate Change and Invasive Species –*

To date – the two issues which have generated the most discussion have been climate change and invasive species. These are recognized as two of the most significant threats to the natural environment and can often work in conjunction with one another to accelerate the deterioration of our natural areas.

With respect to the relationship between natural environment and climate change, this generally means two things: planning to protect our natural areas from the impacts of climate change, and understanding that natural areas are an important tool for mitigation and resilience.

The natural environment system is vulnerable to a range of changes in the environment and is widely expected to be affected by climate change. However, the full extent of the impact of climate change on natural features and ecological functions is uncertain. As part of a forward-thinking Official Plan, there is a need to consider the potential impacts of climate change as part of natural environment planning in order to better protect the natural environment system and reduce economic costs (e.g., flood damage, effect of drought on crops, etc.). The work on climate change in this work program is being complemented by the stand-alone Climate Change Work Program being undertaken in support of the new Niagara Official Plan.

There are many invasive species that are creating issues in Niagara including Phragmites, Garlic Mustard, European Buckthorn, and Emerald Ash Borer. Directly controlling invasive species is difficult through the land use policies of Official Plans - and is typically better addressed through by-laws and other management tools. It is clear that controlling invasive species will require partnerships and the work of a number of agencies across the Region. The background study provides some approaches and best practices from other jurisdictions on how this could be done.

#### Phase 3: 1<sup>st</sup> Point of Engagement – Inform on Background Study

As overviewed in PDS 18-2018, the consultation and engagement program included a range of stakeholders, Indigenous groups, and the public. A variety of engagement techniques were used including workshops, meetings, presentations, and open houses. Engagement activities took place at a variety of locations across the Region. Information was also made available on the new Niagara Official Plan website.

*List of Activities Undertaken –*

The following activities were undertaken as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Point of Engagement:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
February 20, 2019	Presentation to Planning and Economic Development Committee (PDS 10-2019)
February 22, 2019	Presentation to the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee (APAC)
February 22, 2019	Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting
April 23, 2019	Presentation to Fort Erie Council
May 1, 2019	Meeting with Six Nations Elected Council Staff
May 1, 2019	Meeting with Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council
May 3, 2019	Workshop – Development Community, Consultants, and Local Planning Staff
May 6, 2019	Presentation to Grimsby Council
May 7, 2019	Meeting with Fort Erie Friendship Centre Staff
May 7, 2019	Presentation to Thorold Council
May 13, 2019	Presentation to Niagara-on-the-Lake Council
May 14, 2019	Presentation to Niagara Falls Council
May 16, 2019	Workshop – Agricultural Community
May 16, 2019	Workshop – Environmental Stakeholder Groups
May 22, 2019	Workshop – Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)
May 27, 2019	Presentation to Port Colborne Council
May 28, 2019	Presentation to Wainfleet Council
May 29, 2019	Meeting with Niagara Region Metis Council
May 30, 2019	Public Information Centre – West Lincoln
June 3, 2019	Presentation to Pelham Council
June 5, 2019	Meeting with Niagara Region Native Centre Staff
June 6, 2019	Meeting with NPCA Senior Staff
June 6, 2019	Public Information Centre - Welland
June 10, 2019	Information Package to St. Catharines Council
June 10, 2019	Presentation to West Lincoln Council
June 11, 2019	Meeting with Mississauga-of-the-Credit Staff
June 11, 2019	Presentation to Welland Council
June 13, 2019	Meeting with NPCA Technical Staff
June 17, 2019	Presentation to Lincoln Council
July 23, 2019	Meeting with NPCA Technical Staff
September 18, 2019	Presentation to NPCA Board

*Summary of What We Heard –*

The Consultation Summary Report identifies 9 key themes that emerged through the 1<sup>st</sup> Point of Engagement - as well as the implications for the Natural Environment Work Program moving forward. These findings are summarized in the table below:

Key Theme	Implication for Natural Environment Work Program
1. Consistent Policies and Clear Roles and Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to address roles and jurisdictions</li> <li>- Need for consistent definitions and application of policy</li> </ul>
2. Take a Systems Approach to Natural Environment Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to address connection between issues</li> <li>- Need to address connectivity and linkages within natural systems</li> <li>- Need to account for the inter-relationship between natural and built environments</li> </ul>
3. Recognize the Uniqueness of Niagara's Geography, Natural Environment and Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need for a balanced approach that considers a range of land uses</li> <li>- Need for a specific consideration of the relationship between agriculture and natural environment</li> </ul>
4. Accurately Mapping the Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to use the most up-to-date and reliable sources of information</li> <li>- Need to ensure that mapping is updated on a regular basis</li> </ul>
5. Monitor Federal Legislation and Provincial Policy Direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to continue to monitor changes at the provincial and federal level and make changes as required</li> </ul>
6. Protect the Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to both protect existing features and restore/enhance others</li> <li>- Need to focus development in the right areas</li> </ul>
7. Explore Challenging Issues in Natural Environment Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to continue to explore issues and make policy decisions based on science and a fact-based approach</li> </ul>

Key Theme	Implication for Natural Environment Work Program
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need for ongoing public education and dialogue</li> </ul>
8. Forward Thinking Natural Environment Policies and Official Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to take advantage of this opportunity to explore - and potentially implement bold new approaches</li> </ul>
9. Build Trust Through Continued Engagement, Collaboration and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need for ongoing meaningful dialogue, with a goal of building trust, and the best outcomes for Niagara</li> <li>- Need to be forward looking and not weighed down by a rehash of past site-specific outcomes</li> </ul>

Next Steps

The next phase of the work program is to develop and evaluate options for the natural systems. This work will be documented the second technical paper: Identification and Evaluation of Options for Regional Natural Environment System(s).

This will be followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Point of Engagement – which will include two points of contact with PEDC. Firstly, the preliminary preferred option will be presented for endorsement; we will then undertake a fulsome consultation program with the full range of stakeholders, the public, and Indigenous groups; finally, based on the input received, the preferred option will then be presented to PEDC for final endorsement.

**Alternatives Reviewed**

Council could choose not to receive or circulate this report. This is not recommended.

**Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities**

This report is being brought forward as part of the ongoing reporting on the new Niagara Official Plan. The Natural Environment Work Program aligns with Objective 3.2 Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship:

“A holistic and flexible approach to environmental stewardship and consideration of the natural environment, such as in infrastructure, planning and development, aligned with a renewed Official Plan.”

## **Other Pertinent Reports**

PDS 40-2016 – Regional Official Plan Update  
PDS 41-2017 – New Official Plan Structure and Framework  
PDS 3-2018 – New Official Plan Update  
PDS 6-2018 – Natural Environment Project Initiation Report  
PDS 18-2018 – Natural Environment – Project Framework  
PDS 9-2019 – New Official Plan Consultation Timeline Framework  
PDS 10-2019 – Update on Natural Environment Work Program – New Regional Official Plan  
CWCD 122-2019 – Agricultural and Environmental Groups – Draft Stakeholder Lists  
CWCD 150-2019 – Update on Official Plan Consultations – Spring 2019  
CWCD 179-2019 – Notice of Public Information Centres – Natural Environment Work Program, New Regional Official Plan  
CWCD 271-2019 – Update on Consultation for New Official Plan

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**Prepared by:**

Sean Norman, PMP, MCIP, RPP  
Senior Planner  
Planning and Development Services

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**Recommended by:**

Rino Mostacci, MCIP, RPP  
Commissioner  
Planning and Development Services

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**Submitted by:**

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.  
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

*This report was prepared in consultation with Karen Costantini, Planning Analyst – Regional Official Plan, and reviewed by Erik Acs, MCIP, RPP, Manager, Community Planning, Dave Heyworth, MCIP, RPP, Official Plan-Policy Consultant, and Doug Giles, Director, Community and Long Range Planning.*

## **Appendices**

The reports can be accessed on the new Niagara Official Plan webpage through the following web links:

[Mapping Discussion Paper](#)

[Watershed Planning Discussion Paper](#)

[Natural Environment Background Study](#)

[Consultation Summary Report #1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Point of Engagement](#)

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November 15, 2019

**CL 20-2019, November 14, 2019****PWC 11-2019, November 5, 2019****PW 60-2019, November 5, 2019*****Local Area Municipalities******SENT ELECTRONICALLY*****Re: On-Demand Transit – Pilot Authorization (Simulation Results)  
PW 60-2019**

Regional Council, at its meeting of November 14, 2019, approved the following recommendation of its Public Works Committee:

That Report PW 60-2019, dated November 5, 2019, respecting On-Demand Transit - Pilot Authorization (Simulation Results), **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the on-demand transit concept for Niagara Regional Transit (NRT) service expansion pilots outlined in Report PW 60-2019, subject to 2020 budget approval;
2. That the Chief Administrative Officer **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute an Agreement with Via Mobility LLC., for the deployment of turnkey, on-demand transit service pilots such that the Agreement meets the approval of the Commissioner of Corporate Services, and subject to 2020 budget approval;
3. That all pilot periods **BE DEFINED** in the Agreement as one (1) year with an option to extend for a period of up to an additional 12 months at the discretion of the Chief Administrative Officer;
4. That pending approval of recommendations 1, 2 and 3, that staff **BE DIRECTED** to engage with the local area municipalities to confirm partnership and service parameters of the pilot services; and
5. That this report **BE CIRCULATED** to area municipalities.

A copy of Report PW 60-2019 is enclosed for your information.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk  
:me  
CLK-C 2019-254

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**Subject:** On-Demand Transit – Pilot Authorization (Simulation Results)

**Report to:** Public Works Committee

**Report date:** Tuesday, November 5, 2019

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### **Recommendations**

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the on-demand transit concept for NRT service expansion pilots outlined in this report, subject to 2020 budget approval.
2. That the Chief Administrative Officer **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute an Agreement with Via Mobility LLC. for the deployment of turnkey, on-demand transit service pilots such that the Agreement meets the approval of the Commissioner of Corporate Services, and subject to 2020 budget approval.
3. That all pilot periods **BE DEFINED** in the Agreement as 1 year with an option to extend for a period of up to an additional 12 months at the discretion of the Chief Administrative Officer.
4. That pending approval of recommendations 1, 2 and 3, that staff **BE DIRECTED** to engage with the local municipalities to confirm partnership and service parameters of the pilot services.
5. That this report **BE CIRCULATED** to area municipalities.

### **Key Facts**

- The purpose of this report is to seek authorization to deploy on-demand transit solutions for NRT pilot projects after confirming local participation.
- LNTC-C 21-22-23 2018 identified the need for inter-municipal transit services in Niagara West, as well as establishing connections for Lincoln and Pelham.
- CAO 8-2017 included recommendations for providing connectivity to the communities of Sherkston and Crystal Beach.
- The 2019 Operating Budget included provisions for the deployment of transit services in these aforementioned communities. Jurisdictional definitions combined with the desire for service integration and potential for partnership delayed the original deployment timeline, now tentatively set for April 2020.
- The 2019 approved transit operating budget included a one-time transfer from Reserve of \$3.0 million and therefore did not provide sufficient ongoing base level funding in 2020 to deploy the on-demand expansions into Niagara West, Crystal Beach and Pelham without the need for subsequent budget approval in 2020.

- Via Mobility, LLC (Via) was retained to conduct modeling and microsimulation work to identify preferred on-demand transit models, coverage and deployment options to enable Niagara Region to fulfill its planned expansions. The final recommendation for Niagara West was an integrated service model with an initial fleet size of approximately 7 to 10 vehicles. Secondary deployment opportunities in Port Colborne and Fort Erie require additional consultation with the respective local municipalities to confirm service design parameters.

### **Financial Considerations**

The approved 2019 budget provided \$7.9 million towards a strategic two-year IMT investment strategy. The 2019 funding included a 1.4% separate transit levy of \$4.9 million plus a one-time transfer from Reserve of \$3.0 million (0.9% of the 2018 levy).

The proposed 2019 Budget strategy was to utilize \$2.2 million of the \$7.9 million as a one-time reserve transfer in 2019 to support the \$13.9 million of capital assets and reduce the annual debt over the next 10 years. According to the aforementioned strategy, \$2.2 million would be allocated to transit expansions connecting Niagara West, Crystal Beach and Pelham to existing transit services in 2020. The 2019 direction to use a one-time transfer from Reserve therefore did not include sufficient sustainable base funds to deploy the on-demand expansions into Niagara West, Crystal Beach and Pelham without subsequent base level budget approval in 2020.

To secure funding for the on-demand Pilot project and all previously implemented service enhancements, a separate general levy of 1.3%, will be considered along with the following budget items:

	Council Report	Levy Amount (M\$)	Levy Increase %
Previously identified reports			
Suicide Prevention Initiative	PHD 8-2019	0.200	0.05%
Waterfront Investment Program – Base funding	CSD 40-2019	1.000	0.27%
Smarter Niagara Incentive Program – Base funding	CSD 40-2019	0.600	0.16%
Brock LINC request for funding	ED 9-2019	1.500	0.41%
Niagara Regional Transit - phase in cost	PW 56-2019	4.754	1.30%
NRPS 2019 position hiring deferral	BRC-C 7-2019	0.706	0.19%
Long-Term Care Home Redevelopment capital funding	CSD 53-2019	5.620	1.54%
GO Project - Station Operations	CSD 17-2019	1.410	0.39%
Canadian Coalition for Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination	CAO 14-2019	0.142	0.04%
EMS Central Hub capital funding	CSD 40-2019	0.390	0.11%
<b>Potential request to-date</b>		<b>\$16.323</b>	<b>4.46%</b>

Unlike the 'per-trip' pricing models of Niagara Specialized Transit and Innisfil's partnership with Uber, the on-demand model proposed in this report operates on a fixed hourly rate within a fixed budget. This pricing structure provides significantly more certainty in terms of budget containment. Should the demand increase to the point where it outpaces the capacity of the service, two options are available. The first would be to decrease the quality of the service by altering the parameters of the service, thus increasing its capacity. For example, increasing the maximum wait time from 1 hour to 1.5 hours. The second option would be to seek additional funding approval and deploy additional vehicles to maintain the existing level of service.

## Analysis

In September 2018, staff brought forward 3 related reports (LNTC-C 21-22-23-2018) jointly identified as the IMT Service Implementation Strategy. This strategy identified the need for inter-municipal transit services to be developed to connect the municipalities in Niagara West, including Pelham and Lincoln which already operated local transit services, to the NRT network. Thus for the purposes of this report, Niagara West refers to the geographic area of Grimsby, Lincoln, West Lincoln, Pelham and Wainfleet. In addition, CAO 8-2017 identified opportunities for IMT services to be piloted which would connect Crystal Beach and Sherkston with the larger transit network in Niagara.

