



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

SUMMARY

MAY 19, 2023

1. **C-2023-172**
Correspondence dated May 12, 2023 from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry respecting 2023 Rabies Control Operations.
2. **C-2023-173**
Correspondence dated May 15, 2023 from the Township of Amaranth to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, respecting a resolution in support of school bus stop arm cameras and support for AMPs costs.
3. **C-2023-174**
Correspondence dated May 15, 2023 from the Town of Fort Frances respecting a resolution advocating for additional resources to combat the opioid crisis.
4. **C-2023-175**
Correspondence dated May 15, 2023 from the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry respecting a resolution regarding Bill 97.
5. **C-2023-176**
Correspondence dated May 10, 2023 from the Municipality of Casselman respecting a resolution in support of Bill 5.
6. **C-2023-177**
Correspondence dated May 9, 2023 from the Town of Bancroft respecting a resolution in support of the Town of Essex correspondence regarding municipal option to retain surplus proceeds from tax sales.
7. **C-2023-178**
Correspondence dated May 16, 2023 from the Municipality of Wawa respecting a resolution in support of Oxford County and Township of Montague correspondence regarding Bill 5.
8. **C-2023-179**
Correspondence dated May 18, 2023 from the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) respecting ROMA intervention in the CN Rail dispute.
9. **C-2023-180**
Correspondence dated May 18, 2023 from the Province of Ontario respecting a news release regarding reducing the risk of Lyme disease and tick-borne illnesses.
10. **C-2023-181**
Correspondence dated May 18, 2023 from the Province of Ontario respecting a news release regarding the expansion of GO Train Service to Niagara.

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section
2140 East Bank Drive
DNA Building, c/o Trent University
Peterborough, ON K9L 1Z8

Ministère du des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts

Phone: 1-888-574-6656
Fax: 705-755-1559
Email: rabies@ontario.ca

Received May 12, 2023
C-2023-172

May 12, 2023

In 2023, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) will once again be conducting Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) bait distribution and trap-vaccinate-release (TVR) programs in Ontario. Baiting and TVR operations will begin June 19 and continue until the end of October. TVR operations in St. Catharines will begin May 1.

Please find attached:

- 1) Map of planned baiting area for 2023
- 2) Rabies Vaccine Bait Information Sheet

Per the attached map, rabies vaccine bait distribution will be conducted in rural areas with MNRF aircraft and by hand in urban areas by MNRF wildlife technicians. These are the details of bait distribution work in 2023 (dates are subject to change depending on weather conditions):

- Grey shaded areas will be completed with a combination of Twin Otter airplane and Eurocopter EC130 helicopter in mid-late August.
- Urban hand baiting, including the use of temporary bait stations, will occur in the brown shaded areas starting June 19 and continue through to the end of October.
- Live trapping and vaccinating wildlife (trap-vaccinate-release) will occur in the areas surrounding Hamilton, Niagara, St. Catharines and Welland shaded in yellow starting June 19 and will continue through to the end of October. TVR operations in St. Catharines will begin May 1.
- Preventative baiting of the purple shaded area in eastern Ontario will take place in mid August by Twin Otter airplane and will take one day to complete and hand baiting in the dark purple shaded area of the city of Cornwall will be completed in early August.

In addition to the activities mentioned above, MNRF may conduct localized rapid response baiting and trap-vaccinate-release measures, which would take place in the event of a raccoon or fox strain rabies case outside of the planned baiting area.

The ministry is committed to the research, surveillance, control and elimination of the outbreak of rabies in southwestern Ontario to prevent the disease from spreading. Since the start of the rabies outbreak in 2015, the first of its kind in over a decade, MNRF has taken quick action to protect communities, distributing over 8.2 million vaccine baits by air and ground. Rabies cases have decreased by 90% since 2016.

In keeping with current World Health Organization guidelines, the 2023 rabies control zone has been reduced as some areas have had no reported cases in over two years. The control zone encompasses an area within approximately 50 km of positive cases that are less than two years old (positive cases since July 1, 2021).

