

# Council Meeting Highlights



**MAY 2026**

[www.acwtownship.ca](http://www.acwtownship.ca) 519-524-4669 82133 Council Line, RR5 Goderich, ON N7A 3Y2

## **Council Meeting | May 5, 2026**

### Minor Variance Application File ACW MV01-2026 Miller

The Township of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Committee of Adjustment approved the Minor Variance Application MV-01-2026 Miller on the basis that the proposed amendment supports agriculture related uses while maintaining compatibility with sensitive uses; and the variance be subject to the following conditions.

The proposed structure be constructed consistently with the site plan and elevation drawings submitted with the application to the satisfaction of the Township's Chief Building Official.

The variance's approval be valid for a period of 18 months from the date of the Committee's decision.

### Huron Hospice

Council agreed to draft a letter to the ministry and submit a delegation request to AMO to support the Huron Hospice to secure provincial operational funding for the new bedrooms at Huron Hospice Bender House.

### Maitland Valley Conservation - Phil Beard

The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) is expressing significant concerns following the Province's move to consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into nine regional entities. Maitland Conservation will become part of the new Lake Huron Regional Conservation Authority along with the Ausable Bayfield, Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Nottawasaga and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authorities. Council agreed to send a letter to the ministry with MPP Lisa Thomson and Premier Doug Ford cc'd opposing the amalgamation as proposed and to participate in a joint delegation at AMO with the Township of Huron Kinloss.

### Dungannon Water Quality

Township staff had been asked to review concerns regarding the clarity and smell of water in Dungannon. Following preliminary discussions with Veolia Water, staff are recommending enhancements to the annual watermain flushing program, including increased flushing frequency and the use of directional (unidirectional) flushing. This method uses controlled, high-velocity water flow to better remove sediment from pipes and is considered more effective than traditional flushing methods. Staff will evaluate the effectiveness of directional flushing. A representative from Veolia Water was invited to attend the meeting and discussed and provided the potential solutions with Council.

## Bill 98 Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act 2026 - Planning Changes

Council received an update on the Province's proposed Bill 98, the Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act, 2026, which would introduce significant changes to Ontario's planning framework. Proposed changes include standardized Official Plans across the province, new rules for site plan control, smaller minimum residential lot sizes in serviced urban areas, updated complete application requirements, and expanded electronic submissions. Huron County Planning staff noted that while many changes aim to streamline approvals and support housing development, they could also create additional workload and infrastructure considerations for rural municipalities. The Planning and Development Department will continue monitoring the legislation and providing feedback to the Province as consultations continue.

## Community Onsite Septic Inspection Program – 2026 Inspection Start

The Community Onsite Septic Inspection Program continues to move forward, with 907 onsite sewage systems documented since inspections began in summer 2024. The program is on track to inspect all onsite sewage systems in the Township by summer 2029. This year's inspections will begin June 9, 2026, focusing primarily on areas west of Highway 21 (Bluewater Highway) south of Shoreline Road, including the settlement areas of Saltford, Benmiller, Carlow, and Nile. Residents selected for inspections this season will receive notification letters in May and are asked to confirm their inspection date within 10 days. To help residents learn more about the program and inspection process, staff will host a "Septic Social" open house on June 5, 2026, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Benmiller Community Hall. A video from the event will also be shared online afterward. Residents with questions are encouraged to contact Township staff.

## Bale Wrap

Township staff reviewed the feasibility of accepting bale wrap at the Township Landfill but are not recommending a municipal program at this time due to processing challenges, material cleanliness requirements, and associated costs. Instead, staff recommend promoting the recycling services offered by Switch Energy Inc., which accepts bale wrap and other agricultural plastics directly from farmers for a fee of \$6.50 per bag, with a minimum pickup of 15 bags.

## Water Tank

Council accepted the quotation for one 2600 Gallon Water Tank with Water Pump and Frame from Precision Industries for \$37,061.53 excluding H.S.T.

## **Council Meeting | May 19, 2026**

### Canada Summer Jobs Grant Update

The Township has been approved for funding through the Canada Summer Jobs program for two Public Works summer student positions for the 2026 season. The funding, totaling up to \$4,928, will help offset seasonal staffing costs while providing youth with valuable municipal work experience.

### Dungannon Lot Tender Results

Council approved the sale of three Dungannon lots through a tender process. Lot #1 the accepted a bid was \$52,000, Lot #2 the accepted a bid was \$67,666.44, and Lot #4 the accepted bid was \$45,500. Lot #3 received no tender submissions.

## Accessible Dock at Ball's Bridge

Council supported Central Huron's Community Improvement Program proposal for installing an accessible kayak launch at Ball's Bridge. The proposed project would include the installation of an EzDock accessible launch as well as GridX type accessible surfacing panels, which provide a stable and durable surface while also helping address erosion concerns. The project is funded through the Rick Hansen Foundation Barrier Buster Program, community partnerships, and Central Huron's accessibility budget with no financial contribution being requested from ACW.

## Waste Management - Demo Day

Waste Management is holding a Waste and Recycling "Demo Day" on Wednesday June 24th from 3 pm - 7 pm at the Township Office parking lot, located at 82133 Council Line. Residents are invited to join them outdoors in the parking lot for a come-and-go event to learn more about the new Waste and Recycling Program, explore the new wheeled carts, and see the collection equipment up close. Township staff and Waste Management Representatives will be present to answer questions about the new system. If a resident has questions about the new system and is unable to attend, they are encouraged to contact Waste Management or the Township Office directly.

## Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Council Meeting – June 2, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting – June 16, 2026, at 9:00 a.m
- Council Meeting – July 14, 2026, at 9:00 a.m
- Council Meeting – August 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m