

1. **C-2024-273**  
Correspondence dated May 29, 2024 from the Township of Pelee to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a resolution of support for the County of Renfrew correspondence regarding Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems for Rural and Small Urban Municipalities.
2. **C-2024-274**  
Correspondence dated May 31, 2024 from the Municipality of Callander to Premier Doug Ford respecting a call to promptly resume the property tax assessment cycle in Ontario.
3. **C-2024-275**  
Correspondence dated June 4, 2024 from Niagara Health System respecting a request to proclaim Sunday July 28 as World Hepatitis Day.
4. **C-2024-276**  
Correspondence received June 5, 2024 from the City of Port Colborne respecting a notice of public meeting in relation to the City's New Official Plan.
5. **C-2024-277**  
Correspondence dated May 31, 2024 from the City of Welland to the Association of Municipalities (AMO) respecting a resolution of support of AMO's recommendations regarding municipal Codes of Conduct.
6. **C-2024-278**  
Correspondence dated June 3, 2024 from the Town of The Blue Mountains respecting a resolution of support for the migration of ride-share regulations and licensing from the municipal level to the provincial level.
7. **C-2024-279**  
Correspondence dated June 6, 2024 from the City of Welland respecting a Draft Official Plan Update.
8. **C-2024-280**  
Correspondence dated June 6, 2024 from the City of Niagara Falls respecting a resolution of support for the Township of Wainfleet correspondence regarding Public Libraries and Older Adults.



May 29, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

**RE: Township of Pelee Support County of Renfrew Resolution  
Rural and Small Urban Municipalities – Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems**

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Please be advised that at the Township of Pelee's Regular Meeting of Council held on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the following resolution was passed:

**Resolution 2024 – 78**

**Moved By: Councillor Dave DeLellis**

**Seconded By: Councillor Michelle Taylor**

**WHEREAS** the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) (Section 1.6.6.2) states that municipal sewage services and municipal water services are the preferred form of servicing for settlement areas to support protection of the environment and minimize potential risks to human health and safety and that intensification and redevelopment within these settlement areas should be promoted; and

**WHEREAS** the PPS (Section 2.2.1 (f)) states that planning authorities shall protect, improve, or restore the quality and quantity of water by implementing the necessary restrictions on development and site alternation to protect all drinking supplies and designated vulnerable areas, and protect, improve, or restore vulnerable surface and ground water, sensitive surface water features and sensitive groundwater features, and their hydrologic functions; and

**WHEREAS** the PPS (Sections 2.2.1(h) and (i)) states that there is consideration of environmental lake capacity as well as stormwater management practices; and

**WHEREAS** the Ministry of the Environment, Protection and Conservation (MECP) Procedural Guideline B-1-5 Policy 2 provision states that water quality which presently does not meet the Provincial Water Quality Objectives shall not be further degraded and all practical measures shall be undertaken to upgrade the water quality to the Objectives;

and

**WHEREAS** in 2014 the Township of Whitewater Region authorized Jp2gConsultants Inc. to undertake a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the purpose of evaluating viable options to upgrade the 1979 Cobden Wastewater Treatment Plant. This plant did not meet guidelines for effluent flow into Muskrat Lake and Cobden Wetland being highly sensitive, at-capacity, inland lake, and Provincial Significant Wetland (PSW) and acknowledged as one of the most eutrophic in the province. The plant had ongoing seasonal overflow events, and was operating at maximum capacity; and

**WHEREAS** in 2018 the Council of the Township of Whitewater Region approved the construction of a new parallel mechanical system that would meet all provincial environmental and regulatory requirements including accommodating future growth. Federal and provincial contributions only covered 50% of the final construction costs, as there was no ability to renegotiate with federal and provincial partners once real costs were known. As a result, the balance of costs (\$6M) was debentured over 30 years at interest rates that are slightly punitive to rural and small urban municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** in 2019 the Council of the Township of Whitewater Region conducted a Water and Wastewater Rate Study that demonstrated the need for rate increases of over 100% to fund the new wastewater treatment plant construction debenture and the significantly increased operating costs for a parallel mechanical system. Rural and small urban municipalities experience very limited growth as federal and provincial policies heavily support growth in urban centers. As there are no other sources of available operational funding, rural and small urban municipalities are expected to fund the construction and operation of these state-of-the-art systems from existing property owners and nominal forecasted growth; and

