



2016 Action Plan, 2018 Update

Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh
Township Council

November 2017

Completed

1. **Create an economic-development plan**

Objective: Review the economic development plans created by Huron County and the other eight municipalities during the 2014/15 project sponsored by OMAFRA, and recommend the approach that seems most appropriate for ACW to pursue. (Jennifer Miltenburg, Roger Watt, Florence Witherspoon)

Status: We met with the county's two new senior economic-development officers and OMAFRA rep this past summer to review our progress and discuss possible actions for the future. We did not feel that the full undertaking envisioned by the County/OMAFRA project was possible with ACW's limited staff resources, but objectives from that project that are most relevant to ACW were incorporated into Council's 2016-2018 Strategic Plan and 2016 Action Plan.

Follow-up: We will report on potential economic-development undertakings in cooperation with OMAFRA and the County, if/when such opportunities arise.

3. **Develop a policy for assessing proposals from community groups**

Objective: Document the conditions and procedures to be followed by community groups seeking Council's support for volunteer-managed projects that are of broad benefit. (Roger Watt, Jennifer Miltenburg, Mark Becker)

Status: See "Community Grants Policy".

4. Implement a lakeshore tree protection by-law

Objective: Provide bluff-protection guidance to lakefront landowners to clarify the conditions under which trees on their property may be removed or trimmed.

Status: See "Shoreline Tree Preservation By-law".

In progress

5. Collaborate for higher-speed Internet in under-serviced areas

Objective: Participate in Huron County and local-provider initiatives to define required service levels, identify the most suitable technologies to achieve them, and develop cost estimates, funding strategies, and deployment schedules. (Roger Watt, Mark Becker)

Status: The CRTC defines the minimum standard for "broadband" as technologies that are capable of providing each customer with speeds of at least 50Mbps download and 10Mbps upload. Today, that requires either "fibre to the home" or "fibre to the node" (which uses VDSL over existing phone lines from there to the home). In ACW, Hurontel already has these in the southern third of Wawanosh and in all of Ashfield east of Highway 21. In 2017, ...

- As part of a \$1.8M project with 50% funding from a 2015 "Small Communities Fund" grant to Hay, Hurontel, and TTC, Hurontel has installed a higher-capacity WiFi tower to provide better service in a 6km radius in the north half of Wawanosh, and is in the final stages of provisioning "fibre to the node" service to all ten lakefront areas in Ashfield between Amberley and Port Albert.
- County Council has partnered with Comcentric (the technology arm of Hay, Hurontel, and TCC) in a 50% application to the \$500M "Connect to Innovate" program for a \$31M project to provide "fibre to the home" to the 18% of the county's residents and businesses that are in underserved areas (in ACW, those are in Colborne and Wawanosh). The County's share of the cost is \$7M. CTI's decision is anticipated by the end of 2017. The CTI program received applications totalling over \$4B. To date, 20% of the CTI's \$500M has been allocated, all to projects in far-north communities.
- County Council has approved participation in the \$288M SouthWest Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) project, which will create a massively-well-interconnected backbone network throughout southwestern Ontario by 2022. Connection points will be created in underserved areas at over 300 locations throughout southwestern Ontario initially, with the potential to expand to over 3000 locations. SWIFT also hopes to provide funding assistance to motivate more local providers to install or expand their fibre-to-the-home networks. The municipalities' share of the project costs is \$18M; the County's share of that is \$679K. The Comcentric partners have chosen not to participate in SWIFT.

2. Pursue external funding to support community improvement and revitalization

Objective: Develop and submit an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant proposal to facilitate collaboration within and between local communities. (Jennifer Miltenburg, Mark Becker)

Status: A response to the most recent variation on the grant application is expected sometime between December 2017 and March 2018.

Added in 2017

6. Provide information kiosks for community-group notices

Source: item 2, “Support community and economic development”.

Objective: Provide kiosks at publicly-accessible locations throughout the Township where all community groups can post notices of coming events, programs, etc. (Jennifer Miltenburg, Mark Becker)

Funding: ACW budget (up to \$5000)

Status: ACW Public Works will do the site preparation and install support posts. Kiosks will be designed, built, and installed in 2018 by GDCI's shop-class students.

7. Help community groups to pursue funding

Source: item 2, “Support community and economic development”.

Objective: Provide guidance to groups that wish to improve their organizational abilities to pursue grants and conduct fund-raising campaigns for community projects and programs.

Funding: ACW budget (meetings and mileage)

Status: Council has appointed Councillor Jennifer Miltenburg as a Community Facilitator, from now through December 2018.