



TOWNSHIP OF  
ASHFIELD-COLBORNE-WAWANOSH

82133 Council Line, R.R. #5  
Goderich, Ontario N7A 3Y2

PHONE: 519-524-4669

FAX: 519-524-1951

E-MAIL: [info@acwtownship.ca](mailto:info@acwtownship.ca)

## Monthly Council Meeting Highlights March 2024

### Council Meeting | March 5, 2024

#### *Emergency Management Program and Plan*

Chad Kregar, Huron County's Community Emergency Management Coordinator presented Council with an updated Emergency Management Program and Plan. After a recent review, he recommended the plan to incorporate the updated version of Huron Perth Public Health. The updated version can be viewed here [Township Emergency Response Plan](#).

#### *2023 Annual Drinking Water System and Compliance Summary Reports*

The 2023 Annual Drinking Water Systems and Compliance Summary Reports have been completed and are available for viewing at <https://acwtownship.ca/municipal-services/public-works>

#### *Blue Box Transitioning*

The Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh has decided to opt-out and hand-over full operational and financial responsibility for the blue box program to Circular Materials. The Township staff simply do not have the resources nor is there a viable private option to take over the service. As we are not operating a recycling depot or any other related service there is no advantage to opting in.

### Special Council Meeting | Budget March 15, 2024

#### *2024 Proposed Budget*

Staff presented Council with the proposed 2024 budget. Council instructed staff to make the few minor amendments to the draft budget. Council agreed to a 8.19% increase to the 2023 tax rate, which converts to a 10% increase in the municipal levy from 2023, which raises an additional \$598,558. Based on the average assessment of a single family detached home for 2023, and comparing it to the assessment for 2022, the average family detached home will see an increase of \$125 for the 2024 year over 2023.

### Council Meeting | March 19, 2024

#### *Natural Heritage – Huron County Biologist Rachel White*

Rachel White, a biologist with Huron County presented Council with a Stewardship Update. The Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh has many diverse natural areas including the Saratoga Swamp, the endangered Queensnake, Bald Eagles and one of the most endangered plants in Canada, the Hairy Valerian. It's the good stewardship of past generations that have maintain these natural areas. Part of the presentation was the Huron Clean Water Project. It's a cost share funding program that supports landowners to do stewardship on their properties. In the 20 years of the project, 653 of the 3800 projects have been completed in the Township. Some of the projects include, tree planting, erosion control measures, cover crop, decommissioning unused wells and manure storage. To learn more about the Huron County Clean Water Project and what projects are eligible for funding visit <https://www.huroncounty.ca/plandev/county-wide-projects/water-protection/>

### *Veolia Water Canada – Contract Renewal*

Council has authorized by by-law the contract renewal agreement with Veolia Water Canada Inc. for a term of four years, ending March 31, 2028 to operate and maintain the Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh water systems. They have been providing services since April 2004. The contract price that staff negotiated effective April 2024 will be \$192,610.00 plus H.S.T. annually.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates**

- Regular Council Meeting – April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting | Planning – April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – April 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting | Planning – May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting – May 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m.