**WHEREAS** in 2023 the Township of Whitewater Region combined water and wastewater rates have risen to almost \$3,000/year for its five hundred and eleven (511) users and are among the highest in the County of Renfrew and across the Province of Ontario. There are similarly high user rates in the Township of Madawaska Valley as a result of Provincial regulations and a small number of users. Other examples of rapidly increasing rates include the Towns of Deep River, Renfrew, Arnprior, Laurentian Hills, and Petawawa, and the Townships of Bonnechere Valley, Laurentian Valley and Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards, where significant upgrades in short periods of time are making rates unaffordable even with an increased number of users.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Township of Pelee support the County of Renfrew's resolution to:



1045 West Shore Road Pelee Island, ON N0R 1M0 Website: [www.pelee.org](http://www.pelee.org)

Tel: 519-724-2931 Fax: 519-724-2470

Advocate to the provincial and federal levels of government to make them aware that rural and small urban water and wastewater systems are financially unsustainable; and Advocate to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to examine if the unaffordability of water and wastewater system operational costs is systemic provincially and nationally.

**AND THAT** a copy of this resolution be circulated to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure (Ontario); the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities (Canada); the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Ontario), Dave Epp, MP, Chatham-Kent-Leamington; Trevor Jones, MPP, Chatham-Kent-Leamington; AMO; ROMA; FCM; and all Municipalities in Ontario.



31 May 2024

Premier Doug Ford [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

RE: Urging the Government to Promptly Resume Assessment Cycle

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Callander passed the following resolution at its Regular Meeting of Council held Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

Resolution No. 2024/05/184:

7.4(c) WHEREAS the assessment cycle is an essential process for maintaining the fairness and predictability of property taxes in our province;

AND WHEREAS the pause in the reassessment cycle has created uncertainty and instability in property taxation, impacting both residential and commercial property owners;

AND WHEREAS the government has delayed an assessment update again in 2024, resulting in Ontario's municipalities continuing to calculate property taxes using 2016 property values;

AND WHEREAS both current and outdated assessments are inaccurate, increase volatility, and are not transparent;

AND WHEREAS frequent and accurate reassessments are necessary to stabilize property taxes and provide predictability for property owners, residents, and businesses alike;

AND WHEREAS the staff at the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation would benefit from further skills enhancement and training in assessments, recognizing the importance of ensuring accurate evaluations for 100% of our municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Government has announced a review of the property assessment and taxation system with a focus on fairness, equity, and economic competitiveness, and therefore further deferring new property assessment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Callander hereby calls upon the Premier to promptly resume the assessment cycle to ensure the stability and predictability of property taxes while the Government conducts its review of the property assessment and taxation system, or respond with an alternative method for every municipality in Ontario to achieve fair taxation;

AND THAT all Municipalities in Ontario and their constituents are encouraged to apply pressure to the Premier, daily, weekly, and monthly, to resolve the situation before it causes undo stress to everyone in the Municipality;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the relevant provincial authorities, the Association of Municipality in Ontario, the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, and all municipalities in Ontario for their consideration, to make proper changes as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Pigeau', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cindy Pigeau  
Municipal Clerk

Copy to: Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Rural Ontario Municipalities Association  
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities  
Municipal Property Assessment Corporation  
All Ontario Municipalities

**From:** Usick,Karen <Karen.Usick@niagarahealth.on.ca>  
**Sent:** June 4, 2024 4:26 PM  
**To:** wayne.redekop@niagararegion.ca; marvin.junkin@niagararegion.ca;  
Brian.Grant@niagararegion.ca; frank.campion@niagararegion.ca;  
bill.steele@niagararegion.ca; Jdiodati@niagarafall.ca; jeff.jordan@niagararegion.ca;  
sandra.easton@niagararegion.ca; terry.ugulini@niagararegion.ca;  
Mathew.Siscoe@niagararegion.ca; Gary.Zalepa@niagararegion.ca;  
Cheryl.Ganann@niagararegion.ca; jim.bradley@niagararegion.ca  
**Cc:** chris.bittle@parl.gc.ca; jstevens-qp@ndp.on.ca; JStevens-CO@ndp.on.ca;  
hugo@gncc.ca; corrina@gncc.ca; makayla@gncc.ca  
**Subject:** Thank You . . . Because Your Ongoing Support Is So Truly Appreciated!!!  
**Attachments:** WHD 2024 Proclamation - Lincoln.pdf; WHD 2024 Proclamation - Niagara Falls.pdf;  
WHD 2024 Proclamation - Niagara-On-The-Lake.pdf; WHD 2024 Proclamation -  
Pelham.pdf; WHD 2024 Proclamation - Port Colborne.pdf; WHD 2024 Proclamation - St.  
Catharines.pdf; WHD 2024 Proclamation - Thorold.pdf; WHD 2024 Proclamation -  
Wainfleet.pdf; WHD 2024 Proclamation - Welland.pdf; WHD 2024 Proclamation - West  
Lincoln.pdf; WHD 2024Proclamation - Grimsby.pdf; WHD 2024 Proclamation - Fort  
Erie.pdf