Any warm-blooded mammal can contract rabies. If a human contracts rabies and does not receive treatment, the disease is fatal.

The khaki-green coloured bait being distributed by hand and by aircraft is made of wax-fat with an attractant flavour (vanilla-sugar). A label with a toll-free telephone number (1-888-574-6656) and the message "Do not eat" is located on the exterior of the bait, and a plastic package containing the liquid rabies vaccine is embedded in the centre. If found, the bait should not be touched, but left for raccoons, skunks and foxes to consume. (See attached bait identification hand out for detailed description.)

Ontario's rabies vaccine baits have been tested to ensure they are safe for wildlife, people, and pets. However, eating a vaccine bait does not replace the regular rabies vaccination provided by a veterinarian for pets. If a pet has eaten a bait and the owner is concerned, they should contact their vet as a precaution.

Ontario's rabies control program is a joint effort that receives important input and contributions from a variety of partners across the province. Partnerships with provincial ministries, federal agencies, regional health units, municipalities, wildlife rehabilitators, licensed trappers, wildlife control agents and Indigenous communities are all key to the continued success of Ontario's rabies control program.

For further information about rabies in Ontario, please visit [Ontario.ca/rabies](https://ontario.ca/rabies) or contact the ministry's rabies information line at 1-888-574-6656.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please contact me at 705-313-2043 or by email at Larissa.Nituch@ontario.ca.