After the initial IMT expansion Service Plan strategies were approved in late 2018, staff developed fixed-route options for consideration; however the operational and financial limitations of providing this type of fixed-route service in large geographical areas with low population density quickly became apparent. As such, staff began to research

alternative deployment strategies in an effort to make transit more sustainable and accessible in these areas.

In May 2019, Niagara Region retained Via to conduct a microtransit feasibility study to consider the practicality and optimal service design of an on-demand microtransit service covering the entire western area of Niagara. In addition to Niagara West, additional service areas were evaluated in Fort Erie and Port Colborne. The travel patterns defined in the simulation were modeled using data from the Niagara Specialized Transit (NST) database and the MTO's Transportation Tomorrow Survey. A presentation of the preliminary results of the microsimulation were shared with the IMTWG at its meeting on September 19, 2019. The final report was provided to the IMTWG for their reference in late October. Through the IMTWG, staff have completed preliminary engagements with the affected municipalities in order to gauge support from local staff. At the request its respective local staff, presentations were given to the Councils of Pelham and Lincoln which provided an overall update on the status of inter-municipal transit and a high level primer of on-demand transit.

Similar to conventional transit, on-demand solutions include wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV's). It is worth noting that because trip planning software is capable of prioritizing and dynamically routing vehicles and when combined with unique user profiles, an entire fleet of WAVs is not required to ensure that all riders receive the same level of service.

### **Niagara West**

Two main operating systems were considered when developing the service parameters. The first was a pre-scheduled, on-demand system that would require riders to pre-book their trips a day in advance. The second was a dynamic, on-demand system that would operate with a 30 minute average wait time with a maximum wait time of 1 hour. Although both were feasible options, staff determined that pursuing the dynamic, on-demand service would provide a significant boost to the quality of service by allowing riders to request a ride when they require it as opposed to planning 24 hours in advance.

The dynamic, on-demand system allowed for three potential deployment models to be developed. However, further evaluation resulted in the dismissal of two of the models due to the potential for rider confusion stemming from the jurisdictional realities which resulted from the triple majority process in 2017 granting the Region non-exclusive authority to operate IMT routes only. While staff from Via and Niagara Region both agree that an integrated deployment model is preferred (integrated includes both local and IMT routes within and outside of a municipality), this model requires partnership from local municipalities from both a financial and jurisdictional perspective. One additional note is that when the graphic below was developed, a connection to Port

Colborne had not been included however, this has been corrected from a service design perspective.

### **Integrated Services Model (Preferred)**

In this preferred simulation, by removing the jurisdictional barriers, the integrated services model (Figure 2) eliminates many of the challenges that riders face when using an intra-municipal service. While this service continues to permit inter-municipal trips (trips between municipalities), it also permits intra-municipal trips (trips within municipalities). For the sake of clarity, this model would permit trips from any origin to any destination within Niagara West. It would also permit trips between Niagara West and the St. Catharines Bus Terminal, the Welland Bus Terminal, or Port Colborne City Hall where riders would then gain access to the NRT and other local transit networks.



*Figure 2 – Integrated Services Model*

Niagara Region does not have the jurisdictional authority or adequate budget to independently operate the integrated services model and thus requires support from the local municipalities. That said, the benefits of this scenario are substantial from both a rider experience perspective and a cost-benefit perspective. Local municipalities would require significantly more funds to develop an independent localized on-demand service which would still require inter-municipal connections. More simply, by pooling resources, a higher level of service can be delivered for the riders without the need of coordinating travel across multiple systems. As previously stated, separate municipal transit services are not required under this integrated approach. This means that municipalities with small fixed route transit systems (i.e. Pelham and Lincoln), which only service a small portion of their geographical area, could feasibly choose to reallocate those transit

dollars into this integrated services model and significantly increase their ridership, coverage area, and level of service without an additional impact to their levy.

For those municipalities without existing transit dollars, full participation in the integrated model would require a net new impact on their levy. Should those municipalities not be able to commit new levy dollars to an integrated model, they would only be serviced by the on-demand system for inter-municipal trips. For example, residents in Grimsby, West Lincoln and Wainfleet would only be able to travel to a destination outside of their municipality.

For the various operating models, the trip demand was simulated at multiple levels to account for elements such as rider uptake, initiation of hourly GO rail service and continued population growth. Table 1 below provides some of the key indicators resulting from the microsimulation of the integrated services model where the maximum wait time was set at 1 hour.

Table 1 – Integrated Services Model Microsimulation Results

<b>Trip Demand</b>	<b>Maximum Hourly Ridership</b>	<b>Recommended Fleet Size</b>	<b>Passengers per Vehicle Hour</b>	<b>Average Wait Times (Minutes)</b>
Low	10 – 22	7 – 10	1.5 – 2.2	25 – 35
Medium	20 – 35	10 – 13	2.0 – 2.7	22 – 32
High	40 – 70	15 – 19	2.7 – 3.7	20 – 30

In an area where limited transit options exist such as Niagara West, a new deployment would expect to see a low initial trip demand. However, over the course of a 12 month pilot it is unlikely that a medium trip demand would be reached. That being said, factors such as initiation of hourly GO Train service would certainly affect that assessment.

### **Implementation**

In order to implement the Integrated Services Model, a full service ‘turn key’ provider is required due to Niagara Region’s lack of staff, maintenance facilities and transit fleet. Staff is seeking authorization to formally procure Via for the deployment of the preferred option for the following reasons:

- Via is the only company known to the IMTWG which offers a full turnkey deployment. This includes:
  - Custom branded Mercedes vans (eliminates capital acquisition costs for Niagara Region)
  - Professional, background checked drivers
  - iOS and Android apps as well as dial-in capability for those without smartphones
  - Customer service and training
  - Marketing support prior to and after launch

- Via is willing to deploy a pilot for 1 year with an option to extend for up to an additional 12 months.
- Via values shared data – deployment includes a custom built dashboard and reports. All data collected is shared possession and access with Niagara Region.
- Via has over 80 deployments worldwide from North America to Europe and Asia
- Via integrates with major fare payment systems
- Via's software specializes in superior dynamic trip planning and dispatching which considers the following:
  - Combining trips by channeling ride requests to be accommodated by a nearby vehicle rather than dispatching a new car to the same area
  - Prioritizing the passenger per vehicle hour metric where feasible, allowing for a small fleet size relative to the service area
  - Encouraging 'corner-to-corner' service delivery, which means that the software directs the rider to a pickup location closer to a main intersection (roughly 100 – 200m average walk) except in cases where walking is unsafe like roads with a rural cross-section or where the rider requires wheelchair accessibility
  - Accessibility of service through user profiles to ensure that riders requiring a wheelchair can be serviced with the same average frequency as those who do not require one

### **Port Colborne and Fort Erie**

Due to the recommendation included in the *Niagara Region Transit Service Delivery and Governance Strategy* by Dillon Consulting (CAO 8-2017), combined with interest from members of the IMTWG, staff elected to request Via assist in the design of potential solutions to connect the communities of Crystal Beach and Sherkston with the existing NRT network as part of the demand simulation exercise. The opportunities for these communities were developed with the same considerations and criteria as that of Niagara West. In similar fashion, the element of jurisdictional authority plays a major factor and creates significant barriers to providing a seamless, convenient rider experience. Without local involvement, Niagara Region would only have jurisdiction to deliver trips from Sherkston to Fort Erie or from Crystal Beach to Port Colborne, albeit counterintuitively. Therefore, it is imperative that any on-demand solution for these communities must involve the local municipalities of Port Colborne and/or Fort Erie.

Another component of the IMT Service Implementation Strategy was the upload of the Port Colborne Link and Fort Erie Link IMT routes to Niagara Region with the intent that the local municipalities would reinvest those savings into their local transit systems. These uploads are now complete and both Port Colborne and Fort Erie have both been paid retroactively to January 1, 2019.

Staff is seeking authorization to formally engage with the municipalities referenced in this report in an effort to improve connectivity for those residents who would benefit from

an on-demand model in rural or underserved areas. If in discussion, not all of the municipalities are interested or capable in partnering with Niagara Region, a smaller solution may be pursued which relies on connections to existing NRT service in the respective municipality to deliver the inter-municipal portion of the trip.

### **Alternatives Reviewed**

Staff originally developed a fixed-route service plan for Niagara West that included routes which connected the municipalities of West Lincoln (Smithville), Grimsby (GO station and downtown), and Lincoln (Beamsville and Jordan) to the St. Catharines hospital. Completing this exercise helped to develop a scope and budget. However, this option is not recommended due to the high operating and capital costs and low level of service. This became especially evident when compared against on-demand solutions which found that for a similar budget commitment, a much higher level of service can be achieved through on-demand solutions. Two of the most prominent service parameters determining the level of service are coverage area (population served) and service frequency (average wait time).

Having no staff or transit vehicles of its own, Niagara Region sought to leverage its relationships with its local transit partners to determine if they could operate an on-demand system in Niagara West if provided with adequate software. Unfortunately, those partners also lacked the available staff, vehicles and training resources necessary to accommodate this request. As such, this option was deemed not viable.

Staff also considered utilizing its existing service provider of Niagara Specialized Transit to provide the service if Niagara Region provided the software. However, an operational review of the service provider conducted in 2019 concluded that significant elements of the contract and service were deficient (PW 39-2019 & PW 40-2019). These elements included inefficient trip scheduling software, poor on-time performance, not meeting the data reporting requirements, and vehicle branding. This lead senior staff to determine that expanding the service contract with the existing service provider was not a practical option at this time. In addition, PW 39-2019 recommended not restructuring the contract with service provider in light of the Specialized Transit Study recommendations coming in late 2019.

There are a number of companies with software capable of dynamically routing vehicles which they in turn lease to transit providers (often referred to as Software-as-a-Service, S-a-a-S) for an annual fee. Given the consideration of the two aforementioned options, Niagara Region requires a full service operator which can provide demand modeling, service design, as well as a fully turnkey solution by providing vehicles, drivers, and customer support – in addition to the dynamic routing technology. This full turnkey solution is often referred to as Transportation-as-a-Service (T-a-a-S). Via is the only company known to the IMTWG which offers this type of service. Having a T-a-a-S deployment model is an ideal solution for two additional reasons. One, Niagara Region

desires to pilot on-demand solutions for entirely new service expansions and this gives flexibility to test on-demand strategies without a corresponding capital commitment. Two, the LNTC and IMTWG have recently initiated the Transit Governance Study with recommendations due by the end of Q1 2020. By initiating services in the pilot areas while simultaneously avoiding a long-term service contract, any potential new future transit entity will have the flexibility to pursue revised deployment strategies or engage with Via to formalize the pilot into permanent service. Thus procurement of any company which only offers S-a-a-S is not recommended for deploying pilot services at this time.

While implementing a solution that solely delivers inter-municipal trips is possible, local transit services would still be required in each municipality to provide support and connectivity. This type of model also has a number of shortcomings which would be likely to limit demand and negatively impact rider experience. For example, when daily GO rail service becomes available in Grimsby (and potentially Lincoln), an 'inter-municipal trips only' model would require riders in these municipalities to counterintuitively travel to adjacent municipalities rather than traveling to their nearest station in order to meet the criteria of making an inter-municipal trip. By leveraging the relationships built through the IMTWG, an integrated deployment model allows for municipalities to benefit from the pooled resources and streamlines the rider experience by eliminating the confusion and challenges of coordinating travel between multiple systems in Niagara West. For this reason, staff supports pursuing partnerships with those interesting local municipalities to provide enhanced levels of service in an integrated model rather than an inter-municipal model built along municipal jurisdiction.

Staff also considered the option of integrating its existing specialized transit service with a dynamic, on-demand transit service. While simulation results indicate this option makes the most sense from both rider experience and financial efficiency perspectives, staff feels that it would be premature to make any substantive changes to its existing specialized transit service until the dynamic, on-demand model could be validated given the vulnerable segment of the population it serves.

### **Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities**

The IMT Service Implementation Strategy directly aligns with the Council Strategic Priority: Responsible Growth and Infrastructure Planning (Objective 3.1) through advancing regional transit and GO rail services and facilitating the movement of people and goods.

### **Other Pertinent Reports**

- LNTC-C 21-2018 Inter-Municipal Transit (IMT) Service Implementation Strategy
- LNTC-C 22-2018 Inter-Municipal Transit Financial Impact Analysis
- LNTC-C 23-2018 Inter-Municipal Transit Capital Plan, 2019
- CAO 8-2017 Niagara Region's Transit Service Delivery and Governance Strategy

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**Prepared by:**

Robert Salewytch  
Program Manager, Transit Services  
Public Works Department

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**Recommended and Submitted by:**

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.  
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

*This report was prepared in consultation with Heather Talbot, Financial and Special Projects Consultant, and reviewed by Matt Robinson, Director, GO Implementation Office and Sterling Wood, Legal Counsel.*



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2-198 Cushman Road  
St Catharines, Ontario, L2M 6T3  
Phone: 905-938-5463  
[www.crimestoppersniagara.ca](http://www.crimestoppersniagara.ca)

C-274-2019

Mayor Kevin Gibson  
Township of Wainfleet  
31940 Highway 3  
Wainfleet, Ontario  
L0S 1V0

November 18th, 2019

Dear Mayor Kevin Gibson:

RE: Crime Stoppers Month – January 2020 Flag Raising Request

By way of introduction, my name is Mark Stevens. I am the Chair of Crime Stoppers of Niagara.

I wish to advise that January is recognized as Crime Stoppers Awareness Month worldwide.

As a way of celebrating this important month, Crime Stoppers of Niagara has partaken in various flag raising ceremonies across the Niagara Region, over the past years. We would like to keep this tradition alive. As such, I would be obliged if you would allow us the opportunity to conduct a flag raising ceremony at Wainfleet Town Hall, on a date and time, in the month of January, that best suits you.

As well, I have enclosed an information form which captures a brief synopsis of what Crime Stoppers of Niagara is all about. Please take a moment to review the enclosed and advise of any questions you may have.

I would be delighted to speak to you further about Crime Stoppers of Niagara, or our traditional flag raising ceremonies. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I can be reached by telephone at (289) 668-1444, or by e-mail to [mark@niagaratips.com](mailto:mark@niagaratips.com).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours very truly,

Mark Stevens  
Chair, Crime Stoppers of Niagara



## WHO WE ARE

Established in 1985, Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc. is one branch of over 1700 Crime Stoppers programs across 32 countries.

Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc., consists of an Administrative Director, a Board of Directors, and Volunteers, all of whom reside in the Niagara Region.

## OUR VISION

To promote a safe community for all to live, work, invest, and play in.

## OUR GUARANTEE TO YOU

If you have information regarding a crime that occurred, report it to us through our **Tip Line 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)**, or by clicking on the link on **our Website at [www.crimestoppersniagara.com](http://www.crimestoppersniagara.com)**.

You **will** remain anonymous.

## OUR REWARD TO YOU

If your tip leads to an arrest, you will be paid a reward. **That reward can be up to \$2,000!**

## HOW IT ALL WORKS

If you have information regarding a crime that occurred, call our Tip Line at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), or visit our website at [www.crimestoppersniagara.com](http://www.crimestoppersniagara.com), and click the link to report the information.

If you report the information by telephone, you will speak with one of our Agents at our call centre. That agent will never ask for your name, or for any information that could lead to the discovering of your identity.

The agent will record a very detailed description of your tip only. You will then be given a special code by that agent. This code is generated by our tip recording software. You must keep this code in a safe place for future reference. This is the only link between yourself and the tip provided.

Your tip will then be forwarded by the Agent to the Police, who will thoroughly investigate the tip.

Similarly, if you report your tip through our website, simply by clicking on the link to report the tip, you will be re-directed to a secure website designated for the sole purpose of accepting tips.

Once you are directed to the [p3tips.com](http://p3tips.com) website, you will then be able to enter all of the information pertaining to the tip, just as you would if you were to submit the tip by telephone. In keeping with our guarantee to you, no where on this website are questions that could lead to the discovering of your identity.

At the end of submitting your tip online, you will be given a special code. You must keep this code in a safe place for future reference. This is the only link between yourself and the tip provided.

After a few weeks of reporting your tip, call the Tip Line back, or re-connect through the [p3tips.com](http://p3tips.com) website for a status update.

If your tip has led to the crime being solved, you will be instructed to visit a specific bank, at which time you will provide the Teller with the code that you received when you submitted your tip. You will then receive your reward.

## **OUR IMPACT**

**Since 2000, Crime Stoppers of Niagara tips have led to:**

- Over \$24,000,000 in drugs recovered
- Over \$2,000,000 in property recovered
  - Over \$170,000 in cash recovered
- Over \$200,000 worth of vehicles recovered
- Over \$24,000 worth of weapons recovered
  - Nearly 2,000 arrests
  - Over 1,000 charges laid
  - Nearly 50 fugitives captured

*\*Please note, these statistics represent an approximate amount at the time of print.*



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cc: SLT  
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C-275-2019



**Administration**

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November 18, 2019

**CL 20-2019, November 14, 2019**  
**PEDC 11-2019, November 6, 2019**  
**ED 12-2019, November 6, 2019**

***DISTRIBUTION LIST***

***SENT ELECTRONICALLY***

**RE: Analysis of Niagara Region's Role in Tourism**  
**ED 12-2019**

Regional Council, at its meeting of November 14, 2019, approved the following recommendation of its Planning and Economic Development Committee:

That Report ED 12-2019, dated November 6, 2019, respecting Analysis of Niagara Region's Role in Tourism, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Staff's recommendation to fund a Special Event Bid Fund **BE REFERRED** for consideration as part of the 2020 budget process; and
2. That Report ED 12-2019 **BE CIRCULATED** to the local area municipalities, destination marketing organizations, Niagara Parks Commission, and Tourism Partners of Niagara for comment.

A copy of Report ED 12-2019 is enclosed for your information.

Please provide comments to Kelly Provost, Economic Development Officer, at [kelly.provost@niagararegion.ca](mailto:kelly.provost@niagararegion.ca) or 905-980-6000 ext. 3334.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk  
:me

CLK-C 2019-255

Distribution List:

Local Area Municipalities  
Anthony Annunziata, Tourism Partnership of Niagara  
Karen Doyle, St. Catharines Tourism  
Wendy Cheropita, Twenty Valley Tourism  
Ron Bodner, South Coast Tourism  
Janice Thomson, Niagara Falls Tourism  
Eduardo Lafforgue, Niagara-on-the-Lake Tourism  
David Adames, Niagara Parks Commission

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**Subject:** Analysis of Niagara Region's Role in Tourism  
**Report to:** Planning and Economic Development Committee  
**Report date:** Wednesday, November 6, 2019

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## Recommendations

1. That Report ED 12-2019 Analysis of Niagara Region's Role in Tourism **BE RECEIVED** by the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC).
2. That Staff's recommendation to fund a Special Event Bid Fund **BE REFERRED** for consideration as part of the 2020 budget process.

## Key Facts

- The Region's Economic Development division's role in tourism was crafted at the 2016 Tourism Summit and adopted through PEDC on April 19, 2017 and by Council on April 27, 2017, as follows: "to ensure tourism is part of the Region's Economic Development Strategy by facilitating discussions on transportation access initiatives, developing a Regional Wayfinding plan, promoting five scenic routes and supporting event bids; to advocate on behalf of industry stakeholders; and to undertake investment attraction initiatives which contribute to tourism outcomes for Niagara."
- Prior to 2010, the Region had a budget of approximately \$500,000 with an average of 5 staff, plus additional staff for the Niagara Gateway Information Centre kiosk operations, dedicated to tourism initiatives including the Tourism Niagara website ([www.tourismniagara.com](http://www.tourismniagara.com)), the operations of the Niagara Gateway Information Centre, producing marketing materials, and supporting tourism economic and product development.
- With the formation of the Regional Tourism Organization for the Niagara region (RTO 2), known as the Tourism Partnership of Niagara (TPN), in 2010, Niagara Region Economic Development Corporation's (NEDC) role declined. The new regional economic development division formed in March 2012 had no tourism mandate, at the direction of Regional Council.
- The TPN is an independent, industry-led, not-for-profit organization responsible for working with tourism partners to enhance and grow Niagara's tourism products and marketing activities.
- This report is in response to a request by PEDC to look at gaps in tourism and areas where Niagara Economic Development could be involved, along with the associated resource implications.

## **Financial Considerations**

As part of the 2016 budget process, \$100,000 was identified to be included in the Region's Economic Development division's budget for tourism initiatives. The budget of \$100,000 was to action the identified priorities, named in ED 5-2016 Tourism Strategy Business Case and Budget Initiation, subject to the submission of a formal business case.

The base budget amount dedicated to tourism was reduced to mitigate budget pressures through the 2017 and 2018 budget processes. Currently the base tourism budget includes \$15,000 for the annual lease of the Niagara Gateway Information Centre. The lease started in 2018 will expire in 2022.

Since 2012, Economic Development has not had a line item in their budget, over and above the Gateway lease, specifically dedicated to advancing tourism activities.

Activities funded by Economic Development in addition to the Gateway lease are evaluated based on the potential economic impact of the project.

For each priority activity identified below, the subsequent staffing and budgetary implications are noted.

The only unfunded gap between the approved mandate and current activities is a Special Event Bid Fund. Through this report, staff recommends that a request to establish an annual Sport Event Bid Fund for the amount of \$300,000 be referred for consideration in the 2020 budget process.

The potential financial implication should be considered in context of the new budget commitments previously endorsed by Council and new budget pressures outlined by staff, as summarized in the following table presented to Budget Review Committee to illustrate the potential levy impact estimated for the 2020 budget.

	Council Report	Levy Amount (M\$)	Levy Increase %
Previously identified reports			
Suicide Prevention Initiative	PHD 8-2019	0.200	0.05%
Waterfront Investment Program – Base funding	CSD 40-2019	1.000	0.27%
Smarter Niagara Incentive Program – Base funding	CSD 40-2019	0.600	0.16%
Brock LINC request for funding	ED 9-2019	1.500	0.41%
Niagara Regional Transit - phase in cost	PW 56-2019	4.754	1.30%
NRPS 2019 position hiring deferral	BRC-C 7-2019	0.706	0.19%
Long-Term Care Home Redevelopment capital funding	CSD 53-2019	5.620	1.54%
GO Project - Station Operations	CSD 17-2019	1.410	0.39%
Canadian Coalition for Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination	CAO 14-2019	0.142	0.04%
EMS Central Hub capital funding	CSD 40-2019	0.390	0.11%
<b>Potential request to-date</b>		<b>\$16.323</b>	<b>4.46%</b>

## Analysis

It was agreed by Regional Council on February 26, 2015 to allocate up to \$50,000 for a study on the Niagara tourism industry. A report came back to Council on November 12, 2015 (ED 4-2015 Tourism Industry Analysis and Options Study) on the analysis, outreach and identified priorities for future roles for the Region of Niagara in tourism.

In this report, the analysis which was done by PKF Consulting Inc, a CBRE company, noted that stakeholders agreed that the “Region should play a role in Niagara’s tourism sector however there were variances as to how the Region would be the most effective without duplicating the work of other stakeholders”.

It was accepted through a resolution of Regional Council at the April 27, 2017 meeting that the Economic Development division’s role in tourism be approved as follows:

“To ensure tourism is part of the Region’s Economic Development Strategy by facilitating discussions on transportation access initiatives, developing a Regional Wayfinding plan, promoting five scenic routes and supporting event bids; to advocate on behalf of industry stakeholders; and to undertake investment attraction initiatives which contribute to tourism outcomes for Niagara.”

The top seven tourism priorities were identified in Report ED 4-2015 as:

1. Transportation/Access infrastructure
2. Wayfinding Signage

3. Economic Development Strategy
4. Facilitation/Coordination
5. Planning and Policies
6. Special Event Bid Fund
7. Marketing as required

The 2015 report recommends that the Region take a lead role in transportation/access infrastructure, wayfinding signage, economic development strategy, facilitation/coordination, policy and planning and a supportive role in a special event bid fund and marketing.

Economic Development's ability to advance these seven priorities is limited by budget allocations and staffing resources. The Economic Development Officer position has a 20% time allotment to assist in advancing economic initiatives in support of the tourism sector.

### **1. Transportation/Access Infrastructure**

The report recognizes a need for a "Regional champion" to drive transportation and access initiatives. The following are examples of initiatives where Economic Development has acted in a champion role:

- Airports - marketing and development support at the Niagara District Airport;
- Airports – funded and managing RFP for the future business model feasibility study;
- Metrolinx GO initiatives – promo partners meeting in 2017, GO and AGCO initiative advancement in 2019;
- Coordination of the Southern Ontario Airports Network (SOAN) meeting forum with industry stakeholders in spring 2019;
- Managing the lease negotiations and annual business planning of the Niagara Gateway Information Centre.

*Budget required to advance:* Can be accommodated within the current Council approved base budget and supported through the current role of Economic Development Officer.

### **2. Wayfinding Signage**

Limited and inconsistent wayfinding and signage across the region was identified by the stakeholders as a significant issue for Niagara's tourism sector, and it was identified that the Region could provide a key role in its co-ordination and implementation.

It was suggested that the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) through Public Works provides a platform to address both the transportation/access and wayfinding/signage issues identified. Wayfinding is currently included as a priority in the TMP work plan with associated budget requests to action.

*Budget required to advance:* Initiatives supported by Public Works and the Transportation Master Plan workplan. Any additional funding required will be submitted for Council approval through future budget requests.

### **3. Economic Development Strategy**

It was recommended that the Region's Economic Development Strategy be coordinated with the tourism stakeholders to "brand" Niagara as a place to visit, live and invest. As part of the development of the Economic Development Strategy in 2018, two (2) tourism stakeholder roundtables, as well as a number of one-to-one interviews, were conducted.

The following action items which impact the tourism sector are included in the Strategy:

- Tourism is identified as a priority sector, alongside manufacturing and agri-business;
- Supporting creation of a business case for expanded services in Niagara with Metrolinx;
- Research into the impact of development charges on economic development, including impact to the Tourism sector;
- Supporting advocacy efforts for development of a fully integrated intra-regional transit system.

*Budget required to advance:* Can be accommodated within the current Council approved base budget. A Long Term Master Plan will be developed in 2020 as one of Regional Council's Strategic Priorities.

### **4. Facilitation and Coordination/Planning and Policy**

It was identified in the 2015 report that there is a need to improve the facilitation of economic efforts/awareness of tourism across the region and within the industry. The following are activities the Economic Development division is engaged in now, or in the recent past, to improve tourism coordination across the stakeholders.

- Hosted the Niagara Tourism Summit in 2016;
- Invested in the development of the PKF Consulting Inc. report on Tourism Trends and Opportunities 2015;
- Participate as a member of the Tourism Partnership of Niagara's Sub Regional Partners committee;
- On-going Hamilton-Niagara partnership activities. This investment marketing partnership was developed as a result of collaboration during the 2015 Pan Am Games;
- Engaging in investment attraction initiatives that would benefit the tourism sector;
- Managing the promotion of the Niagara 2021 Canada Summer Games business development opportunities and cultural programming;
- Preparing the Niagara Tourism Profile 2019 research paper and promoting it through outreach to tourism stakeholders;

- Liaising with the industry stakeholders and supporting organizations across 12 municipalities.

*Budget required to advance:* Can be accommodated within the current Council approved base budget and supported currently through the Economic Development Officer and the Manager of Research and Analysis.

### **5. Special Event Bid Fund**

Municipalities in Niagara have seen recent success in the attraction of large events, most with a focus on sport tourism. At this time, no event bid fund exists to support municipalities, venues or sports organizations in pursuing these bids. Any support provided to date has been either through a direct request to Regional Council, or through departmental requests.

The 2015 PKF Consulting report defines this priority as a potential Convention, Sport and Special Event Fund to actively pursue and bid on major events and/or create signature events. The report claims that Meeting and Convention and Sport Tourism events represent the top opportunity areas for driving new visitation to Niagara region that is not primarily leisure driven.

Although the Economic Development division does not have annual funds dedicated to event bid support, the department has been able to support the following activities over past years by repurposing budget which had been allocated to other projects:

- \$50,000 for hosting the Tourism summit in 2016;
- \$20,000 to support Niagara Integrated Film Festival (NIFF) in 2016;
- \$25,000 for hosting of Economic Developers Association of Canada annual conference in 2017;
- \$5,000 to support the U18 Women's Hockey Championships in 2016;
- \$6,000 to support the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in 2017;
- \$185,000 for expenses related to the preparation of the Canada Summer Games bid to the Niagara Sport Commission between 2016 and 2017;
- \$40,000 to support FIBA 2018 in St. Catharines;
- \$225,000 commitment for the 2020 Brier bid in 2018, the process and subsequent expenditures associated with the Brier bid were funded from the economic development operating budget;
- \$20,000 towards the development of the Centre for Sport Capacity's Made-in-Niagara Sport Tourism report in 2019.