**World Hepatitis Day 2024 is quickly approaching . . . and we are on our 2nd campaign of the year following Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day (Can Hep Day)!**

**Canada signed on to do our part in 2016! So again, this year we will join our global partners to work towards eliminating hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030!**

**We need your help! Please consider joining us with our awareness campaign and proclaim Sunday July 28 – World Hepatitis Day in your municipality within Niagara!**

**Many municipalities joined us to proclaim May 9, 2024 “Can Hep Day” . . . we thank you for your ongoing support to help in these very important health awareness campaigns!**

**Thank you for considering the Hepatitis C Care Clinic Team’s proclamation request! Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or require further details or information!**



**#HepCantWait #WorldHepatitisDay #NoHep**

Take care and stay safe!

*Karen*

### Karen Usick – Reg. N

Hepatitis C Care Clinic | Community Coordinator  
Niagara Health System | Addiction Services

[Karen.Usick@NiagaraHealth.on.ca](mailto:Karen.Usick@NiagaraHealth.on.ca)

W: 905-378-4647 x32555 | C: 289-696-2523

260 Sugarloaf Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 2N7

HCCC Website Address - [www.niagarahealth.on.ca/site/hepatitis-c-care](http://www.niagarahealth.on.ca/site/hepatitis-c-care)

NHS Addiction Services - [www.niagarahealth.on.ca/services/addiction-recovery](http://www.niagarahealth.on.ca/services/addiction-recovery)



**#HepCantWait | #WorldHepatitisDay | #NoHep**



## **WORLD HEPATITIS DAY**

**July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, approximately 204,000 Canadians are living with hepatitis C and over 250,000 people are living with hepatitis B;

**WHEREAS**, people living with hepatitis B and C have an increased risk of developing cirrhosis, liver failure and related illnesses;

**WHEREAS**, Ontario has over 110,000 people living with hepatitis B or C, both of which are slow and progressive diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, there are vaccines available for Hepatitis A and B; effective Hepatitis C treatment therapies can cure over 95% of cases; and

**WHEREAS**, World Hepatitis Day provides an opportunity to reach out to millions of Canadians and encourage hepatitis testing, provide treatment and care for those affected while paving the way towards elimination of hepatitis as a public health concern in Canada by 2030;

**THEREFORE**, I, Brian Grant, Mayor of Wainfleet, do hereby proclaim **July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 World Hepatitis Day in Wainfleet.**

## **JOURNÉE MONDIALE CONTRE L'HÉPATITE**

**Le 28 juillet 2024**

**ATTENDU QUE**, au Canada, quelque 204 000 personnes vivent avec l'hépatite C et environ 250 000 avec l'hépatite B;

**ATTENDU QUE** le risque de cirrhose, d'insuffisance hépatique et de maladies connexes est plus élevé chez les personnes qui vivent avec l'hépatite B ou C;

**ATTENDU QUE** l'Ontario compte plus de 110 000 personnes vivant avec l'hépatite B ou C, deux maladies lentes et progressives; et

**ATTENDU QU'**il existe des vaccins pour protéger contre l'hépatite A et B ainsi que des traitements efficaces pouvant guérir plus de 95 % des personnes atteintes d'hépatite C; et

**ATTENDU QUE** la Journée mondiale contre l'hépatite est une occasion de joindre des millions de Canadiennes et de Canadiens, d'encourager le dépistage de l'hépatite et de fournir traitements et soins aux personnes touchées tout en ouvrant la voie vers l'élimination de l'hépatite en tant que problème de santé publique au Canada d'ici 2030;

**PAR CONSÉQUENT**, je, Brian Grant, maire de Wainfleet, proclame par la présente le **28 juillet 2024 Journée mondiale contre l'hépatite à Wainfleet.**

**Brian Grant  
Mayor / Maire**



# NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

## City's New Official Plan

### Background on the New Official Plan

The long-term prosperity, health and well-being of residents living and working in the City of Port Colborne will be shaped by the land use, transportation, growth management, environmental, housing and fiscal policies that are incorporated as part of the City's Official Plan.