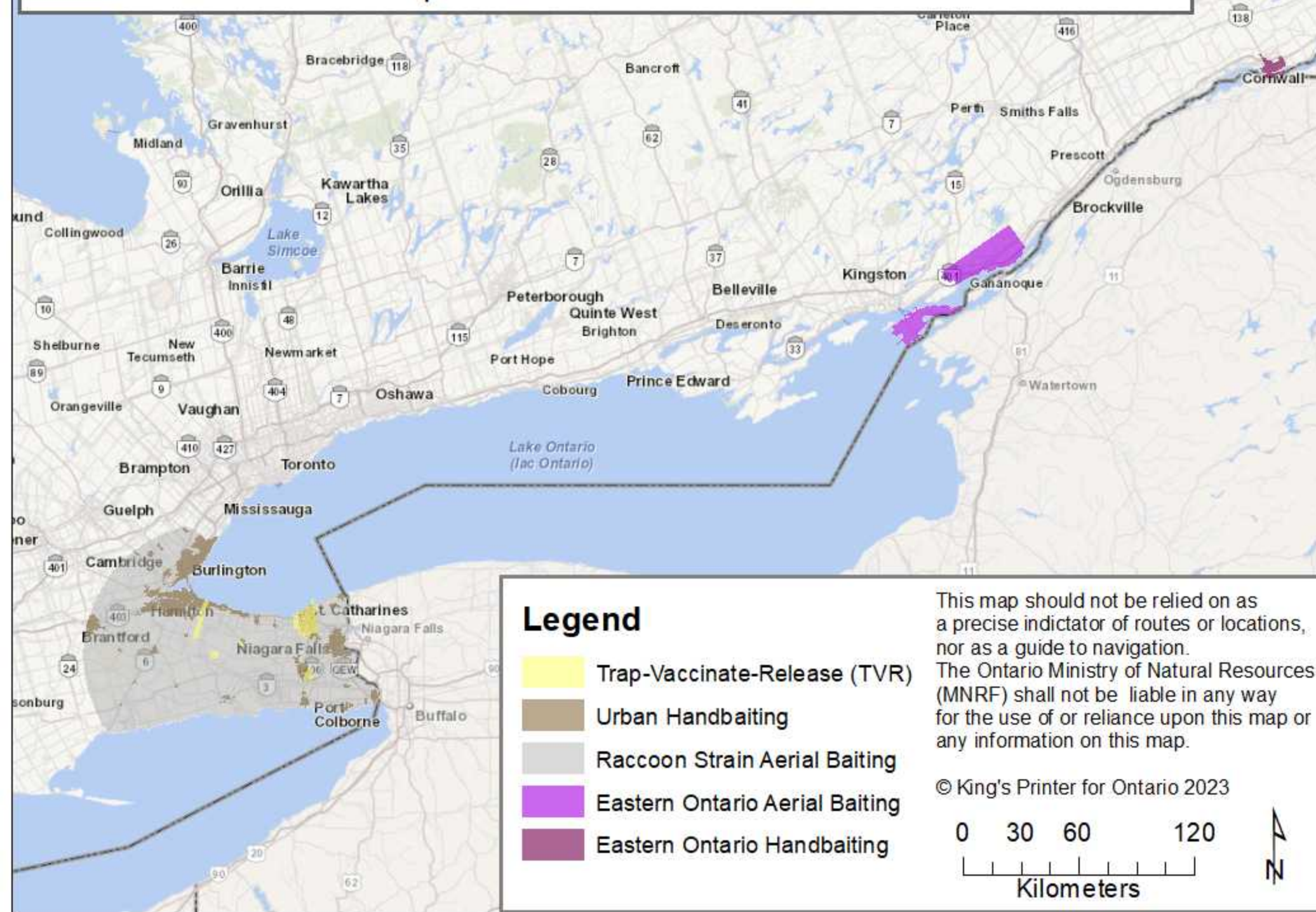
Larissa Nituch

Rabies Science Operations Supervisor

705-313-2043 (cell)

Larissa.Nituch@ontario.ca

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Planned Rabies Control Operations 2023



Legend

- Trap-Vaccinate-Release (TVR)
- Urban Handbaiting
- Raccoon Strain Aerial Baiting
- Eastern Ontario Aerial Baiting
- Eastern Ontario Handbaiting

This map should not be relied on as a precise indicator of routes or locations, nor as a guide to navigation. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNRF) shall not be liable in any way for the use of or reliance upon this map or any information on this map.

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0 30 60 120
Kilometers



Rabies vaccine bait identification

June 2022

The ONRAB® Ultralite Bait is used in Ontario for both fox strain and raccoon strain rabies control. Exposure to the bait is not harmful to people or pets; however, in the unlikely event that people or pets come in contact with the vaccine contained in the bait, contacting a doctor or veterinarian as a precaution is recommended.

Bait Ingredients

The bait formula coats the blister pack containing the vaccine. This formula consists of vegetable based fats, wax, icing sugar, vegetable oil, artificial marshmallow flavour and dark-green food grade fat-soluble dye.

Ultra-lite blister-pack (Vaccine Carrier)

This is a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) blister pack (40 mm x 22 mm x 10 mm) which weighs approximately 4.3 grams. The blister pack is a white/clear polyester flocked container with a heat-sealed laminated polyester lidding. The body of the blister pack is embedded in the bait matrix but the green lidding is exposed and has a black warning label printed on it.



Inside Baits: ONRAB® oral rabies vaccine

Description: a recombinant live virus liquid vaccine

Volume/bait: 1.8 ±0.1 ml in the blister pack

Other inclusions: vaccine stabilizers

Colour: clear

Target species: skunk, fox, and raccoon

Contact: Wildlife Research and Monitoring Section

rabies@ontario.ca

1-888-574-6656

Ontario.ca/rabies

Disponible en français



Received May 15, 2023
C-2023-173

374028 6TH LINE • AMARANTH ON • L9W 0M6

May 15, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

SENT BY EMAIL TO: Premier Doug Ford, Attorney General Doug Downey, Minister of Education Stephen Lecce, Provincial opposition parties, Sylvia Jones MPP, AMO and all municipalities in Ontario.