The Canada Summer Games investment of \$20 million, for legacy project capital infrastructure, is not included in the above, as it does not flow through the Economic Development budget

Due to Regional Council's focus on sport tourism and the recent Sports Tourism report, this area will focus only on sport event bids. Regional Council approved a proposal to

have Brock's Centre for Sport Capacity undertake an analysis of the current state of sport tourism and advise on best practices for a future role for the Region in sport tourism. Report ED 7-2019 Brock University Centre for Sport Tourism Capacity Report on Sports Tourism contains 6 recommendations on the role the Region should take, with one of them focused on the creation of an event bid fund.

On August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at Planning and Economic Development Committee, staff were directed to circulate this report back to sport tourism stakeholders for feedback on the recommendations. High-level feedback from stakeholders in economic development, tourism and from sport venues suggested the following:

- There is a need for the Region to create an event bid fund.
- There is a need for the Region to provide assistance with bid preparation.
- There were mixed opinions/indifference on whether this support needs to be external to the Region.

If Council would like to advance on the establishment of a formal fund for event bids, it is staff's recommendation that an effective way to venture into this is to start with the formation of an event bid fund with specific criteria and timelines for applying that can be shared with all interested parties.

At this time, it is recommended that economic development staff manage the fund and provide bid assistance to those accessing the fund, as they have been currently.

It is proposed that the bid fund amount to \$300,000 annually. This amount is suggested as good practice from the Brock Centre for Sport Capacity's report when comparing other communities' practices who have seen recent success in sport tourism.

It is recommended that this bid fund's eligibility be specifically evaluated by economic impact potential. National and international bids, which attract tourists from outside of the province, who will stay longer and spend more money, would have the greatest impact.

There is still an identified need for local area municipalities to consider sport grants at a municipal level to incentivize attraction of regional and provincial sport events.

In the future, Regional Council can consider the appetite to fund operational and event bid funding for an arm's length organization (as recommended in Brock's Centre for Sport Capacity Sport Tourism report) dependent upon the reported success of the bid fund over this remaining term of Council.

*Budget required to advance:* \$300,000 referred to the 2020 budget process for the creation of a dedicated sport event bid fund managed by Economic Development and promoted to stakeholders for the attraction of national and international events. If

approved, criteria for evaluation would be established based on good practice in economic impact in other communities. Economic Development staff would be involved in supporting and monitoring the bids that access this fund.

#### **6. Marketing as required**

The PKF Consulting Report suggests that the Region recognize the TPN and various Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) as having the primary “consumer-facing” marketing role, while providing marketing assistance for small municipalities, if required. There is a gap in this suggestion as the DMOs do not cover every municipality in the region.

The Province, through the RTO (Tourism Partnership of Niagara), provides marketing funds to assist marketing efforts across the region. The Tourism Partnership of Niagara works with the five local DMOs covering the region to manage the Niagara “brand” for leisure marketing.

It is staff’s recommendation that the Region does not take an active role in tourism marketing as this would duplicate the mandate of the TPN.

For example: 5 Scenic Trails Mapping – A request came to the Region’s Economic Development division for support in the design and creation of a regional Scenic Drives map. Report ED 10-2019 5 Scenic Trails Mapping Request was brought forward to the Planning and Economic Development Committee on September 11<sup>th</sup> with a recommendation to refer the request for \$50,000 for the design and implementation of the 5 Scenic Trails map to the 2020 budget process.

This motion was defeated, and as such, the scenic trails mapping will not be moving forward as part of the 2020 budget and work plan for Economic Development.

*Budget required to advance:* None, as it is staff’s recommendation not to take an active role in tourism marketing as there are many stakeholders locally with the mandate and expertise to execute in this area.

#### Governmental Partners

The role of the Region in tourism has an impact on the local municipal members of the Team Niagara Economic Development group, the Tourism Partnership of Niagara, and the 5 Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) across the Region.

The recommendations on the Region’s role in tourism noted above allow for the Region to take an active role in leading and supporting the tourism sector in ways that do not compete with existing stakeholders.

## **Alternatives Reviewed**

The alternative is for Niagara Region not to take an active role in tourism and leave the work to be done by the five Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs), the Tourism Partnership of Niagara, the sports venues, the local area municipality's Economic Development offices, a private sector tourism group, or other organizations involved in tourism.

## **Other Pertinent Reports**

1. ED-1-2015 - Grimsby Gateway Centre and Future Tourism Opportunities
2. ED-4-2015 - Tourism Industry Analysis and Options Study – Summary
3. ED 5-2016 - Tourism Strategy Business Case and Budget Initiation
4. ED 4-2017 – Niagara Tourism Strategy – Tourism Summit Follow Up Report
5. CAO 20-2018 – Brock Sport Tourism Proposal
6. ED 7-2019 – Brock University Centre for Sport Capacity Report on Sports Tourism
7. ED 10-2019 – 5 Scenic Trails Mapping Request

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### **Prepared by:**

Kelly Provost  
Economic Development Officer  
Economic Development

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### **Reviewed by:**

Valerie Kuhns, Acting Director  
Economic Development

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### **Submitted by:**

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.  
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

## **Appendices**

None



November 14, 2019

File: FOCP 1.1.29.2.11

Wes Jansema  
63051 Perry Road  
Wellandport ON L0R 2J0

Dear Mr. Jansema

Re: Good Forestry Practices Permit Application  
Tree and Forest Conservation Bylaw 30-2008  
CON 6 PT LOT 29  
63051 Perry Road  
Municipality of Wainfleet

---

Thank you for your application for a Good Forestry Practices Permit under the Niagara Region's Tree and Forest Conservation Bylaw. The application has been assessed based on the information submitted with the application, which includes a Silvicultural Prescription prepared by John Todd. The information submitted has been reviewed in the field in relation to the requirements under the Bylaw. Based on that information it has been determined that a Permit can be issued.

The enclosed permit (2019-10) has been issued pursuant to Tree and Forest Conservation Bylaw 30-2008. Forest operations must occur in accordance with the attached permit and its conditions using Good Forestry Practices. NPCA forestry staff will conduct harvest inspections to ensure those conditions are followed.

Also enclosed is *A Landowner's Guide to Careful Logging* which provides landowners with information on proper logging practices that will ensure good forestry is attained. The harvest inspections conducted by the NPCA are based on the contents in the guide.

The woodland where harvesting is planned has been designated as a Provincially Significant Wetland (PSW) by the Ministry of Natural Resources. There are several important considerations and conditions that must be addressed in carrying out a logging operation in this woodland:

- Logging must occur when the soil conditions are favourable for operations (dry weather or when the ground is frozen);
- Attempt to use existing trails located throughout the woodland; and
- Select skid trails as to avoid low areas and drainages located throughout the woodland.

Please be advised that this permit does not relieve you of any other applicable property boundary, municipal, provincial, or federal by-laws, regulations or requirements. Do not hesitate to contact this office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dan Drennan, R.P.F.  
Forester, By-law Officer  
905.788.3135 x247

Enclosure

Copy: Ken Stayzer, 62606 Travers Road, Wellandport, ON L0R 2J0  
John Todd, 457 King Edward Street, Paris, ON N3L 3E3  
William Kolasa, Township Clerk, Township of Wainfleet, 31940 Hwy 3, PO Box 40, Wainfleet, ON L0S 1V0



**NIAGARA PENINSULA  
CONSERVATION  
AUTHORITY**

250 Thorold Road West, 3rd Floor, Welland, Ontario L3C 3W2  
Telephone 905.788.3135 | Facsimile 905.788.1121 | www.npca.ca

**GOOD FORESTRY PRACTICES PERMIT**

**REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA  
TREE AND FOREST CONSERVATION BY-LAW**

**PERMIT NUMBER: 2019-10**

**This permit is issued pursuant to Tree and Forest Conservation By-law No. 30-2008 of the Regional Municipality of Niagara. Conditions pertaining to this permit are on page two.**

**DATE OF ISSUE:** November 14, 2019

**PERMIT EXPIRY:** November 13, 2020

**PERMIT ISSUED TO:**

Name: Wes Jansema

Address: 63051 Perry Road, Wellandport ON

Postal Code: L0R 2J0 Telephone:

**LOCATION OF WOODLAND:** (See map in Appendix A)

Legal Desc: CON 6 PT LOT 29

Road: 63051 Perry Road

Municipality: Wainfleet

**REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL FORESTER (or Associate Member)**

Name: John Todd

Address: 457 King Edward Street, Paris, ON

Postal Code: N3L 3E3 Telephone: 519-442-3102

**CERTIFIED TREE MARKER:**

Name: John Todd

Address: 457 King Edward Street, Paris, ON

Postal Code: N3L 3E3 Telephone: 519-442-3102

**LOGGING CONTRACTOR:**

Name: Ken Stayzer

Address: 62606 Travers Road, Wellandport, ON.

Postal Code: L0R 2J0 Telephone: 905-899-7878

**NPCA APPROVAL:**

Dan Drennan, R.P.F.  
Forester

## GOOD FORESTRY PRACTICES PERMIT

### CONDITIONS

The following conditions apply to **Permit # 2019-10**

1. The unnecessary destruction of any tree not authorized by this permit is hereby prohibited; this permit shall be null and void in the event that the destruction of trees not authorized by this permit occurs.
2. All requirements of the tree marking and the Tree Marking Prescription as attached in appendix B, as prepared and approved by for the harvest and preservation of trees as permitted in this Permit, shall be complied with.
3. All trees marked for removal by the certified tree marker must be felled during the initial harvest operation to ensure silvicultural objectives in the tree marking prescription or harvest plan are achieved. **Trees marked with orange paint are the only trees permitted to be removed.**
4. Only trees with a visible butt mark may be harvested or felled. Trees marked at eye level for removal, but missing a visible butt mark as per the *Ontario Tree Marking Guide* must not be felled until verified by the Tree Marker and marked at the butt. Trees felled without a visible butt mark will be regarded as a contravention of the Niagara Region Tree and Forest Conservation Bylaw.
5. Trees that are not marked but are damaged from adjacent tree felling cannot be removed unless authorized by Bylaw staff in the field.
6. The harvest of trees authorized by this permit shall be complied with on or before the expiration of this permit.
7. This permit shall be null and void if the work or a portion of the work authorized by this permit is undertaken by an individual other than that indicated on this permit.
8. Recognizable temporary bodies of open water (vernal pools) encountered during operations that have a surface area  $\geq 500 \text{ m}^2$  (i.e., about 25 m in diameter if circular), are not ponds (i.e.,  $< 0.5 \text{ ha}$  in size), and are not connected to a stream, will have the following conditions:
  - No machine travel within 3 m of the high-water mark of pools during the frost-free period.
  - No excessive removal or damage of sapling-sized trees ( $< 10 \text{ cm dbh}$ ) and shrubs within 3 m of the high-water mark of pools.
  - No felling of trees into pools or within 3 m of the high-water mark of pools during the frost-free period. Trees accidentally felled into pools will be left where they fall.
  - No disturbance of the forest floor that leaves ruts or a significant area of exposed mineral soil (see Section 10) within 15 m of the high-water mark of pools. Ruts or significant patches of exposed mineral soil will be promptly rehabilitated.
  - Trees will be retained in, and within, 3 m of the high-water mark of pools to provide  $\geq 70\%$  canopy cover; and retain forest comprised of trees  $\geq 35$  years of age (or  $\geq 10 \text{ m}$  in height) with a canopy closure  $\geq 50\%$  within 15 m of the high-water mark of pools to provide cover for amphibians.

Note: When these pools are difficult to identify because of snow cover they will be marked (with pink flagging tape) creating an Area of Concern (AOC). No skidding is permitted within the AOC.
9. Skidder trails shall be kept to the minimum required for the trees being cut and their construction or use shall not unnecessarily damage or disrupt other trees, vernal pools, wetland areas, natural habitats wildlife (i.e., Stick Nests) or drainages.

10. Any injuring or destruction of trees or removal of felled trees or portions thereof shall be done in a manner that avoids adverse impacts to the soil, wetlands, natural habitat or other portions of the Woodlands. Operations within the woodland must occur when the ground is frozen or when soil conditions are favourable for operations (dry weather). Operations must cease if this condition does not exist. Use light loads when skidding. Compliance with this condition is outlined in section 10.1: Soil Conservation.

### 10.1 Soil Conservation

This section addresses the conservation of soil and shallow ground water resources during forest management activities, with a focus on site disturbance resulting from forest management operations. Quantifiable measurements will be provided and used as a means of assessing compliance with Condition 9 above.

Well-informed advanced planning is a critical step in conserving soil resources. This includes all aspects of planning such as; landing location, skid trail layout, machinery selection, timing of entry, duration of entry, and operator training. The importance of prevention, through advanced planning and good information, cannot be overstated.

In general terms, a rut is a trench or furrow created by machine wheels or tracks caused by soil displacement and/or compaction. Compaction is the compression of soil caused by a machine load that exceeds the strength of the soil to resist it. Compaction can occur independent of rutting through machine vibration and slipping of tires. Rutting may occur independent of compaction (e.g., on saturated soil), but in general a rut can be thought of as a visual proxy for compaction.

For the purpose of measuring a rut under the Bylaw, a rut is a continuous trench or furrow created by machine traffic that is  $\geq 4$  m long and  $\geq 30$  cm deep (Figure 1) as stated in the *OMNR Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales (2010)*.

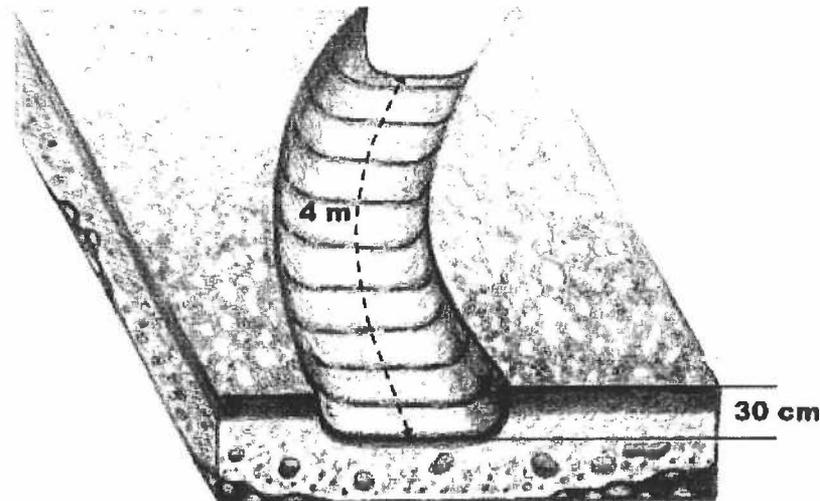


Figure 1. Graphical representation of a rut (Illustration by Mandy Saille).