It is one of the most important policy documents that Council adopts, and it contains a broad range of goals and policies that guide and provide direction to landowners, business owners, and the community pertaining to how growth is managed and resources are protected.

The Planning Act requires that an Official Plan conform to the Region's Official Plan, conform with provincial plans or that it does not conflict with them; has regard to matters of provincial interest; is consistent with provincial policy statements; and addresses recent legislative changes.

This public meeting is the first of the statutory meetings to be held in relation to the City's Official Plan. Throughout the Official Plan review process there will be additional opportunities for the public to review draft documents and to provide comments to Council and staff, including an Open House and Statutory Public Meeting under section 17 of the Planning Act that will occur prior to City Council considering the adoption of the proposed new Official Plan.

### More Information

For more information on the project please contact Denise, Landry, Chief Planner, at [denise.landry@portcolborne.ca](mailto:denise.landry@portcolborne.ca) or 905 228 8119.

### Public Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, June 18th, 2024

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street –  
Third Floor Council Chambers

**\*Virtual participation is also available via Zoom\***  
(Contact the Deputy Clerk below for meeting details)

### How to Participate?

**Observe:** Any interested members of the public can watch the meeting live on the City's YouTube channel. The link to the meeting is available on the City's Committees, Boards and Council Calendar:

<https://calendar.portcolborne.ca/meetings>.

**Participate:** Any person may attend the public meeting and/or provide written or a verbal representation. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may provide written comments by submitting them to the email or address noted above.

If you wish to make a verbal representation by joining the meeting electronically, you must register no later 12:00 p.m. on June 18, 2024, by emailing the Port Colborne Clerk's Office at [deputyclerk@portcolborne.ca](mailto:deputyclerk@portcolborne.ca). The Clerks Office will provide any such person with instructions on how to make their electronic verbal representation. It is recommended that you register with the Clerk in order to delegate in-person at the meeting, however it is not required.

If you wish to be added to the mailing list, please utilize the email or address noted above. A copy of the agenda for the public meeting, including a staff report and any attachments, will be available in advance of this public meeting on the City's website.



**Clerks Division**  
Tara Stephens  
City Clerk  
905-735-1700 x2159  
tara.stephens@welland.ca

Received June 5, 2024  
C-2024-277

May 31, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL

Attention: Association of Municipalities (AMO)

**Re: May 28, 2024 – WELLAND CITY COUNCIL**

At its meeting of May 28, 2024, Welland City Council passed the following motion:

**“THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND SUPPORTS the recommendations made by AMO that:**

- **Codes of Conduct should be updated to include workplace safety and harassment policies;**
- **Codes of Conduct should have an escalating enforcement mechanism through administrative monetary penalties that recognize local circumstances;**
- **Integrity Commissioners should have better, standardized training to improve consistency of decisions across the province;**
- **In the most egregious cases, such as harassment or assault, municipalities should be able to apply to a judge to remove a sitting member if recommended by an Integrity Commissioner;**
- **A member removed under this process should be unable to sit in another election during the term of office removed and the subsequent term; and**

**THAT Welland City Council URGES the Ontario Government to table and pass legislation to make these changes as soon as possible; and**

**THAT Welland City Council REINFORCES that the time to act is past due as articulated and expressed by AMO; and further**

**THAT this motion BE CIRCULATED to AMO and Niagara members of provincial parliament and local area municipalities.”**

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'TStephens'.