Re: School Bus Stop Arm Cameras

At its regular meeting of Council held on May 3, 2023, the Township of Amaranth Council passed the following motion:

Resolution #: 3

Moved by: A. Stirk

Seconded by: B. Metzger

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Council of the Township of Amaranth urges the Provincial Government to:

1. Require all school buses to have stop arm cameras installed and paid for by the Province for the start of the 2023-2024 school year; and
2. Underwrite the costs for the implementation and on-going annual costs for Administrative Monetary Penalties in small and rural municipalities;

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford, Attorney General Doug Downey, Minister of Education Stephen Lecce, Provincial opposition parties, Sylvia Jones MPP, AMO and all municipalities in Ontario.

CARRIED

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any further information in this matter.

Yours truly,

Nicole Martin, Dipl. M.A.
CAO/Clerk

Administration & Finance Division
Planning & Development Division
Phone: (807)274-5323
Fax: (807)274-8479

Operations & Facilities Division
Phone: (807)274-9893
Fax: (807)274-7360

Mailing Address for All Divisions:
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 3P9



Community Service Division
Phone: (807)274-4561
Fax: (807)274-3799

Email: town@fortfrances.ca
www.fortfrances.ca

May 15, 2023

Received May 16, 2023
C-2023-174

RE: RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID CRISIS

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on May 8th, 2023 the Town of Fort Frances Council considered and adopted the following Resolution:

Resolution No. 195

Moved By: Mandi Olson
Seconded By: Steven Maki

WHEREAS Fort Frances recognizes that challenges of mental health, addictions, specifically opioids, and homelessness are complex issues that have a significant and detrimental impact on the residents of Fort Frances;

WHEREAS addressing and responding to these issues has placed extreme stress on all levels of municipal and non-municipal programs and services, including various not-for-profit organizations and provincially funded health services within Fort Frances and surrounding communities;

WHEREAS mental health, opioids and homelessness trends are, in recent years, at an all-time high and such prevalence is impacting the overall wellbeing of the people of Fort Frances and the surrounding communities;

WHEREAS Fort Frances Council acknowledges that approaches to addressing and responding must include diverse and inclusive approaches to these issues, and should not be viewed as a single solution response;

WHEREAS addressing and responding will require strategies and practices specific and uniquely designed for Fort Frances and surrounding communities;

WHEREAS Fort Frances Council accepts that the responsibility to address these challenges rests with community stakeholders, partners, residents, as well as federal and provincial government and agencies;

WHEREAS challenges of mental health, addictions and homelessness are not unique to Fort Frances; Fort Frances and surrounding communities hold the greatest prevalence of opioid crisis within Ontario;

WHEREAS Fort Frances Council recognizes that municipal emergencies in Ontario are declared by the head of council as per the process detailed in the Emergency Management and Civil Protections Act; and

WHEREAS Fort Frances Council acknowledges that a declaration of emergency does not immediately result in a municipality receiving any additional funds or resources from a senior government level.

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED THAT Council of the Town of Fort Frances ("**Council**") conveys the following comments as submissions to the Commission:

1. THAT **Council** directs staff to send a letter to all municipalities in Ontario, surrounding First Nation communities, MPs and MPPs, requesting letters of support advocating for additional resources to combat the opioid crisis;

And FURTHER THAT these letters be forwarded to Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the federal and provincial government advocating the need for additional resources and support towards the current opioid crisis in Northwestern Ontario.

2. THAT **Council** recommend and support the Northwestern Health Unit establish a north or northwest regional coalition of public health, relevant community agencies, and others as appropriate, in order to amplify regional concerns and investigate potential strategies and resources."

CARRIED

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GL' or similar, followed by a horizontal line.

