



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE  
SUMMARY  
NOVEMBER 13, 2020

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1. **C-266-2020**  
Correspondence received November 9, 2020 from the Township of Amaranth respecting a request to rescind the proposed changes regarding ranked ballot voting and the nomination period included as part of bill 218.
2. **C-267-2020**  
Correspondence received November 10, 2020 from Fay Suthons respecting a request to amend the Discharge of Firearms By-law No. 25-2013.
3. **C-268-2020**  
Correspondence received November 10, 2020 from Niagara SPCA respecting monthly statistics for October 2020.
4. **C-269-2020**  
Correspondence received November 11, 2020 from the Office of the Regional Clerk respecting referral of motion regarding decriminalization of personal possession of illicit drugs.
5. **C-270-2020**  
Correspondence received November 12, 2020 from the Township of East Garafraxa respecting a resolution of support regarding assessment methodologies for aggregate resource properties.
6. **C-271-2020**  
Correspondence received November 12, 2020 from the City of Brantford respecting Bill 218 – ranked ballots for municipal elections.



374028 6TH LINE • AMARANTH ON • L9W 0M6

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Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Premier's Office, Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Honourable Premier Ford,

**Re: Bill 218**

At the regular meeting of Council held November 4, 2020, the following resolution was carried:

Council discussed the Ontario Bill 128, Supporting Recovery and Municipal Elections Act 2020. Provincial Bill 218 was recently introduced to the legislature as Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act 2020. As part of this bill, it was proposed to remove the framework for conducting ranked ballot municipal elections for the 2022 election, citing cost as the reason for the change.

This proposed change results in further erosion of local decision-making by repealing the ranked ballot voting system utilized very effectively by London, Ontario in the last municipal election. This is a system that could and perhaps should be adopted by other municipalities around Ontario. It is felt that the system encourages more candidates and improved participation of voters.

Bill 218 also proposed shortening the nomination period of the 2022 municipal election to approximately six weeks.

**Resolution #11**

**Moved by: G. Little – Seconded by: H. Foster**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

The Township of Amaranth request the Provincial Government of Ontario rescind the proposed changes regarding ranked ballot voting and the nomination period included as part of bill 218.

Further resolved that a letter regarding this resolution be forwarded to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Peel and Steve Clark,

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Letter to be copied to AMO and all Ontario Municipalities.

**CARRIED.**

<b>Recorded Vote</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Deputy Mayor Chris Gerrits</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Councillor Heather Foster</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Councillor Gail Little</b>	<b>X</b>		
<b>Mayor Bob Currie</b>	<b>X</b>		

Respectfully submitted,

*Nicole Martin*

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

C: Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Peel  
Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
A.M.O.  
Ontario Municipalities

**Monday, Nov. 9, 2020**

**Wainfleet Township Clerk: Mayor Kevin Gibson & Council.**

**We the following Wainfleet taxpayers are seeking to have an amendment made to Discharge of Firearms Bylaw 25-2013, to make hunting illegal in and around the Welland River by O'Reilly's Bridge and Hwy. 27 and east down to the Pelham border and west as far as possible.**

**Presently hunting occurs on the Pelham side of the River as well as Wainfleet side. Safety is the top priority.**

**This area is too residential for hunting to occur with a guarantee of no person being killed or injured. There are young families with children and pets.**

**A number of years ago bullets hit our back porch roof. (Suthons listed below).**

**Safety the River attracts many recreational water vehicles.**

**Even now in November there has been many jet skis, motor boats, canoes and kayaks and many fishermen use the River, many bicycles, motorcycles use both side of the River, as well as hikers.**

**There is now a lot of public activity on both sides of the River with the influx of people now living in newly built subdivisions a few miles away and cars, trucks and other road vehicles also up in numbers.**

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**Noise intrudes on many households. There is no warning when the guns will be blasting and early in the morning this is seriously upsetting for many who are sick, elderly, caring for young children and taxpayers just trying to have the privilege of enjoying a quiet fall day.**