Tara Stephens  
Director of Legislative Services/City Clerk

- c.c.: - V. Badawey, MP, sent via e-mail  
- J. Burch, MPP, sent via e-mail  
- Local Area Municipalities, sent via e-mail



**The Town of The Blue Mountains  
Council Meeting**

Received June 6, 2024  
C-2024-278

**Title:** Councillor Ardiel Notice of Motion Re: Ride-Sharing Services  
**Date:** Monday, June 3, 2024

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**Moved by:** Councillor Ardiel  
**Seconded by:** Deputy Mayor Bordignon

WHEREAS the Town of The Blue Mountains faces challenges related to limited access to transportation, and there exists a pressing need for a ride-sharing service to address transportation gaps within our community; AND WHEREAS Rideshare services are increasingly relied upon by seniors, students, visitors and tourists, and residents looking for safe, affordable, convenient, and reliable ways to travel; AND WHEREAS the standardization and consistency of regulations across municipalities, particularly in Ontario, can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the regulatory framework; AND WHEREAS transferring the responsibility of ride-share regulations and licensing to the provincial level would contribute to a more streamlined and uniform governance structure, while eliminating associated red tape and unnecessary administrative costs; THEREFORE BE it RESOLVED THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains Council hereby expresses its support for the migration of ride-share regulations and licensing from the municipal level to the provincial level; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains Council formally requests the Government of Ontario to initiate the transfer of responsibilities in the interest of creating a more coherent and standardized regulatory framework for ride-sharing services across the province; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT that copies of this motion be distributed to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation; the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable David Piccini, Member of Provincial Parliament for Northumberland-Peterborough South; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and all Ontario municipalities, including Grey County

**YES: 6**

**NO: 0**

**CONFLICT: 0**

**ABSENT: 1**

**The motion is Carried**

**YES: 6**

Mayor Matrosovs  
Councillor McKinlay

Deputy Mayor Bordignon  
Councillor Porter

Councillor Ardiel

Councillor Hope

**NO: 0**

**CONFLICT: 0**

**ABSENT: 1** Councillor Maxwell

Thursday, June 6, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

Received June 6, 2024  
C-2024-279

**WELLAND OFFICIAL PLAN UPDATE**

Please be advised that the City of Welland Draft Official Plan Update is now available for review. You are invited to provide comments concerning the update of the Official Plan for the City of Welland.

The Official Plan is a document that guides both short and long-term growth and development. Over a period of several months, the City and a team of consultants led by SGL Planning & Design Inc. have worked on updating the Official Plan to ensure that growth in the community is appropriately accommodated in the context of the City's unique history and character.

The Official Plan Update looks at:

- Creating a strong vision for guiding growth in the City to 2051.
- Enhancing and promoting the development of complete, vibrant, and healthy communities.
- Actioning the need to consider measures to prevent climate change through various planning initiatives
- Addressing the economic vitality of the Downtown and employment areas.
- Promoting and enhancing the City's existing neighbourhoods and heritage assets.
- Promoting, projecting, and enhancing natural areas and green spaces.
- Collecting and providing consideration for important feedback from the community, stakeholders, City staff and public agencies.
- Conforming with provincial and regional policies.
- Aligning Official Plan policies with municipal objectives for providing appropriate services to meet the needs of a growing community.

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A Draft Official Plan has been prepared based on the policy recommendations and feedback received in Phase 2 of the Study.

To view the Draft Official Plan, please see the City's [Official Plan Webpage](https://www.welland.ca/Planning/OfficialPlan.asp).

<https://www.welland.ca/Planning/OfficialPlan.asp>

To follow along on this process, visit [Engage Welland](https://www.engagewelland.ca/city-of-welland-official-plan-update) for updates.

<https://www.engagewelland.ca/city-of-welland-official-plan-update>

Should you have any comments regarding the Draft Official Plan, please submit them in writing prior to **August 16, 2024**, by regular mail or e-mail to **Nicolas Aiello, Planning Supervisor - Policy, Planning and Development Services, City of Welland, 60 East Main Street, Welland, Ontario L3B 3X4, [nicolas.aiello@welland.ca](mailto:nicolas.aiello@welland.ca)**

Planning and Development Services is located on the second floor, Civic Square, and is open between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Nicolas Aiello,**  
**Planning Supervisor - Policy**



Received June 7, 2024  
C-2024-280

# The City of Niagara Falls, Ontario

## Resolution

The Honourable Neil Lumsden  
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport  
[Minister.Lumsden@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.Lumsden@ontario.ca)

Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Niagara West  
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of  
Tourism, Culture and Sport  
[sam.oosterhoffco@pc.ola.org](mailto:sam.oosterhoffco@pc.ola.org)

Sent via email: [Minister.Lumsden@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.Lumsden@ontario.ca)

Sent via email: [sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org](mailto:sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org)

Dear Hon. Neil Lumsden:

**Re: Motion in Support of the Township of Wainfleet's resolution regarding Public Libraries and Older Adults.**

This is to confirm that at the May 28, 2024 Council Meeting in the City of Niagara Falls, the following resolution was adopted with respect to the above noted matter:

**No. 2**

**June 6, 2024**

**Moved by: Councillor Lori Lococo**

**Seconded by: Councillor Victor Pietrangelo**

**“WHEREAS** Niagara Region and, specifically the City of Niagara Falls, has a significant aging cohort, particularly vulnerable to isolation in the digital world; and

**WHEREAS** the role of local libraries is definitely that of a community hub, offering numerous educational and socializing opportunities for all ages; and

**WHEREAS** the provincial funding model has remained unchanged for over 25 years and restricts “library growth and potential”; and

**WHEREAS** while we are respectful of Seniors Community Grants, today's economic realities suggest libraries are in need of a funding increase;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Correspondence item C165 respecting Public Libraries and Older Adults be received and supported; and

THAT the City of Niagara Falls hereby calls upon the Province of Ontario to review its funding formula for Public Libraries.”

AND The Seal of the Corporation be hereto affixed.

Carried Unanimously




WILLIAM G. MATSON, CITY CLERK



JAMES M. DIODATI, MAYOR

If any further information is required, please contact the undersigned at 905-356-7521, x4342.

Yours Truly,



Bill Matson  
City Clerk, City of Niagara Falls

Attachment: Correspondence item C165

cc.  
MPP, Wayne Gates, [wgates-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:wgates-co@ndp.on.ca)



May 1, 2024

The Honourable Neil Lumsden  
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport  
[Minister.Lumsden@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.Lumsden@ontario.ca)

Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Niagara West  
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of  
Tourism, Culture and Sport  
[sam.oosterhoffco@pc.ola.org](mailto:sam.oosterhoffco@pc.ola.org)

Local Area Municipalities

Local Area Libraries

**SENT ELECTRONICALLY**

**Re: Public Libraries and Older Adults**

Please be advised that at its meeting of April 30, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet passed the following motion:

**“WHEREAS** Niagara Region and, specifically Wainfleet, has a significant aging cohort, particularly vulnerable to isolation in the digital world; and

**WHEREAS** the role of local libraries is definitely that of a community hub, offering numerous educational and socializing opportunities for all ages; and

**WHEREAS** the provincial funding model has remained unchanged for over 25 years and restricts “library growth and potential”; and

**WHEREAS** while we are respectful of Seniors Community Grants, today’s economic realities suggest libraries are in need of a funding increase;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Correspondence item C165 respecting Public Libraries and Older Adults be received and supported; and

**THAT** the Township of Wainfleet hereby calls upon the Province of Ontario to review its funding formula for Public Libraries.”

Should you have any questions, please contact me at [achrastina@wainfleet.ca](mailto:achrastina@wainfleet.ca) or 905-899-3463 ext. 224.

Regards,



Amber Chrastina  
Deputy Clerk

Attachment: Correspondence item C165

**Subject:** RE: Council Correspondence

**From:** Lorrie Atkinson <LAtkinson@wainfleetlibrary.ca>

**Sent:** April 11, 2024 2:13 PM

**To:** Amber Chrastina <AChrastina@wainfleet.ca>

**Subject:** Council Correspondence

Hi Amber,

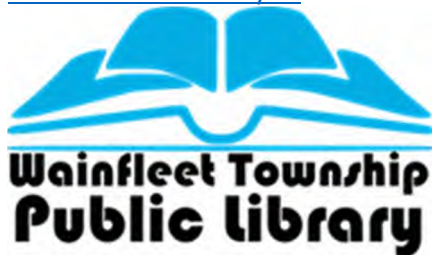
We discussed this at our April 10, 2024 Library Board Meeting , would you please include for correspondence at the next Council meeting.