#### **Compliance Standards:**

Condition 10 will be contravened if:

- more than 50% of any 0.1 ha circle is occupied in ruts; or
- more than 2% of any harvest area is occupied in ruts; or
- ruts channel water into, or are within 5 m of rivers, streams, and woodland pools,

The method to measure the percent coverage, depth, and length of a rut, is as follows:

**Percent coverage** is to be determined based on a line transect method. The total distance of the line that intersects ruts as a percentage of the total line length should determine the areal coverage over the sampled area. The methodology will be:

- Pick the center of the most disturbed area on the block, establish 3 random 100 m transects, offset by 120 degrees, within a 250m radius circle around that point. The percent cover would be the total length of the line that intersects a rut or trail divided by 3.

**Depth** is to be measured from the surface of the soil, including organic layers (LFH) if present

- When the depth varies across the width of the rut (i.e., perpendicular to the direction of travel), the deepest point is to be measured as the depth.
- When a rut has been filled, or partially filled with soil, litter, water, or debris, the depth should be measured as if the rut had not been filled. This includes areas in organic soil where churning and mixing of surface and sub-surface organic layers has occurred. In some circumstances it will be difficult to determine the unfilled depth.

When determining if a potential rut is at least 4 m long, **the length** is measured as the contiguous portion that is deeper than 30 cm (or depth to bedrock / large boulders), and is not to be an average depth measurement where some of the length is less than 30 cm deep.

11. **Bird nest sites**

Nests and eggs of all wild birds (except American crow, brown-headed cowbird, common grackle, house sparrow, red-winged blackbird, and European starling) are protected from disturbance and/or destruction (including incidental take) by either the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act or the provincial Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997.

All nests (occupied or unoccupied) will receive an Area of Concern prescription to mitigate the potential adverse affects of forest management operations on breeding activity. The AOC to be applied is species-specific. The *OMNR Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales (2010): Section 4.2.2* will be used to prescribe an AOC.

12. The landowner or the logging contractor must notify the Bylaw officer at the NPCA of the exact day when operations are to commence. The notification must be three (3) working days (excludes weekend days) before commencement

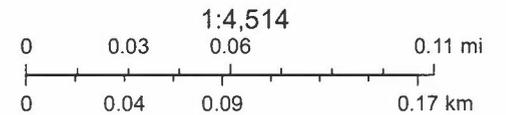
**PLEASE NOTE:** This information is collected pursuant to the Municipal Act and/or the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used for the sole purpose of administering this By-Law.

**APPENDIX A**  
**MAP OF WOODLAND LOCATION**

# Permit 2019-10: Jansema Woodlot



11/14/2019, 2:54:51 PM



Brian Lee, Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL,

Web AppBuilder for ArcGIS

**APPENDIX B**  
**SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION**

# MARKING PRESCRIPTION

## WILDLIFE AND FORESTRY CONSULTING

### Property Location:

Ownership: Wes Jansema      Compartment area: 9 acres 911# 63051  
Niagara  
Lot: \_\_\_\_\_ Conc.: \_\_\_\_\_ Former Township: \_\_\_\_\_ County: Region  
Mailing Address: 63051 Perry Road, Wellandport, ON      Phone: 289 377 9802

### Contractor Information:

Name: Ken Stayzer      Person in charge of Tree Removal Ken Stayzer  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Estimated Starting Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Compartment Site Characteristics:

Soil type:	<u>Clay loam</u>	Drainage:	<u>Imperfect to poor</u>
Topography:	<u>Flat to slightly rolling</u>	Water features:	<u>n/a</u>
Species Composition	<u>Ms5,Or3,Oth2</u>	Access:	<u>From road</u>
Physical Features:	<u>n/a</u>	Height:	<u>80 ft</u>
Other features:	<u>n/a</u>		

### Stand Description:

This stand is a balanced mix of lowland and upland. Much of the stand is soft maple with a mix of red oak and patches of beech. Areas with better drainage contain a higher percentage of hard maple but vigor is low on average. Stocking is highly variable as the moisture regime is limiting in some areas. Past logging practices and firewood cutting has resulted in several acres of coppice growth and two age classes.

Some major defect is present in the stand – limited mostly to black bark and butt rot in coppice soft maple. Gypsy moth eggs area evident on most red oak stems but very little crown damage can be seen. Beech bark disease is present and beech root suckers are well established but limited to within 15 feet of the dominant beech stems. Few beech are of merchantable size and little regeneration of more desirable species are present. Most ash is dead standing but several still showed vigorous crowns. Early soft maple regeneration can be seen in seasonally flooded low spots and some scattered red oak seedlings are present throughout the stand. Spicebush is the greatest limiting factor in tree regeneration at present.

The woodlot is primarily managed for recreation and forest products. The previous harvest was at least 15 years ago. The average pre-harvest basal area is approximately \_\_\_\_\_.

### Tree Regeneration Assessment Table:

Stage of Development	Species	Quantity (per cent cover)	Pattern of Distribution
Early (<0.5 m tall)	Soft maple	Little	Patchy
	Green ash	Some	Scattered
	Red oak	Some	Scattered
Advanced (> 0.5m tall)	Soft maple	Little	Patchy
	Green ash	Some	Scattered
	Beech	Little	Patchy

Note quantity    •little <10 percent    •some 11-30 percent    Pattern of distribution    •scattered    •uniform    •patchy  
                          •ample 31-60 percent    •heavy >60 percent

### Marking Instructions:

This woodlot will be marked under both single tree selection and group selection using good forestry practices. Priority of removal shall be given to trees with major defects (fungus, canker, crown die-back and black bark) and any marketable ash and beech. Where no major defect is evident, priority of removal shall be given to large-crowned or coppice stems adjacent to high-quality excurrent stems. Red oak coppice can be thinned using appropriate technique and when considering soft maple coppice for removal all stems should be marked.

The percentage of shade-tolerant species should be reduced in areas with oak regeneration or scattered oak stems. Where large-diameter oaks are present all marketable shade-tolerant species should be marked for removal as far as half the crown diameter outside the dripline.

As much of the beech is in the small-to-medium-size class small patches or strips should be marked for removal. This will encourage the incidental destruction of the adjacent root suckers and break up the dense canopy to encourage maple regeneration

The average post-harvest BA is approximately \_\_\_\_\_.

### Long-term management objectives (20 years).

The long-term objectives of this woodland are as follows:

- 1) Encourage high quality wildlife habitat through the retention of quality mast trees and encouraging poplar thickets;
- 2) Producing high quality trees for timber production and aesthetic value; and
- 3) Improving resilience of the woodland by encouraging diversity of species and tree health.

**Short-term management activities (5 years).**

Short term management objectives are as follows:

- 1) Break down tops to encourage decomposition;
- 2) Cutting firewood as needed;
- 3) Maintain the internal trail system for recreation and future logging access.

Prepared By: Travis Lockhart/John Todd

Date: November 10, 2019





**WILD LIFE & FORESTRY CONSULTING  
TIMBER SUMMARY SHEET**

PREPARED FOR: Wes Jansema  
63051 Perry Rd,  
Wellandport ,Ont

COUNTY: Niagara                      TOWNSHIP:                      CONCESSION:

LOT:                      AREA:                      PARCEL:    1

SAW TIMBER

TREE SPECIES	TREES MARKED	AVE. DIAM.	VOLUM M3	O.L.R. VOLUME F.B.M.
Soft Maple	63			16,407
Po	1			374
By	1			36
Be	3			414
Bd	2			413
Mh	3			286
Ow	3			709
A(sp)	21			3480
Ob	25			7705
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>122</b>			<b>29,824</b>

FUELWOOD

TREE SPECIES	TREES MARKED	AVE. DIAM.	VOLUM M3	O.L.R. VOLUME F.B.M.
Hardwoods	35			9.5 Cords

COMMENTS:    1: All Volumes are Estimated as Gross Merchantable and CANNOT be Guaranteed  
                      2:        Orange Paint : Dot for Sawlogs and slashes for Fuelwood  
                      3:

DATE: Nov 9 2019

CONTACT PERSON: JOHN TODD/

cc: Finance

RECEIVED NOV 19 2019

C-277-2019

**From:** lars bjerno [<mailto:lbjerno@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** November 19, 2019 8:44 AM

**To:** Kevin Gibson; Terry Gilmore; Donna Cridland; John Maclellan; Sherri Van Vliet

**Subject:** Request

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Dear Mayor Gibson and Councillors,

November 19,2019

Sent via email

Under the initiative of Mayor Gibson, the Wainfleet Seniors Housing Association has been formed in response to voter requests. Our hope is to build housing for senior citizens in Wainfleet Township.

This committee has just recently been formed but is already making some progress in this venture. We are currently in the process of forming a Non Profit Organization under which to operate.

In early 2020, we are hoping to send out a survey to all residents of Wainfleet Township to request their input on this project. We will also make the survey available on line. This will not only tell us what Wainfleet residents would like to see for senior housing in our community, but it will also provide important statistics for this project going forward.

The committee would like to request from council the amount of \$800.00 as a start-up fund with the hope of reimbursing this amount to the township council once we have funds available.

We thank you for this consideration and hope you will grant our request.

Sincerely,

The Wainfleet Seniors Housing Association

Lars Bjerno

Committee Chair

[lbjerno@yahoo.com](mailto:lbjerno@yahoo.com)

10590 Lakeshore Rd.

905-807-8731

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad



TOWN OF  
**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE**

111 Sandiford Drive, Stouffville, ON L4A 0Z8

RECEIVED NOV 19 2019

Customer Service Centre: 905-640-1900  
Toll Free: 1-855-642-TOWN (8696)  
Automated: 905-640-1910  
Toll Free: 1-855-642-TOWS (8697)  
Fax: 905-640-7957  
www.townofws.ca

C-278-2019

VIA Email <[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)>

November 19, 2019

Justin Trudeau  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

**RE: Ban of Single-Use Disposable Wipes**

Please be advised that the above-noted matter was placed before Council at its meeting held on November 5, 2019, and the following resolution was passed:

WHEREAS Single-use wipes are a \$6 billion industry and growing, and are now being advertised as a clean alternative to toilet paper that is safe to flush; and

WHEREAS Single-use wipes accumulate in the sewer system and eventually clog the sanitary sewer system, requiring significant additional repair and maintenance; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Enforcement Sewer Use Group estimates non-flushable materials cause \$259 million in annual repairs across Canada; and

WHEREAS a 2019 study released by Ryerson University tested 101 types of single-use disposable wipes and found that all of the wipes failed basic requirements of flushable products; and

WHEREAS there is no one standard for what the word "flushable" means; and

WHEREAS there is a lack of public awareness of the impact caused by non-flushable wipes being flushed down toilets and consumer education and outreach could play a large part in reducing the impact; and

WHEREAS Single-use wipes, even when properly disposed of as waste, are an inefficient and unsustainable use of resources that contribute significantly to environmental degradation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville lobby the Provincial and Federal Governments to ban single-use disposable wipes; and



TOWN OF  
**WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE**

111 Sandiford Drive, Stouffville, ON L4A 0Z8

**Customer Service Centre:** 905-640-1900

Toll Free: 1-855-642-TOWN (8696)

**Automated:** 905-640-1910

Toll Free: 1-855-642-TOWS (8697)

**Fax:** 905-640-7957

**www.townofws.ca**

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Local Members of Provincial Parliament, York Region and all Municipalities within the Province of Ontario.

Yours truly,

Kristina Soolepp, Council Coordinator  
(905) 640-1910 x 2463

cc. Honourable Premier of Ontario,  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks,  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario,  
Local Members of Provincial Parliament,  
York Region  
All Municipalities within the Province of Ontario



## Community Services

### Legislative Services

November 19, 2019

File #120203

Sent via Email: [billmatson@niagarafalls.ca](mailto:billmatson@niagarafalls.ca)

Bill Matson, City Clerk/Director of Clerks Services  
City of Niagara Falls  
4310 Queen Street  
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6X5

Dear Mr. Matson:

**Re: School Bus Camera Legislation**

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of November 18, 2019 received your correspondence dated October 22, 2019 and supported the resolution passed by the City of Niagara Falls advising the Niagara Region to generate a report addressing all of the Province's requests to expedite the legislation and implement effective realistic protocols to ensure every child boarding of exiting a school bus in Niagara is safe.

Trusting this information will be of assistance to you.

Yours very truly,

*fm*  
Carol Schofield, Dipl.M.A.  
Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk  
[cschofield@forterie.ca](mailto:cschofield@forterie.ca)

CS:dlk

c.c. Niagara Local Area Municipalities *Sent via email*



2297 Highway 12,  
PO Box 130  
Brechtin, Ontario L0K 1B0  
p.705-484-5374  
f. 705-484-0441

November 7, 2019

Honourable Jeff Yurek  
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
College Park 5th Floor  
777 Bay St  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

**Re: Conservation Authority Exit Clause**

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ramara passed the following motion at their regular meeting held October 28, 2019, unanimously by a recorded vote:

WHEREAS the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA has consistently expressed its view that its watershed conservation authorities are duplicative, financially unaccountable, in conflict with citizens and private property rights;

AND WHEREAS the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA has encountered the regulatory obstacles to challenge the arbitrary, inefficient, non-transparent, and unsustainable municipal levy forced upon it annually by its watershed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA questions the efficacy and relevance of its watershed conservation authorities' programs and services and their performance in achieving the goals of conservation and environmental stewardship;

AND WHEREAS the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA finds the current Conservation Authorities Act, 1990, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27 and its proscribed regulations inconsistent and obsolete;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks the Honourable Jeff Yurek signaled the province's intent to reconsider and update the Conservation Authorities Act, 1990, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27 and its proscribed regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA support the province's determination that the existing Conservation Authorities Act, 1990, R.S.O. 1990, c. C.27 and its proscribed regulations require review;

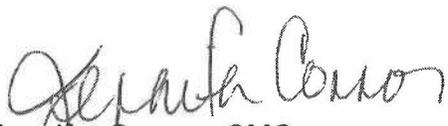
AND THAT the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA signal to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks of its willingness to participate in all consultations and submissions to the same;

AND THAT further the TOWNSHIP OF RAMARA signal its express desire that an exit clause be provided in any new Conservation Authorities Act to permit municipalities that determine the objects of conservation and environmental stewardship can be provided by alternative governance, programs, and/or services to exist costly and unwarranted conservation authority(ies) jurisdiction(s);

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded the Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the Honourable Jeff Yurek, Conservation Ontario, Ontario's thirty-six conservation authorities, and all upper and lower-tier Ontario municipalities.