**We have worked hard, pay taxes to Wainfleet and why should that be diminished by hunters with some not even from the area? In 2020 we all have been through enough without listening to the irritating blasts from rifles and the thought you don't know who the hunters are and where exactly they are hunting. Previously they were hunting right next to O'Reilly's Road that has the community mailbox and train station and last year two hunters leaped onto the shoulder of Hwy 27 and shot a goose right beside the road.**

**Geese are being chased off the River and into farmers' fields. The geese are welcomed and enjoyed by the neighbourhood and were no problem basically living on the River . The hunters make them scream and scatter. It is best they be allowed back where they are natural.**

**Spoken to Bylaw officer Mr. Greg Young Pelham who seems supportive on amending hunting bylaw.**

**Thank you for your consideration in this serious matter.**

**\*Please notify me, faysuthons@gmail.com or 905-788-3151 of the decision on this letter.**

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**\*All houses are Wainfleet civic addresses LOS 1V0**

**\*There mailing addresses Regional Road 27, RR 3 Welland  
L3B 5N6**

**1. Douglas & Faye Suthons 60762 Regional Rd 27 RR3**

**Welland L3B 5N6 faysuthons@gmail.com 905-788-3151**

**2. Ian & Suzanne Johnstone 60766 Regional Rd 27 RR 3**

**Welland L3B 5N6 905-735-2987**

**suzannejohnstone@yahoo.com**

**3. Erica Chisholm 60838 Regional Rd 27, RR 3 Welland**

**L3B 5N6 289-501-3973**

**4. Debbie Kaufman 60629 Regional Rd 27 RR3 Welland**

**L3B 5N6 905-937-7467**

**5. Patricia Wilson 60818 Regional Rd 27 RR 3 Welland**

**L3B 5N6 905-734-6009**

**6. Linda Medvic 60829 Regional Road 27, RR 3 Welland**

**L3B 5N6 905-714-0932**

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**7. Miguel Albino 60828 Regional Rd 27, RR 3 Welland**

**L3B 5N6 905-341-4013**

**8. Sarah Phillips 60830 Regional Road 27, RR 3 Welland**

**L3B 5N6 905-379-5422**

**9. Julie Thomas 60990 Regional Rd 27, RR3 Welland**

**L3B 5N6 905-325-5335**

**10. Darrell Frausel 60786 Regional Road 27, RR 3 Welland**

**L3B 5N6 905-515-8972**

**11. Glen Garriock 60822 Regional Rd 27, RR 3 Welland**

**905-380-4940 & Carol Micell 289-456-3872**

**\*any questions 905-788-3151 Faye Suthons**







**Administration**

Office of the Regional Clerk

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Telephone: 905-685-4225 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977

[www.niagararegion.ca](http://www.niagararegion.ca)

November 11, 2020

**CL 20-2020, October 22, 2020**  
**PHSSC 9-2020, October 13, 2020**  
**PHD-C 9-2020, October 13, 2020**

***DISTRIBUTION LIST***

***SENT ELECTRONICALLY***

**RE: PHD-C 9-2020**  
**Referral of Motion – Decriminalization of Personal Possession of Illicit**  
**Drugs**

Regional Council, at its meeting held on October 22, 2020, passed the following recommendation of its Public Health and Social Services Committee:

WHEREAS governments around the world are considering different approaches to drugs, including the decriminalization of drug use and possession and legal regulation;

WHEREAS a growing number of health officials and boards of health throughout Ontario, Canada, and around the world are calling for changes to our approach to drugs, especially in the midst of the opioid crisis and COVID-19 pandemic, in which the contaminated, unregulated supply of illegal drugs is the main contributor to the crisis;

WHEREAS, in July 2020, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police released a report recognizing substance use disorder as a public health issue and agree that evidence, supported by numerous Canadian health leaders, suggests that decriminalization for simple possession is an effective way to reduce the public health and public safety harms associated with substance use;

WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police endorse alternatives to criminal sanctions for simple possession of illicit drugs, and agree that increased community capacity and resources are necessary to support the availability and integration of health, social programs, and enforcement required for effective diversion;