Gabrielle Lecuyer, AOMC
Clerk

ms/GL



United Counties of
Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

Received May 16, 2023
C-2023-175

RESOLUTION

MOVED BY Councillor Williams

RESOLUTION NO 2023- 98

SECONDED BY Councillor Lang

DATE May 15, 2023

WHEREAS the goal of increasing housing supply and reducing barriers in planning processes as set out in the recent legislative, regulatory and policy changes, including new provisions from Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 is welcomed; and

WHEREAS the proposed PPS (sections 2.6 and 4.3) would dramatically remove municipal power and renders aspects of the County's Official Plan, and other official plans throughout Ontario inoperative, terminating some local planning autonomy, and directly interfering with municipalities' ability to meet local variation and unique community needs; and

WHEREAS the proposed PPS changes that would allow proliferation of lots with protection restricted to specialty crop areas only diminishes the purpose, uses, and integrity of rural and agricultural lands, thereby removing protection and restricting future uses of those lands; and

WHEREAS the proposed PPS changes encourage sprawl and rural roadway strip development, rather than more fiscally and environmentally sustainable practices like intensification in established settlement areas; and

WHEREAS the province has announced changes will be proposed to natural heritage (section 4.1) that have yet to be published.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry urges the province to:

- pause proposed changes to the PPS, particularly regarding natural heritage (section 4.1) and agricultural lands (sections 2.6 and 4.3)
- reinvest trust in the local planning authority of all 444 municipalities, recognizing that each Ontario municipality has unique landscapes, different housing needs and differing visions for local planning matters

AND THAT our fellow municipalities be urged to voice their concerns regarding the proposed undermining of local planning authority;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to all 444 municipalities, The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs

and Housing; The Hon. Lisa Thompson, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, The Hon. David Piccini, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry MPP Nolan Quinn, Glengarry-Prescott-Russell MPP Stéphane Sarrazin , the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus.

☒ CARRIED

☐ DEFEATED

☐ DEFERRED



WARDEN



Received May 18, 2023
C-2023-176

MUNICIPALITÉ DE
CASSELMAN
MUNICIPALITY

May 10th, 2023

Jocelyn Hay

Via email – jocelyn@jocelynhay.com

RE: Jocelyn Hay – Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act – request for a letter of support

Please be advised that Bill 5 – Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2022 was considered by the Council of the municipality of Casselman at its regular meeting, held on May 9th, 2023, and that Council adopt a resolution to support the Bill which require the code of conduct for municipal Councillors and members of local boards to include requirement to comply with workplace violence and harassment policies. Furthermore, the Bill allows municipalities to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat if the Commissioner's inquiry determines that the member has contravened this requirement.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 613-764-3139 Ext 204.

Sincerely,

Genevieve Lajoie
Mayor

Cc: via e-mail

Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario – premier@ontario.ca

Steve Clark, minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – steve.clark@pc.ola.org

Stephen Blais,



Regular Meeting of Council
May 9, 2023

Resolution #118-2023

Motion Details
Moved by Barry McGibbon, Seconded by Mary Kavanagh

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bancroft supports the Town of Essex in the reinstatement of previous legislation that permitted municipalities to apply for and retain surplus proceeds from tax sales in their jurisdictions; and

FURTHER DIRECTS THAT: this resolution be circulated to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MMAH), the Ministry of Finance (MOF), MPP Ric Bresee, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario Municipalities.

RECORDED VOTE		YES	NO
CARRIED:	✓		
TABLED:			
DEFEATED:			
RECORDED VOTE (SEE LEFT):			
	Mayor Paul Jenkins		
	Deputy Mayor Charles Mullet		
	Councillor George Eastman		
	Councillor Barry McGibbon		
	Councillor Tracy McGibbon		
	Councillor Valerie Miles		
	Councillor Mary Kavanagh		

CHARLES MULLETT, DEPUTY MAYOR	JENNIFER PEPLINSKI, ACTING CLERK
<i>Charles Mullett</i>	<i>J Peplinski</i>




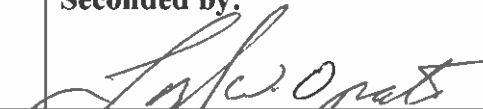
The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Received May 18, 2023
C-2023-178

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Resolution # RC23133	Meeting Order: 4
Moved by: 	Seconded by: 

RESOLVED THAT the City of Oxford County and the Township of Montague Council expressed support for Bill 5 – Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, which would require the code of conduct for municipal Councillors and members of local boards to include a requirement to comply with workplace violence and harassment policies and permit municipalities to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat if the Commissioner's inquiry determines that the member has contravened this requirement;