I trust the above is self-explanatory however if you require further information or clarification, please contact me.

Yours truly,



Jennifer Connor, CMO  
Legislative Services Manager/Clerk

JC/cw

c.c. Jill Dunlop, MPP  
Conservation Ontario  
Ontario Conservation Authorities  
Ontario Municipalities

**CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON**

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

NOM 1S6

Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

November 18, 2019

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier  
Legislative Building Rm. 281, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1

Attention: Honourable Premier Ford

**Re: Support for Town of Prescott Resolution on the Transformation of Building Services and creation of a new Delegated Administrative Authority with regard to building service delivery**

The following resolution was passed by the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of South Huron at the Regular Council meeting on November 4, 2019;

554-2019

Moved by: T. Oke

Seconded by: B. Willard

**"That South Huron Council support the Town of Prescott Resolution on the Transformation of Building Services and creation of a new Delegated Administrative Authority with regard to building service delivery; and**

**That this motion is sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Jim McDonnell, Parliamentary Assistant for Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario."**

Sincerely,

Rebekah Msuya-Collison, Clerk  
Municipality of South Huron  
519-235-0310 x227  
[clerk@southhuron.ca](mailto:clerk@southhuron.ca)

cc: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,  
The Honourable Jim McDonnell, Parliamentary Assistant for Municipal Affairs and Housing,  
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario

CC: SLT

RECEIVED NOV 20 2019  
C-282-2019  
NRH 18-2019  
19-185-2.5.  
November 15, 2019

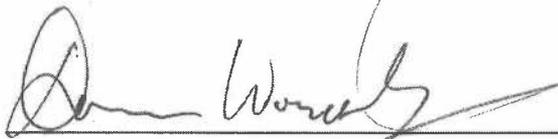


## Q3 (July 1 to September 30, 2019) to Board of Directors

### Recommendation:

**That Niagara Regional Housing Quarterly Report July 1 to September 30, 2019 be APPROVED and FORWARDED to the Public Health and Social Services Committee and subsequently to Regional and Municipal Councils for information.**

Submitted by:

  
Donna Woiceshyn  
Chief Executive Officer

Approved by:

  
Walter Sendzik  
Chair

### Directors:

**Walter Sendzik, Chair**  
Regional Councillor  
St. Catharines

**Gary Zalepa, Treasurer**  
Regional Councillor  
Niagara-on-the-Lake

**Tom Insinna**  
Regional Councillor  
Fort Erie

**James Hyatt, Vice-Chair**  
Community Director  
St. Catharines

**Betty Ann Baker**  
Community Director  
St. Catharines

**Betty Lou Souter**  
Community Director  
St. Catharines

**Karen Blackley, Secretary**  
Community Director  
Thorold

**Barbara Butters**  
Regional Councillor  
Port Colborne

**Leanne Villella**  
Regional Councillor  
Welland

Please call 905-682-9201 if you need this information in a different format or translated into another language.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Application Activity**

**773** received & processed



**Work Orders**

**3,111** issued



**Capital Program**

7 projects ongoing

52 contract orders issued



**Rent Arrears**

= \$35,549.21

or **2.80%** of the monthly rent charges



**Community Resources & Partnerships**

offered supports to

**294** new referrals

**46** partners



**Non-Profit Housing Programs**

**67%** deemed HEALTHY



**Rent Supplement / Housing Allowance**

**1,440** units



**Niagara Renovates**

**46** homeowners have been approved for funding



**Welcome Home Niagara**

**6** homeowners received assistance



**Housing First Project**

**15** Individuals / families housed



**Appeals**

= **10** 9 upheld  
1 overturned



**New Development**

Carlton - complete

Roach - approximately 95% complete



***VISION***

That the Niagara community will provide affordable, accessible and quality housing for all residents

***MISSION***

To expand opportunities that make affordable housing an integral part of building healthy and sustainable communities in Niagara

As the administrator of social housing for Niagara Region, Niagara Regional Housing (NRH) works to fulfill our vision and mission through six main areas of responsibility:

1. Public Housing (NRH Owned Units)
2. Non-Profit Housing Programs
3. Rent Supplement Program
4. Affordable Housing Program
5. Service Manager Responsibilities
6. Housing Access Centre and Centralized Waiting List



**Definitions** can be found in the attached Reference Sheet.

**1. Public Housing (NRH Owned Units)**

**DAY-TO-DAY MAINTENANCE:**

In Q3, **3,111 work orders** were issued, representing \$947,578.06. \$63,676.44 of this amount was charged back to tenants who were held responsible for damages.

	2018-Q3	2018-Q4	2019-Q1	2019-Q2	2019-Q3
<b># of work orders issued</b>	3,216	3,203	2,500	3,084	3,111

**CAPITAL PROGRAM:**

The Capital Program is responsible for maintaining the Public Housing (NRH Owned Units) asset and planning for future sustainability.

In Q3, 52 contract orders were issued, seven public tenders closed and purchase orders issued \$4,012,345.

The Capital Program was responsible for seven capital projects valued at \$4,300,000 including:

- 2 projects - pavement retrofits
- 1 project - booster pump replacements
- 1 project - sealant replacements
- 1 project - balcony repairs
- 1 project - shingle roof replacement
- 1 project - concrete repairs
- 52 RFP's and RFQ's - various investigations, health and safety repairs, emergency repairs, structural repairs and pavement retrofits

As of September 30, 2019, \$7,203,207 of the \$11.7 budgeted (excluding emergency) has been committed and or actually spent (61%).

**TENANT MOVE OUTS:**

**Move Outs By Reason**

Health	3	NRH Transfer	4
Long Term Care Facility	7	Moved to Coop or Non-Profit	1
Deceased	17	Bought a House	1
Private Rental	4	Left Without Notice	1
Voluntarily Left Under Notice	4	Other/None Given	8
Eviction – Tribunal	6	Cease to Qualify	1
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>

In Q3, there were **57 move outs**. Six involved eviction orders granted under the Ontario Landlord Tenant Board (LTB) – Arrears (four), Disturbances N5 (two). Two of the evictions were enforced by the Sherriff.

	2018-Q3	2018-Q4	2019-Q1	2019-Q2	2019-Q3
<b># of move outs</b>	89	65	51	86	57

**ARREARS:**

NRH Housing Operations actively works to reduce rent arrears which have remained consistent from 2018-Q3 to 2019-Q3.

	Sept 30, 2018	Dec 31, 2018	Mar 31, 2019	Jun 30, 2019	Sept 30, 2019
<b>Rent charges for the month</b>	\$1,165,765.00	\$1,187,770.00	\$1,203,317.00	\$1,257,090.00	\$1,267,460.00
<b>Accumulated rent arrears</b>	\$23,378.86	\$24,135.76	\$35,736.89	\$34,004.39	\$35,549.21
<b>Arrears %</b>	2.01%	2.03%	2.97%	2.71%	2.80%

**INSURANCE:**

Nothing to report in Q3.

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS:**

In Q3, we had partnerships with **46 community agencies** across Niagara. As a result of these partnerships, more than 200 support and enrichment activities were offered to tenants at NRH sites. Each partnership contributes to tenant lives and, in turn, the success of the Public Housing community as a whole:

- NRH joined with partners – March of Dimes, Community Support Services Niagara and Niagara Region Senior Programs – to celebrate the 10 Year Anniversary of the Wellness Supportive Living Program (WSLP). This program runs out of NRH communities at Buckley (Niagara Falls), Gale Crescent and Carlton Street (St. Catharines) and King Street (Welland). Offering support ranging from a bathing station to medication prompts to wellness workshops to social activities, WSLP has made an enormous difference in the lives of NRH tenants and reduced their dependence on emergency services. This program has been featured in numerous publications and at conferences as a best practice to help seniors live independently and age at home more successfully.

Also during Q3, NRH Community Programs Coordinators (CPCs) offered support to **294 new referrals of tenants in need of assistance**. Of those new referrals, **57% were considered medium-high need**, (e.g. child safety concerns, eviction, social issues, cognitive concerns). In particular, there was an increase in the number of tenants needing help with clutter and bed bugs.

**2. Non-Profit Housing Programs**

As administrator of social housing for Niagara Region, NRH provides legislative oversight for **60 Non-Profit Housing Programs (non-profit and co-operative)**. Operational Reviews are conducted to determine the overall health of each.

	2018-Q3	2018-Q4	2019-Q1	2019-Q2	2019-Q3
<b>Healthy</b>	41	40	40	40	40
<b>Routine Monitoring</b>	18	17	18	17	17
<b>Intensive Monitoring</b>	1	2	0	1	1
<b>Pre-PID (Project in Difficulty)</b>	1	1	1	1	1
<b>PID (Project in Difficulty)</b>	1	1	1	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>60</b>

NRH Housing Programs staff continue to work with Federal Housing Providers as they move toward End of Operating Agreements (EOA).

### 3. Rent Supplement Program

In Q3, there were **1,440 Rent Supplement/Housing Allowance units** across Niagara. In the Rent Supplement program, tenants pay 30% of their gross monthly income directly to the private landlord and NRH subsidizes the difference up to the market rent for the unit. The Housing Allowance program is a short-term program that provides a set allowance to help applicants on the wait list.

	2018-Q3	2018-Q4	2019-Q1	2019-Q2	2019-Q3
<b>Fort Erie</b>	28	28	26	32	32
<b>Grimsby</b>	26	26	34	26	24
<b>Lincoln (Beamsville)</b>	12	11	11	11	11
<b>Niagara Falls</b>	230	230	235	239	240
<b>Niagara-on-the-Lake</b>	-	-	4	5	5
<b>Pelham</b>	22	21	20	19	19
<b>Port Colborne</b>	51	53	67	62	65
<b>St. Catharines</b>	719	732	741	780	773
<b>Thorold</b>	54	53	57	61	56
<b>Welland</b>	197	201	209	203	200
<b>West Lincoln</b>	15	15	15	15	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>1,419</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>1,440</b>

Variance in the Rent Supplement program are a reflection of fluctuation between agreements ending and new agreements taken up with landlords.

In Q3, an **In-Situ Rent Supplement Program** was developed to engage new landlords and offer applicants on the Centralized Waiting List an opportunity to receive Rent-Geared-to-Income assistance where they currently live. This removes the need for moving related expenses and broadens the network of landlords in business with NRH.

### 4. Affordable Housing Program

#### **NIAGARA RENOVATES PROGRAM:**

The Niagara Renovates program provides assistance to low-to-moderate income homeowners for home repairs, accessibility modifications and the creation of secondary suites in single family homes.

Niagara Renovates inspections for 2019-2020 funding are underway. Inspections include all areas inside and outside of the home to ensure compliance with program guidelines. Issues are identified and a detailed Inspection Report is provided to the homeowner.

NRH received \$600,000 through the Investment in Affordable Housing - Extension (IAH-E) program for homeowner and secondary suite repairs and \$311,015 for multi-unit repairs, totaling \$911,015 for the 2019/2020 period. NRH received an additional \$376,370 through the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) for homeowner and housing provider renovations and repairs for the 2019/2020 period.

**46 homeowners** have been approved for funding.

### **HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM – “WELCOME HOME NIAGARA”:**

The Homeownership program assists low-to-moderate income rental households to purchase their first home by providing a down payment loan.

NRH received \$180,000 through the Investment in Affordable Housing - Extension (IAH-E) program for the 2019/2020 period, with \$100,000 of that allocated to Habitat for Humanity Niagara.

In Q3, **six homeowners** received assistance through Welcome Home Niagara.

	<b>2018-Q3</b>	<b>2018-Q4</b>	<b>2019-Q1</b>	<b>2019-Q2</b>	<b>2019-Q3</b>
<b># of homeowners assisted</b>	14	19	0	4	6

### **HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM:**

The Housing First program helps people move quickly from homelessness to their own home by providing supports to help difficult to house individuals find and keep housing.

In Q3, **15 individuals/families** were housed through the Housing First program. Since 2012, Housing First has helped 422 individuals/families.

	<b>2018-Q3</b>	<b>2018-Q4</b>	<b>2019-Q1</b>	<b>2019-Q2</b>	<b>2019-Q3</b>
<b># of individuals/families housed</b>	9	27	10	23	15
<b># of Housing First units (at quarter end)</b>	178	184	189	198	197

17 of these Housing First units were created with NRH’s new development at 527 Carlton Street in St. Catharines.

**RENTAL HOUSING (NEW DEVELOPMENT):**

**NRH New Development**

<b>Carlton Street, St. Catharines COMPLETE</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Units</b>
Investment in Affordable Housing-Extension (IAH-E), Year 3	\$5,806,000	45
Investment in Affordable Housing-Extension (IAH-E), Year 4	\$2,888,000	23
Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF), Year 1	\$2,387,817	17
<b>Roach Avenue, Welland</b>		
Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF), Year 3	\$1,200,000	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$12,281,817</b>	<b>93</b>

**Roach Avenue**

- 2nd floor – finishing trades 98% complete, minor deficiencies and cleanup outstanding
- 1st floor – finishing trades 90% complete, finish carpentry and final painting in progress
- Sprinkler and mechanical commissioning in progress
- Building envelope complete
- Site Services – complete, parking lot paved and lines painted, sidewalk incomplete
- Landscaping has not started
- Project approximately 95% complete
- Project forecast completion November 1, 2019

**Additional New Development**

Investment in Affordable Housing-Extension (IAH-E), Year 2 funding has been allocated to three non-profit organizations and will result in the creation of 40 units for seniors and mental health consumers in Niagara:

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Units</b>
Gateway Residences of Niagara, Huron Street, Niagara Falls <b>COMPLETE</b>	\$720,000	9
Thorold Municipal Non-Profit, Ormond Street, Thorold <b>COMPLETE</b>	\$1,228,912	14
Stamford Kiwanis, Barker Street, Niagara Falls	\$1,089,088	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,038,000</b>	<b>40</b>

**Stamford Kiwanis**

- Expected substantial completion December 1, 2019

## 5. Service Manager Responsibilities

**APPEALS:**

In Q3, **10 appeals** were heard (five less than in 2018-Q3).