WHEREAS the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police agree that police services remain committed to combatting organized crime and disrupting the supply of harmful substances coming into our communities by targeting drug trafficking and illegal production and importation, and further agree that diversion provides new opportunities to make positive impacts in communities. These impacts may include reducing recidivism, reducing ancillary crimes and improving health and safety outcomes for individuals who use drugs;

WHEREAS laws that criminalize people simply for using and possessing drugs have resulted in serious health and social harms, including forcing people into unsafe spaces and high-risk behaviours leading to HIV and HCV infection, resulting in criminal records that make it difficult to obtain employment and housing, and reinforcing negative stereotypes and judgements about people who use drugs;

WHEREAS some groups are more impacted by our drug laws than others, including people who are homeless and/or living in poverty, people with mental health and substance use issues, people from racialized groups, Indigenous people, women, and youth;

WHEREAS a public health approach to drugs would be based on principles and strategies that have been shown to support healthy individuals, families, and communities;

WHEREAS countries that have decriminalized personal drug use and possession and invested in public health interventions have seen results, including decreases in HIV and overdose, decreases in costs to the criminal justice system, and improved police/community relationships;

WHEREAS the evidence on the health and social harms of our current criminalization approach to illegal drugs as well as that of alternative approaches such as decriminalization and legal regulation strongly support the need to shift to a public health approach to drugs in Canada;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the federal government **BE URGED** to convene a task force, comprised of people who use drugs, family members, and policy, research and program experts in the areas of public health, human rights, substance use, mental health,

and criminal justice, to explore options for the legal regulation of all drugs in Canada, based on a public health approach;

2. That the task force **BE URGED** to scale up prevention, harm reduction, and treatment services and to explore the decriminalization of the possession of all drugs for personal use; and

3. That this motion **BE CIRCULATED** to Minister of Health Patty Hajdu, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada David Lametti, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Christine Elliott, Attorney General Doug Downey, Niagara's MPs and MPPs, Niagara's 12 local area municipalities, Niagara Regional Police Service, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk

CLK-C 2020-204

Distribution List:

The Honorable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health  
The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
MP Dean Allison, Niagara West  
MP Chris Bittle, St. Catharines  
MP Tony Baldinelli, Niagara Falls  
MP Vance Badawey, Niagara Centre  
Chief of Police Bryan Larkin, President, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police  
The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General  
MPP Sam Oosterhoff, Niagara West  
MPP Jennie Stevens, St. Catharines  
MPP Wayne Gates, Niagara Falls  
MPP Jeff Burch, Niagara Centre  
Chief of Police, Bryan MacCulloch, Niagara Regional Police Service  
Local Area Municipalities  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies



**TOWNSHIP OF EAST GARAFRAXA**

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[www.eastgarafraxa.ca](http://www.eastgarafraxa.ca)

November 11, 2020

County of Wellington  
Donna Bryce, Clerk  
74 Woolwich Street  
Guelph, ON N1H 3T9  
[donnab@wellington.ca](mailto:donnab@wellington.ca)

Attention: Donna Bryce,

RE: Resolution of Support - Assessment Methodologies for Aggregate Resource Properties

At the October 27, 2020 special electronic meeting of Council, the following resolution was passed:

**Moved by Pinkney, Seconded by Nevills**

**Be it Resolved that:**

WHEREAS previous assessment methodologies for aggregate resource properties valued areas that were used for aggregate resources or gravel pits at industrial land rates on a per acre basis of the total site and such properties were formally classified and taxed as industrial lands; and

WHEREAS *Township of East Garafraxa* Council supports a fair and equitable assessment system for all aggregate resource properties; and

WHEREAS the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation determined, with the participation only of the Ontario Stone, Sand and Gravel Association, revised criteria for assessing aggregate resource properties; and

WHEREAS *Township of East Garafraxa* Council has concerns that the revised criteria does not fairly assess the current value of the aggregate resource properties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) That *Township of East Garafraxa* Council does not consider the revised criteria for assessment of aggregate resource properties as a fair method of valuation for these properties; and