THEREFORE RESOLVE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa support the City of Oxford County and the Township of Montague Council for Bill 5 and;

FURTHERMORE that this resolution be circulated to the municipalities represented by the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus and;


FURTHERMORE, that this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP, Stephen Blais, Orleans MPP and all Ontario municipalities.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/>	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opat		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

- ☐ Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL
	

Subject: ROMA Intervenes In Rail Dispute

From: ROMA Communications <romacommunicate@roma.on.ca>

Sent: May 18, 2023 1:01 PM

To: William Kolasa <WKolasa@wainfleet.ca>

Subject: ROMA Intervenes In Rail Dispute

ROMA Update not displaying correctly? [View the online version](#)
Add Communicate@amo.on.ca to your safe list



UPDATE

May 18, 2023

Rural Ontario Municipal Association Intervenes in Drainage Dispute with CN Rail

Association applies for intervener status in case that pits large railways against rural communities

The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) is seeking legal intervener status in a dispute between CN Rail and the City of Sarnia over the cost of critical drainage work on CN property.

Proper drainage helps prevent flooding and property damage. It protects the environment, the economy, and the agricultural sector. Under Ontario's *Drainage Act*, landowners share the cost for work to municipal drains located on the owner's property. It is one of Canada's oldest laws, dating back to 1859.

Despite complying with the legislation for more than a century, railways have started telling municipalities that they will not cover the costs. CN is claiming that because railways are federally regulated, they are not bound by provincial and municipal government laws, bylaws, and regulations. The railway has applied to the Canadian Transportation Agency to settle the matter with Sarnia.

ROMA has applied for intervener status because of the negative impact of these actions on rural communities throughout Ontario. According to research gathered by ROMA, at least 30 municipalities - mostly ROMA members - indicated they experienced problems with *Drainage Act* compliance by CN.

"Railways are essentially asking Ontario's property taxpayers to foot the bill for project costs that should be covered by large, wealthy corporations," said ROMA Chair Robin Jones. "Railways are harming the very communities that produce the goods they move across the province."

CN is valued at more than \$80 billion. Yet for many rural municipalities, covering the railway's costs would mean considerable tax increases for local property taxpayers. For example, in some rural municipalities a 1% property tax increase only generates about \$10,000.

Based on ROMA's research, unpaid maintenance costs from CN and other railways are nearing \$500,000 and the tab for unpaid capital construction projects is crossing \$1 million. About \$1.7 million in critical capital construction projects have been delayed due to lack of cooperation by the railways.

This is having a significant impact on small rural communities, and their ability to provide other essential services.

Rail lines run through communities across Ontario, including agricultural areas. Without proper and effective drainage, it would be difficult for railways to operate.

"Federally regulated industries must be held to the same standards as all property owners, including following local laws, bylaws and regulations. CN is creating a false conflict between municipal and provincial laws, and federal regulations," Jones added.

ROMA believes that CTA is not the proper authority to resolve this dispute. ROMA's view is that the matter should be resolved, as with any landowner, through the appeal processes set out in the *Drainage Act*. If CN wants to make a constitutional argument that it is exempt from the Act, that debate should be heard by the Ontario Superior Court.

-30-

For more information:

Farah Tayabali, ROMA Media Relations Contact, tayabali@redbrick.ca, 416-570-8413

***DISCLAIMER:** Any documents attached are final versions. ROMA assumes no responsibility for any discrepancies that may have been transmitted with this electronic version. The printed versions of the documents stand as the official record.



Please consider the environment
before printing this.