- Four related to ongoing RGI eligibility
  - One Housing Provider appeal for former tenancy arrears – UPHELD with conditions
  - One for former rent arrears and subsidy overpayment – UPHELD with conditions
  - One for failure to report income change – UPHELD with conditions
  - One regarding illegal occupant – OVERTURNED with conditions
- One related to review of rent increase – UPHELD – tenant brought in more payroll information; NRH will recalculate rent
- Five for decisions made by Housing Access
  - Four (Urgent Status) – UPHELD
  - One (extra bedroom) – UPHELD

	2018-Q3	2018-Q4	2019-Q1	2019-Q2	2019-Q3
<b># of appeals</b>	15	12	10	12	10

**INVESTMENTS:**

See Appendix A – Investment Report

## 6. Housing Access Centre & Centralized Waiting List

**APPLICATION ACTIVITY:**

# of Applications Received & Processed	773	# of Eligible Applications	738
# of Special Provincial Priority Status Applications	103	# of Ineligible Applications	35
# of Urgent Status Applications	131	# of Cancelled Applications	386
# of Homeless Status Applications	136	# of Applicants Housed	128

In Q3, **386 households were removed** from the Centralized Waiting List because they were no longer eligible, they found alternate housing or we were unable to make contact.

**CENTRALIZED WAITING LIST:**

		2018- Q3	2018- Q4	2019- Q1	2019- Q2	2019- Q3
		# of households				
<b>A</b>	<b>Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) waiting list:</b>					
	Niagara resident RGI waiting list	4,642	4,616	4,715	4,926	5,012
	Applicants from outside of Niagara	758	761	793	849	897
	<b>TOTAL RGI waiting list:</b>	<b>5,400</b>	<b>5,377</b>	<b>5,508</b>	<b>5,775</b>	<b>5,909</b>
	<b>Housing Allowance:</b> a set allowance to help applicants on the waiting list with affordability in the private market until housed in an RGI unit	618	639	704	742	747
<b>A1</b>	<b>RGI waiting list demographics:</b>					
	Seniors	2,236	2,218	2,257	2,344	2,362
	Adults no dependents	1,764	1,761	1,805	1,881	1,922
	Adults with dependents	1,400	1,398	1,446	1,550	1,625
<b>A2</b>	<b>RGI list further segmented (#'s included in A &amp; A1):</b>					
	<b>SPP – Special Provincial Priority (Ministry Priority):</b> helps victims of violence separate permanently from their abuser	129	131	128	148	165
	<b>URG – Urgent (Local Priority):</b> for applicants with mobility barriers and/or extreme hardship where their current accommodation puts them at extreme risk and/or causes hardship	123	116	117	109	130
	<b>HML – Homeless (Local Priority):</b> provides increased opportunity for placement to homeless households	947	954	971	1,012	1,007
	<b>SUP – Supportive/Transitional:</b> provides targeted, provisional services to assist individuals to transition beyond basic needs to more permanent housing	13	13	15	11	12
<b>B</b>	<b>In addition, NRH manages:</b>					
	<b>Overhoused:</b> households who are living in subsidized accommodation with more bedrooms than they are eligible for	171	168	180	176	181
	<b>Transfer:</b> households who are currently living in subsidized accommodation and have requested a transfer to another provider	547	535	564	573	603
	<b>TOTAL RGI households on waiting list managed by NRH:</b>	<b>6,118</b>	<b>6,080</b>	<b>6,252</b>	<b>6,524</b>	<b>6,693</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>NRH maintains a waiting list for market rent units (62 Non-Profit Housing Programs):</b>					
	<b>Market:</b> applicants who have applied for a market rent unit in the Non-Profit Housing Programs portfolio	629	647	667	723	752
	<b>TOTAL households on waiting list managed by NRH:</b>	<b>6,747</b>	<b>6,727</b>	<b>6,919</b>	<b>7,274</b>	<b>7,445</b>
	<b>TOTAL individuals on waiting list managed by NRH:</b>	<b>11,496</b>	<b>11,488</b>	<b>11,884</b>	<b>12,577</b>	<b>13,059</b>

**Note:** the above chart includes only those who apply to the Centralized Waiting List and does not capture the full number of those in need of affordable housing in Niagara.

**ESTIMATED WAIT TIMES:**

CITY	SENIORS Age 55 and older		SINGLES Age 16-54		HOUSEHOLDS WITH DEPENDENTS			
	Bachelor	1 Bed	Bachelor	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	5 Bed
	YEARS							
Fort Erie	-	9	2	8.5	2	1	5	-
Grimsby	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lincoln	-	4.5	-	12	9	8	-	-
Niagara Falls	4	6	-	16	5	3	7	14
Niagara-on-the-Lake	-	6.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pelham	-	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Port Colborne	-	4.5	-	13	3	3	3	-
St. Catharines	-	6.5	9	13	3.5	3	9	12
Thorold	-	6.5	-	10	6	8	-	-
Welland	-	5	6	15	5	2.5	7	2
West Lincoln	-	4	-	-	5.5	7	-	-

- no units of this size available in this community

Please note:

- wait time information can fluctuate and is an approximation only
- wait times may not reflect the actual time one may wait for affordable housing



## HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR ME TO BE HOUSED?

Estimated Wait Times for Housing in Niagara

CITY	SENIORS Age 55 and older		SINGLES Age 16-54		HOUSEHOLDS WITH DEPENDENTS			
	Bachelor	1 Bedroom	Bachelor	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom	5 Bedroom
Y E A R S								
Fort Erie	-	10	3	10	2	2	5	-
Grimsby	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lincoln	-	4	-	9	10	9	-	-
Niagara Falls	5	6	-	17	8	3	11	15
Niagara on the Lake	-	5.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pelham	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Port Colborne	-	5	-	11	4	4	3	-
St. Catharines	-	6.5	9	13	3.5	4	10	11
Thorold	-	9	-	11	6	10	-	-
Welland	-	5.5	6	15	7	2.5	7	6
West Lincoln	-	4.5	-	-	7	5	-	-

- No units of this size available in this community

January 2019

Please call 905-682-9201 if you need this information in a different format.

<b>A</b>	<p><b>AFFORDABLE HOUSING RENTS:</b> Rents are established at 80% market of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Average Market Rent, with no ongoing rental subsidy.</p>
	<p><b>APPEALS:</b> Social Housing tenants/members can request reviews of decisions related to applicant eligibility, priority status, transfer requests, overhoused status, ongoing Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) eligibility and rent calculation issues. The NRH Appeal Committee makes decisions on appeals from applicants and tenants in Public Housing, Social Housing (where they have not established an Appeal Committee) and Rent Supplement units. All appeal decisions are final, per legislation.</p>
	<p><b>ARREARS:</b> To assist with arrears collection, tenants/members are provided the option of entering into a repayment agreement but are still expected to pay full rent on time.</p>
<b>B</b>	
<b>C</b>	<p><b>CANADA-ONTARIO COMMUNITY HOUSING INITIATIVE (COCHI):</b> A program that provides funding to protect affordability for households in social housing, support the repair and renewal of existing social housing supply and expand the supply of community housing over time.</p>
	<p><b>CAPITAL PROGRAM:</b> Responsible for maintaining the Public Housing (NRH-owned) asset and planning for future sustainability, as well as issuing tenders for service contracts.</p>
	<p><b>CENTRALIZED WAITING LIST:</b> Is comprised of almost 200 subsidiary lists of Public Housing, Social Housing and private units through the Rent Supplement program. It is maintained on a modified chronological basis (i.e. in order to ensure that applicants are treated fairly, units are offered based on the date of application). The needs of particularly at-risk populations are addressed through Priority Status groups that are offered units before other applicants on the Centralized Waiting List:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Provincial Priority (SPP) Status</li> <li>• Urgent Status</li> <li>• Homeless Status</li> </ul> <p>The <i>Housing Services Act, 2011</i> (HSA) requires that the Centralized Waiting List is reviewed on a regular basis. Applicants are asked to confirm their continued interest and to update information annually (# of household members, total household income) so that NRH can verify ongoing eligibility for housing subsidy. If a household is no longer interested or is deemed ineligible the application is cancelled and removed from the list.</p> <p>The Centralized Waiting List includes various types of households (i.e. families, seniors and singles/adults without dependents) from both within and outside Niagara, the priority groups mentioned above, RGI and Market applicants and existing tenants who are overhoused (have more bedrooms than they need).</p>
	<p><b>COMMUNITY HOUSING:</b> Housing owned and operated by non-profit, co-operatives and municipal governments or district social services administration boards including subsidized or low-end-of market rents.</p>

*Quarterly Report Reference Sheet*

	<p><b>COMMUNITY PROGRAMS:</b> NRH's community partners offer events, presentations, activities and programs to help mitigate the effects of poverty by building community pride, offering life skills training and enhancing the lives of the tenants. While NRH does not deliver these services directly to tenants, NRH's Community Resource Unit facilitates partnerships by identifying evolving community and tenant needs, connecting with appropriate programs and supporting their ongoing success.</p>
<b>D</b>	
<b>E</b>	<p><b>END OF OPERATING AGREEMENTS (EOA):</b> EOA refers to the expiry of federally signed operating agreements. NRH is working with these providers to find innovative solutions to maintain the existing number of social housing units in Niagara and protect existing tenants/members from losing subsidy.</p> <p><b>END OF MORTGAGE (EOM):</b> Federal/provincial and provincial housing providers (non-profits and co-ops) legislated under the Housing Services Act (HSA) do not have operating agreements that expire when the mortgage matures. The relationship between service manager and housing provider continues with the housing provider still obliged to follow the HSA. The obligation of service manager to pay a mortgage subsidy ends.</p> <p><b>EVICTION PREVENTION/SUPPORT:</b> Supports to help NRH tenants stay in their homes through identification of tenant needs and connection with supports and services (ex. Mental health issues, cognitive decline, addiction, family breakdown etc).</p>
<b>F</b>	
<b>G</b>	
	<p><b>HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM – "WELCOME HOME NIAGARA":</b> The Homeownership program assists low-to-moderate income rental households to purchase their first home by providing a down payment loan. The loan is forgivable after 20 years if the household remains in the home.</p> <p><b>HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS ACTION PLAN (HHAP):</b> Niagara's 10-year Community Action Plan to help everyone in Niagara have a home.</p> <p><b>HOUSING ACCESS CENTRE:</b> Housing Access is the gateway to affordable housing in Niagara. All applications for housing are processed through the Housing Access Centre including initial and ongoing eligibility assessment as well as management of the Centralized Waiting List. Options include accommodation with Non-profit and Co-operative housing providers (Social Housing), NRH owned units (Public Housing and two mixed income communities), or for-profit/private landlord owned buildings (Rent Supplement/Housing Allowance).</p> <p><b>HOUSING ALLOWANCE PROGRAM:</b> A variation of the Rent Supplement program that provides a set allowance of up to \$300 per month to private landlords to assist applicants who are on the Centralized Waiting List.</p> <p><b>HOUSING FIRST:</b> Helps people move quickly from homelessness to their own home by providing supports to help difficult to house individuals find and keep housing. NRH partners with Niagara Region Community Services and community agencies to provide rent supplement to landlords while agency staff provide a range of personalized</p>

*Quarterly Report Reference Sheet*

	supports to encourage successful tenancies and, if the tenant chooses, address personal challenges.
<b>I</b>	<p><b>IN-SITU RENT SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM:</b> A program developed to engage new landlords and offer applicants on the Centralized Waiting List an opportunity to receive Rent-Geared-to-Income assistance where they currently live. This removes the need for moving related expenses and broadens the network of landlords in business with NRH.</p> <p><b>INVESTMENT IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM – EXTENSION (IAH-E):</b> Provincial and federally funded program designed to improve access to affordable housing that is safe and suitable, while assisting local economies through job creation generated by new development and home repairs/modifications, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niagara Renovates</li> <li>• Homeownership (Welcome Home Niagara)</li> <li>• Rent Supplement/Housing Allowance</li> <li>• Rental Housing (New Development)</li> </ul>
<b>J</b>	
<b>K</b>	
<b>L</b>	<b>LOCAL HOUSING CORPORATION (LHC):</b> Also called “Public Housing”, LHC refers to the communities that Niagara Regional Housing owns and manages.
<b>M</b>	
<b>N</b>	<p><b>NIAGARA RENOVATES PROGRAM:</b> Provides assistance to low-to-moderate income homeowners for home repairs, accessibility modifications and the creation of secondary suites in single family homes. Assistance is provided in the form of a forgivable loan, written off over a 10-year period, as long as the homeowner continues to live in the home.</p> <p><b>NON PROFIT HOUSING PROGRAMS (FORMERLY “SOCIAL HOUSING”):</b> Includes Non-Profit and Cooperative Housing Providers, who own and manage their own housing communities and have their own independent Boards. NRH provides legislative oversight to ensure they are in compliance with the <i>Housing Services Act (HSA)</i>. Generally, 25% of these units are designated as market rent units. The remaining 75% of units are offered to households on the Centralized Waiting List that pay RGI.</p>
<b>O</b>	<p><b>ONTARIO PRIORITIES HOUSING INITIATIVE (OPHI):</b> A program to address local housing priorities, including affordability, repair and new construction.</p> <p><b>OPERATIONAL REVIEWS:</b> In order to ensure that non-profit housing providers are in compliance with legislation and local policies, NRH investigates overall health by analyzing many factors including finances, vacancy losses, governance issues, condition of buildings etc. NRH then works with them to bring them into compliance and provide recommendations on best business practices.</p>
<b>P</b>	<b>PORTABLE HOUSING ALLOWANCE:</b> Direct financial assistance given to the household (tenant) on the Centralized Waiting List; not tied to a housing unit.
	<b>PRIORITY STATUS GROUPS:</b> Priority Status groups are offered units before other applicants on the Centralized Waiting List:

*Quarterly Report Reference Sheet*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Special Provincial Priority (SPP) Status</b> is the only legislated priority and is intended to help victims of violence separate permanently from their abuser</li> <li>• <b>Urgent Status</b> is intended for applicants with (1) Mobility Barriers (i.e. physical limitations that require barrier-free units) and/or (2) Extreme Hardship (i.e. where the applicants' current accommodations puts them at extreme risk and/or causes hardship and relocation would reduce the risks and/or alleviate the hardship)</li> <li>• <b>Homeless Status</b> provides an increased opportunity for placement to households that are homeless (1 in every 10 households offered housing)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>PUBLIC HOUSING (ALSO CALLED "LOCAL HOUSING CORPORATION"):</b> NRH owns and manages 2,660 units of Public Housing stock in 9 of the 12 Niagara municipalities. Tenants pay 30% of their income for rent. <i>*Note: NRH owns and manages an additional 91 units that have affordable (80% market) and market rents.</i></p>
<b>Q</b>	
<b>R</b>	<p><b>RENT SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM:</b> Tenants pay 30% of their gross monthly income directly to the private landlord and NRH subsidizes the difference up to the agreed market rent for the unit. <i>*See also Housing Allowance Program and Housing First Project.</i></p>
<b>S</b>	<p><b>SERVICE MANAGER:</b> As administrator for affordable housing on behalf of Niagara Region, NRH's main responsibilities include: administering Rent Supplement Programs, oversight of Non-Profit and Cooperative Housing Providers, determining RGI eligibility, maintaining Centralized Waiting List, establishing Local Policies etc.</p>
	<p><b>SOCIAL HOUSING (FORMERLY "AFFORDABLE HOUSING"):</b> All NRH programs and services, including Public Housing (NRH-owned), Non-Profit Housing Programs, the Rent Supplement Program and the Affordable Housing Program</p>
<b>T</b>	
<b>U</b>	
<b>V</b>	
<b>W</b>	<p><b>WELCOME HOME NIAGARA:</b> Assists low-to-moderate income rental households to purchase their first home by providing a down payment loan. The loan is forgivable after 20 years if the household remains in the home.</p>
<b>X</b>	
<b>Y</b>	
<b>Z</b>	

## Quarterly Report on Cash / Investments for Period Ending September 30, 2019

	This Quarter Balance	Last Quarter Balance	Variance \$	Variance %	Comments
<b>BANK ACCOUNTS</b>					
<b>Current Bank Account:</b> Royal Bank account used for day-to-day operations for the owned units. Also to cash flow various short terms programs funded by Prov and Fed gov't usch as development, homeownership and capital repair programs.	\$3,671,011.87	\$3,266,271.72	404,740.15	12.39%	Since the February 2016 transition to PeopleSoft, day-to-day accounts payable transactions are paid by the Region through PeopleSoft. Reconciliation of the due to the Region account will be performed on a quarterly basis to transfer amounts due to the Region.
<b>Investment Bank Account:</b> Used to hold funds "In Trust" for designated Housing Providers for capital work.	\$386,734.77	\$384,549.92	2,184.85	0.57%	Interest earned at a rate of RBC Prime minus 1.70% on balances in bank and investment accounts. Approved for Closure.
<b>Total Bank Account</b>	<b>\$4,057,746.64</b>	<b>\$3,650,821.64</b>	<b>406,925.00</b>	<b>11.15%</b>	

<b>INVESTMENT VEHICLES - FUND ACCOUNTING</b>					
Various investment vehicles are used to protect and optimize the cash that is held for specified purposes. Investments are both short-term and long-term in nature. These funds are intended to ensure continued growth without capital erosion by inflation.					
Current Instruments:	2 Year GIC, \$188,000; due date is 08/17/2020; interest rate of 2.65% to 2.74%				
RBC High Interest Savings Account = \$5,547,920.17	2 Year GIC, \$376,000; due date is 08/20/2020; interest rate of 2.60% to 2.65%				
	2 Year GIC, \$264,280; due date is 08/21/2020; interest rate of 2.53%				
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,401,362.89</b>	<b>6,376,264.44</b>	<b>25,098.45</b>	<b>0.39%</b>	

# Q3 Report on Reserves as at September 30, 2019

NRH 18-2019  
19-185-2.5, App A  
15-Nov-19

Description	Balances at December 31, 2018	Year-to-date Net Transfers from (to) Operating	Year-to-date Capital Transfers	Balance at September 30, 2019	Net Transfers Forecast from (to) Operating	Forecasted Balance at December 31, 2019
<b>NRH Owned Units Public/Local Housing 503 Corp:</b>						
Jubilee/Broadoak	215,569	54,000	-	269,569	18,000	287,569
Fitch Street	261,040	66,750	-	327,790	22,250	350,040
Carlton	-	157,500	-	157,500	52,500	210,000
Other Owned Units	3,644,207	457,817	(794,555)	3,307,469	1,052,606	4,360,075
<b>NRH Owned Units Public/Local Housing 503 Corp TOTAL</b>	<b>4,120,816</b>	<b>736,067</b>	<b>(794,555)</b>	<b>4,062,328</b>	<b>1,145,356</b>	<b>5,207,684</b>
<b>502 Niagara Regional Housing:</b>						
Emergency Capital Funding for Housing Providers	1,924,871	955,798	-	2,880,669	318,599	3,199,268
Title Normalization for NRH Owned Units	712,381	-	-	712,381		712,381
New Initiatives, other social housing purposes and any new deposits are added to this category	3,403,047	-	(410,415)	2,992,632	-	2,992,632
<b>502 Niagara Regional Housing TOTAL</b>	<b>6,040,299</b>	<b>955,798</b>	<b>(410,415)</b>	<b>6,585,682</b>	<b>318,599</b>	<b>6,904,281</b>
<b>Total NRH Capital Reserves</b>	<b>\$ 10,161,115</b>	<b>\$ 1,691,865</b>	<b>\$ (1,204,970)</b>	<b>\$ 10,648,010</b>	<b>\$ 1,463,955</b>	<b>\$ 12,111,965</b>
<b>533 NRH Rent Supplement:</b>	278,301	(9,000)	-	269,301	(3,000)	266,301
<b>NRH Stabilization Reserves TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 278,301</b>	<b>\$ (9,000)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 269,301</b>	<b>\$ (3,000)</b>	<b>\$ 266,301</b>
<b>561 NRH Employee Future Benefits:</b>	792,733	-	-	792,733	-	792,733
<b>NRH Future Liability Reserves TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 792,733</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 792,733</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 792,733</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,232,149</b>	<b>\$ 1,682,865</b>	<b>\$ (1,204,970)</b>	<b>\$ 11,710,044</b>	<b>\$ 1,460,955</b>	<b>\$ 13,170,999</b>

Interest no longer applied by approval of Regional Council (CSD 02-2013).

503 NRH Owned Units Public/Local Housing Corp: This reserve was set-up by the Board of Directors as a Reserve Fund in September 2004 for capital expenses related to the NRH owned units. This reserve includes specific reserve balances to support 3 properties (Jubilee/Broadoak, Fitch, Carlton) based on the reserve fund studies completed to ensure sustainable. The balance is for all other owned units. Forecasted \$900,000 to be transferred from current 2019 operating budget to support 2020 Niagara Falls development.

502 Niagara Regional Housing

This reserve includes three major elements: (1) Emergency Capital Funding for Housing Providers - *intent to support capital repair program for housing providers; surplus from housing programs should be directed to this component of the reserve* (2) Title Normalization for NRH Owned Units (3) New Initiatives / New Development - *\$2.29M is restricted to future development/intensification in Niagara Falls (see 2017 Year-End Transfer); remainder unrestricted.*

NRH Rent Supplement: This fund was set-up by the Board of Directors in December 2008 (year end) for a new Rent Supplement program. This Rent Supplement program is budgeted annually and withdrawal from the Reserve matches that year's expenditures.

NRH Employee Future Benefits: This fund was set-up by the Board of Directors in 2011 to fund Employee Future Benefits. (retiree benefits, sick leave, vacation. etc.).

**Meredith Ciuffetelli**

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**From:** Amber Dashwood  
**Sent:** November-20-19 4:59 PM  
**To:** Meredith Ciuffetelli; William Kolasa  
**Subject:** FW: For Immediate Release - Ontario Launches Free Routine Dental Care for Low-Income Seniors



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Ontario Launches Free Routine Dental Care for Low-Income Seniors**

**Program Will Help Keep Seniors Healthy in Niagara**

**NEWS**

2019 November 20,

**THOROLD** – As part of its comprehensive plan to end hallway health care, Ontario is investing in programs that keep seniors healthy in their communities longer.

Each year in Ontario, preventable dental issues like gum disease, infections and chronic pain lead to more than 60,000 emergency department visits by patients, of which a significant portion are seniors. Many low-income seniors face challenges accessing regular dental care because they cannot afford it, impacting their overall well-being.

This is why the government is investing approximately \$90 million annually for the new Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP), which will provide free routine dental care for eligible low-income seniors in Niagara and across the province. In doing so, the government expects to reduce the number of dental-related emergency department visits, helping to end hallway health care.

Eligible seniors can apply to the program online as of today ([ontario.ca/SeniorsDental](http://ontario.ca/SeniorsDental)), or by picking up an application form at a local public health unit.

“With this program, we are making sure Ontario’s low-income seniors can age with dignity and enjoy the quality of life they deserve,” said Premier Ford.

“This is another concrete way our government is delivering on our commitment to end hallway health care and cut hospital wait times.”

“By providing seniors with access to quality dental care and keeping them out of hospitals, this new program is a key part of our plan to end hallway health care,” said Minister Elliott.

“Ontario is building a connected system of care that supports all Ontarians throughout their health care journey.”

“The well-being of all Ontario’s seniors is a top priority for this government,” said Minister Cho.

“This new dental care program will help eligible seniors receive the quality dental care they deserve. By keeping seniors healthy, we can also help seniors avoid emergency visits to the hospital, prevent chronic diseases, and increase quality of life for seniors in Niagara and across the province.”

Ontarians aged 65 and over with an income of \$19,300 or less, or couples with a combined annual income of \$32,300 or less, who do not have dental benefits, will qualify for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program.

“The announcement today addresses the growing needs of our aging population in Niagara,” noted Sam Oosterhoff, MPP for Niagara West.

“Free, high-quality routine dental care for eligible low-income seniors is a key step in our government’s transformational strategy to end hallway health care in the province.”

Ontario remains committed to building healthier communities and making life more affordable for everyone, including seniors and their families.

### **Quick Facts**

- It is estimated that 100,000 low-income seniors will benefit annually from this program once fully implemented.
- Two-thirds of low-income seniors do not have access to dental insurance.
- The new dental care program will be available through public health units, including some mobile dental clinics, as well as participating Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Aboriginal Health Access Centres (AHACs).

-30-

**Media Contact** | Crystal Mason | [crystal.mason@pc.ola.org](mailto:crystal.mason@pc.ola.org)



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE**  
69 FOURTH AVENUE, P. O. BOX 40, LARDER LAKE, ON P0K 1L0  
PH: 705-643-2158 FAX: 705-643-2311  
LARDERLAKE.CA

November 12, 2019

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
1 Stone Road West, Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2  
[minister.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.omafra@ontario.ca)

Dear Mr. Ernie Hardeman:

**Re: Main Street Revitalization Grant – Extension request**

In the summer of 2018, we were advised that we were allocated main street revitalization funding. On September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Municipal senior staff reached out to the representative of the distributing agency of these funds (AMO) to request an extension on the spending of the funds. Staff were told that we are not the only Municipality that has enquired about an extension but that no formal response has been received from OMAFRA to AMO about allowing an extension.

An email follow-up was sent to AMO on October 7<sup>th</sup> to see if any progress had been made on granting extensions. The email also included the following list of reasons why an extension is REQUIRED:

- We were advised of the funding in summer of a Municipal election year
- Council not knowing if they were going to be re-elected did not want to choose a project for the funds
- An entirely new Council was elected in October and sworn in in early December.
- Council orientation and 2019 budget took precedence on choosing a project
- Council has recently (end of August 2019) chosen a project.
- The project requires work outside in reasonable temperatures.
- The temperatures in Northern Ontario are not stable enough till may to perform the project.

The response from AMO, which was received on the same day, was the following:

“Thanks for this, Julie. We’ve outlined several these reasons in our letter to OMAFRA. I’m hopeful that I’ll have some more information soon.”

We have been also been told to select an alternative project that would be eligible. In small towns there are certain items that are more critical than others. In our case having our landmark refurbished is the main project we would like to get done with this funding. An alternative project will not have the same visual impact. We are pleading that you provide an extension to this funding soon as possible. The request is that the project funding be extended till end of July 2020.

If you require more information please do not hesitate to contact our office at 705-643-2158.

Yours truly,  
*Julie Bouthillette*

Julie Bouthillette, CAO /Clerk-Treasurer

Cc: Adam Garcia [AGarcia@amo.on.ca](mailto:AGarcia@amo.on.ca)  
Lorna Ruder [lruder@amo.on.ca](mailto:lruder@amo.on.ca) (Please share with AMO board)

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE**  
**69 Fourth Avenue, Larder Lake, ON**  
 Phone: 705-643-2158 Fax: 705-643-2311



MOVED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

SECONDED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

Motion #: 24

Resolution #: 24

Date: November 12, 2019

WHEREAS Council has discussed and edited the letter to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; And

THEREFORE, Council directs staff to send the letter with this attached resolution as endorsement to the letter; And

FURTHER that the letter also be sent to Premier Doug Ford, Our local MPP and all other Municipalities in Ontario.

Recorded vote requested:

	For	Against
Tom Armstrong		
Patricia Hull		
Paul Kelly		
Lynne Paquette		
Patty Quinn		

I declare this motion

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carried
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost / Defeated
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred to: _____ (enter date)
Because:
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ (enter body)
Expected response: _____ (enter date)

<b>Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest*</b>

Chair: Patricia Hull

\*Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.



**City of Welland**  
**Legislative Services**  
Office of the City Clerk  
60 East Main Street, Welland, ON L3B 3X4  
Phone: 905-735-1700 Ext. 2280 | Fax: 905-732-1919  
Email: [clerk@welland.ca](mailto:clerk@welland.ca) | [www.welland.ca](http://www.welland.ca)

November 21, 2019

**File No. 18-82**

SENT VIA EMAIL  
[geospatialniagara@gmail.com](mailto:geospatialniagara@gmail.com)

Mr Darren Platakis, Founder/CEO  
Geospatial Niagara

Attention: Mr. Darren Platakis

Dear Mr. Platakis:

**Re: October 1, 2019 – WELLAND CITY COUNCIL**

At its meeting of October 1, 2019, Welland City Council passed the following resolution:

**“THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND receives for information and endorses the presentation regarding OHNIA Kara Aspiring Geopark.”**

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Stephens".

Tara Stephens  
City Clerk

TS:cm

c.c: - Local Municipalities  
- T. Fitzpatrick, General Manager of Infrastructure & Development Services