(b) That *Township of East Garafraxa* Council believes there is a need to review the current assessment scheme for aggregate resource properties to address the inequity of property values; and

(c) That *Township of East Garafraxa* Council hereby calls upon the Province to work with the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation to address the assessment issue so that aggregate resource properties are assessed for their industrial value; and

(d) That *Township of East Garafraxa* Council direct the Clerk to provide a copy of this motion to the Ministers of Finance; Municipal Affairs and Housing; and Natural Resources and Forestry; and to AMO, ROMA, and all Ontario municipalities and local MPP(s). **CARRIED.**

Trusting you will find this satisfactory.

Regards,



Susan M. Stone, AMCT  
CAO/Clerk-Treasurer  
Corporation of the  
Township of East Garafraxa

Cc: Honorable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance [rod.phillips@pc.ola.org](mailto:rod.phillips@pc.ola.org)  
Honorable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing [steve.clark@pc.ola.org](mailto:steve.clark@pc.ola.org)  
Honorable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry [john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org](mailto:john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org)  
Kyle Seeback, Dufferin-Caledon MP [Kyle.Seeback@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Kyle.Seeback@parl.gc.ca)  
Sylvia Jones, Dufferin-Caledon MPP [sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylvia.jonesco@pc.ola.org)  
AMO [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)  
ROMA [roma@roma.on.ca](mailto:roma@roma.on.ca)  
Ontario Municipalities

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November 12, 2020

MPP Will Bouma  
96 Nelson Street, Suite 101  
Brantford, ON N3T 2X1

Sent via email: [will.bouma@pc.ola.org](mailto:will.bouma@pc.ola.org)

Dear MPP Bouma:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council at its Special meeting held November 10, 2020 passed the following resolution:

**Bill 218 - Ranked Ballots for Municipal Elections**

WHEREAS Bill 218 – “Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Elections Act, 2020” removes the option for municipalities to choose the ranked ballot system for an election; and

WHEREAS in 2016 the Ontario Provincial Government gave municipalities the tools to use Ranked Balloting in Municipal elections commencing in 2018, which was deployed in the City of London thereby becoming the first Municipality in Canada to make the switch, while Cambridge and Kingston both passed referendums in favour of reform and Burlington, Barrie, Guelph, Meaford and others are now exploring a change as well; and

WHEREAS the change of election method process does not impact the Provincial election models but greatly impacts a Municipalities execution options; and

WHEREAS the only explanation given for this is that we should not be ‘experimenting’ with the electoral process during a pandemic mindful that ranked ballot voting is not an experiment but widely used throughout the world and should be a local option that Municipalities can look to utilize in the next election which is just under two years away

WHEREAS Bill 218 also moves up the Municipal nomination date from the end of July to mid September for no apparent reason thereby reinforcing the power of incumbency and potentially discouraging broader participation in municipal elections; and

WHEREAS these changes are being proposed without any consultation with AMO, Municipalities or the public;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to submit the following comments on behalf of the Council of the City of Brantford to the Province of Ontario with respect to the proposed changes to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*:
- i. Council does not support the proposed changes to the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, specifically related to the removal of the option for a municipality to hold a ranked ballot election;
  - ii. Council does support the principle that each Municipality should be able to choose whether or not to use first-past-the-post or a ranked ballot election; and
  - iii. Council encourages the Provincial government to meaningfully consult with Municipalities on municipal issues before introducing legislative changes of this magnitude; and
- B. THAT the City Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of this resolution to MPP Will Bouma, Premier Doug Ford, and the list of other Municipalities and include a request to delay the decision until such a time that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Large Urban Mayor's Caucus of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and comments from Municipalities have been collected and submitted to the Province.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Tanya Daniels  
 City Clerk  
[tdaniels@brantford.ca](mailto:tdaniels@brantford.ca)

cc: Hon. D. Ford, Premier of Ontario  
 The Association of Municipalities of Ontario;  
 The Federation of Canadian Municipalities;  
 Large Urban Mayor's Caucus of Ontario;  
 All Ontario Municipalities