Rural Ontario Association (ROMA)
200 University Ave. Suite 801, Toronto ON Canada M5H 3C6

If you wish to Opt-Out of ROMA Updates please [click here](#)



Subject: Protect Yourself from Tick Bites This Summer

From: Ontario News <newsroom@ontario.ca>

Sent: May 18, 2023 9:32 AM

To: William Kolasa <WKolasa@wainfleet.ca>

Subject: Protect Yourself from Tick Bites This Summer



NEWS RELEASE

Protect Yourself from Tick Bites This Summer

Reduce your risk of Lyme disease and tick-borne illnesses

May 18, 2023

[Ministry of Health](#)


TORONTO — As temperatures start to climb, the Ontario government is encouraging people across the province to take precautions to prevent tick bites and reduce the risk of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses when enjoying the outdoors.

Lyme disease is a potentially serious infection that comes from being bitten by an infected blacklegged tick, commonly known as a deer tick. [Symptoms](#) include fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, and an expanding circular rash that resembles a bulls-eye. Ticks commonly live in wooded areas, tall grasses, and bushes and can be found almost anywhere in Ontario, including city gardens and parks.

“As we head outside to start enjoying the warmer weather, it is important to protect ourselves from Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses,” said Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. “With tick populations expanding every year, the number of people at risk of tick bites is increasing. By taking simple precautions, Ontarians can protect themselves and their families when enjoying time outdoors in our beautiful province.”

You can protect yourself from tick bites by:

- wearing light-coloured clothing, so it's easier to spot ticks
- wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants tucked into your socks, and closed-toed shoes
- using an insect repellent with DEET or icaridin in it
- checking yourself, your children, and your pets for ticks after being outdoors. Any ticks found should be removed promptly

- 
- putting clothes on high heat in a dryer for at least 10 minutes before washing clothing after spending time outdoors

“We are seeing an increase in cases of Lyme and other diseases transmitted by ticks in line with other jurisdictions,” said Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health. “Simple, precautionary measures can reduce the risk of getting bitten by a tick. This includes being vigilant in wooded or grassy areas, even in your backyard, and doing routine tick checks after enjoying the outdoors.”

Ticks are very small and hard to see. When a tick is found, it should be removed immediately using fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to your skin as possible. Once the tick has been removed, wash the area with soap and water and then disinfect the area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or an iodine swab.

If you have any health concerns after a tick bite, consult a health care provider as soon as possible. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with antibiotics.

Quick Facts

- Infected blacklegged ticks can be found almost anywhere in the province. There have been over 3,000 cases of Lyme disease in Ontario since 2021.
- If left untreated, Lyme disease can make you feel tired and weak. In severe cases, it can affect your heart, nerves, liver, and joints, and, in very rare cases, cause death.
- While ticks are most active in spring and summer, they can be found during any time of the year when the temperature is above freezing.

Additional Resources

- For more information on ticks and Lyme disease, visit [Ontario.ca/lyme](https://ontario.ca/lyme)
- Ontario’s [2023 Lyme Disease Map](#) identifies risk areas across the province.

Media Contacts

Hannah Jensen

Minister Jones’ Office

Hannah.R.Jensen@ontario.ca

Anna Miller

Communications Division

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Subject: Ontario Expands GO Train Service to Niagara

From: Ontario News <newsroom@ontario.ca>

Sent: May 19, 2023 10:42 AM

To: William Kolasa <WKolasa@wainfleet.ca>

Subject: Ontario Expands GO Train Service to Niagara



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Expands GO Train Service to Niagara

Province adding 12 roundtrips per week between Union Station and Niagara Falls

May 19, 2023


[Premier's Office](#)

NIAGARA – To connect more people to jobs, housing and Canada's top tourist destination, the Ontario government is increasing GO train service between Union Station and Niagara Falls, with more express service between Hamilton, Burlington and Toronto.

"The expansion of GO train service between downtown Toronto and Niagara Falls will not only shorten travel times for everyday commuters but will also help promote tourism and economic growth for the entire Niagara region," said Premier Doug Ford. "Whether it's building roads or highways, expanding our subways or transit service, our government is building the transportation infrastructure our economy needs to reach its full potential. We're keeping people and goods moving."