[https://www.wellandtribune.ca/opinion/contributors/public-libraries-foster-feelings-of-social-connectedness-for-older-adults/article\\_4bded397-c389-5f70-b55f-3e97f2cfe854.html](https://www.wellandtribune.ca/opinion/contributors/public-libraries-foster-feelings-of-social-connectedness-for-older-adults/article_4bded397-c389-5f70-b55f-3e97f2cfe854.html)

Thanks,  
Lorrie

Regards,  
Lorrie Atkinson,  
CEO/Chief Librarian  
Wainfleet Township Public Library  
31909 Park St., P.O.Box 118,  
Wainfleet, On LOS 1V0  
(t)905-899-1277 x280  
(f)905-899-2495

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



[https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/public-libraries-foster-feelings-of-social-connectedness-for-older-adults/article\\_4a3f12fa-9eff-549e-b68e-9e60f2c12510.html](https://www.thespec.com/opinion/contributors/public-libraries-foster-feelings-of-social-connectedness-for-older-adults/article_4a3f12fa-9eff-549e-b68e-9e60f2c12510.html)

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CONTRIBUTORS

OPINION

# Public libraries foster feelings of social connectedness for older adults

Older adults hold an intimate relationship with their public library branch — a relationship that typically spans the course of their lives.

  
By **Nicole Dalmer**

Apr 9, 2024

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Article was updated Apr 9, 2024



Public libraries foster feelings of social connectedness, not only due to the range of materials, programs and services, but because they also serve as places for discovering and accessing resources, enabling lifelong learning and fostering community relationships, Nicole Dalmer writes.

John Rennison The Hamilton Spectator file photo

Carla Hayden, the 14th Librarian of Congress, proclaimed “there is a hunger in this digital age ... to participate in programs, to just be in a place, a community space.”

Public libraries play a crucial role in building our understandings of community and connecting us to community. My own work looks at the role of public libraries as very crucial, but sometimes overlooked, spaces of social connection in later life.

In stepping back and thinking more broadly about the public library and its capacity for supporting social connections in later life, I’ve been thinking about local public library branches as important third places — drawing on Ray Oldenburg’s popular book “The Great Good Place.” Third places, such as parks, gyms, coffee shops, museums and libraries are places distinct from the home (a first place) or work environments (a second place), where social connections and community building can be fostered. In other words, third places are spots where we exchange ideas, have a good time and build relationships.

As part of my research, I interviewed 51 older adults living in Ontario who frequented their local public library, asking them questions to better understand the many roles the public library has played, and continues to play, in their everyday lives.

My research was in response to the International Federation on Ageing's statement that "the No. 1 emerging issue facing older adults in Canada is keeping older people socially connected and active." Between 19 and 24 per cent of older people in Canada experience some level of isolation. Social isolation occupies an increasingly important place in conversations surrounding aging in Canada, in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic that exacerbated feelings of social isolation and in part due to social isolation's negative impact on older adults' physical and mental health, including reduced quality of life, premature mortality, depression, as well as increased risk for falls, cardiovascular disease and dementia.

Socially isolated older adults often have poorer health outcomes and more complex support needs and therefore require access to a complement of community-based supports — such as public libraries — to thrive.

As I learned from the 51 older adults who shared their experiences of engaging with their public library, it became clear that participants hold an intimate relationship with their public library branch — a relationship that typically spans the course of their lives. The library was often referred to as an "old friend" or a "trusted friend."

Public library branches foster feelings of social connectedness, not only due to the range of materials, programs, services and spaces that can be used without expectation of payment or any pre-existing level of knowledge. Public libraries also serve as trusted third places for discovering and accessing resources, enabling lifelong learning and fostering community relationships.

As voiced by so many individuals who took part in my study, public library offerings connect older library patrons with other people and other ideas, events and other services. Libraries were also spaces with free access to washrooms, places to keep cool in the summer and warm in the winter, and important places where older adults knew they could stop along their daily walking route.

Participants felt connected to library staff. This was especially so for those older adults living in rural areas, where staff knew them by name and could offer reading recommendations based on what the patrons had checked out in the past. Interestingly, older adults shared they felt connected to their community while in their library, even if they didn't actually interact with other people. Merely being in the presence of others (whether staff or other patrons) was sufficient to feel socially included and connected.

Public libraries also nurture social connection through intergenerational connections. Intergenerational library programs (movie nights, music classes, book clubs, knitting clubs and the like) are places where different generations can meet, interact and build relationships — bridging generational perspectives and experiences.

So when we're thinking about how to support social inclusion among older adults, it's important to consider those third places, such as public library branches, that can be crucial sites that foster, inspire and encourage feelings and experiences of social connection and social inclusion.

*Nicole Dalmer is an assistant professor with the Department of Health, Aging and Society at McMaster University, an associate director of the Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging and a volunteer with the Hamilton Council on Aging. For more information or to donate to the Hamilton Council on Aging, visit [coahamilton.ca](http://coahamilton.ca).*

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