Starting May 20, weekday service to Niagara Falls will increase by two daily roundtrips and weekend service will increase by one daily roundtrip, for a total of 21 roundtrips per week. As part of these enhancements, GO trains will also resume service to St. Catharines VIA station. The province is also adding four additional weekday peak express trips in each direction on the Lakeshore West line, offering more travel options between Hamilton, Burlington and Toronto.

"This is another exciting step in our government's plan to deliver more GO train trips, more often across the network, to help people get where they need to go with ease," said Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation. "By providing more convenient transportation options between Niagara Region and the downtown Toronto core, we're



unlocking opportunities for jobs and economic growth across the Greater Golden Horseshoe.”

An economic driver for the province, Niagara’s tourism industry supports close to 23,000 jobs in the region. Weekend GO train service will have special seasonal bike coaches, providing passengers with the opportunity to bring along bicycles to explore the 56-kilometre Niagara River corridor.

“Our government recognizes tourism’s importance to Ontario’s economy,” said Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. “As we approach peak travel season, we want to encourage even more people to experience the fun and beauty found in Niagara Falls. By providing faster, more frequent GO services, we are strengthening Niagara’s \$1.8 billion tourism industry.”

Quick Facts

- GO riders now have the option to tap their debit and credit cards on Presto devices, making travelling by GO transit more convenient. Since August 2022, over 826,000 contactless credit trips were logged across the GO transit network.
- GO riders can also access the GO Wi-Fi Plus service free of charge on all GO trains to stay connected while travelling.
- In August 2022, Premier Ford [announced](#) the return of year-round weekend GO rail service to Niagara, with two round trips each day.
- GO rail will become one of the busiest railways in North America with more than 200 million annual riders by 2055 – allowing seamless access to new subways, Light Rail Transit and municipal transit systems.

Quotes

"Expanding GO Train service to Niagara is welcome news for Niagara businesses, commuters, and those who are looking forward to visiting our beautiful region. Once again, Premier Ford and Minister Mulroney are demonstrating their commitment to getting Niagara what it deserves, expanding public transit, and improving service. Since day one, our government has been committed to expanding Niagara GO, and this is another great step towards fulfilling that promise."

- Sam Oosterhoff
MPP for Niagara West

"Our government’s expansion of GO service to the Niagara Region, with a stop at West Harbour station, will better connect the people of Hamilton to exciting tourist destinations and economic opportunities. Through increased service at West Harbour as well as ongoing construction of the Confederation GO station at Centennial Parkway, our government is committed to connecting Hamilton with more convenient and affordable service across the GO transit network."

our government is committed to connecting Hamilton with more convenient and affordable service across the GO transit network."

- Donna Skelly
MPP for Flamborough-Glanbrook

"Niagara Region is an important economic corridor that is vital to Ontario's success. By increasing GO train service between Toronto and Niagara Falls, Premier Ford and Minister Mulroney are providing more options for regular daily commuters and helping to boost Niagara's tourism industry and further strengthen Ontario's economy for generations to come."

- Jim Bradley
Niagara Regional Chair

"This is what we've been waiting for! We know the incredible impact regular daily GO connectivity will have on the future of our community, so we have literally been behind this project for decades. The Ontario Government has not only seen the potential but is taking the real steps to make it happen."

- Jim Diodati
Mayor of Niagara Falls

"These service enhancements are especially welcome news for the people of St. Catharines, who will once again have a direct stop at St. Catharines VIA station. This means more options for a faster, more direct journey for commuters who rely on GO trains to get around, whether its work, school or any of the places that matter most."

- Mat Siscoe
Mayor of St. Catharines

"Metrolinx is improving connections for regional commuters and visitors to Ontario with additional weekday and weekend rail service between Niagara and Toronto. We are thrilled that our ongoing collaboration with our rail partners will enhance flexibility and convenience, better connect communities and provide more options for seamless travel for work and fun in the Niagara Region."

- Phil Verster
President and CEO of Metrolinx

Additional Resources

- [GO Transit](#)
- [GO Expansion Program](#)

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