













## **Model Op-Ed/Letter of Support**

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are among the greatest freshwater treasures of the world. By providing drinking water for over 48 million people, transportation for industry and agriculture, quality habitat for fish and wildlife, sustaining a \$7 billion fishery, and so much more, the Lakes and River are the heart of the region and essential to the well-being of all of the United States and Canada. For over 100 years, our two countries have worked hand in hand to ensure the social, economic, and environmental value of the resource will be protected and restored for future generations. Nothing short of a full commitment from both countries is necessary to protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River in the long run.

The proposed budget cuts to eliminate the \$300 million Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in the United States would be a devastating blow to the work on the Great Lakes. The work completed over in the past 7 years under GLRI has produced clear results. Cleanup of toxic hot spots has accelerated significantly, far fewer new invasive species have been introduced, sea lamprey controls have brought populations of this dreaded parasite down to their lowest levels in decades, protection and restoration of coastal wetlands has increased, and cities are managing combined sewers and wastewater treatment more effectively than ever. At the same time, so much more work needs to be done to maintain the cleanup momentum in the future.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on the United States government to sustain its investment in the GLRI program at \$300 million and the Canadian government to increase its investments in the resource. According to a 2008 study, local governments in the United States and Canada along the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes are already investing over \$15 billion (U.S.) annually in protection and restoration. It is time for the federal governments to step up to their responsibilities for this priceless treasure.



**STAFF REPORT #CAO2017-02**  
Council 04/24/2017

**Submitted to:** Council  
**Submitted by:** John Brown , CAO  
**Subject:** Collingwood Municipal Comprehensive Review

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with background information regarding a recommendation to initiate a Municipal Comprehensive Review of the Town's employment lands.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT staff recommend that a Request for Proposals be issued for a Municipal Comprehensive Review.

### **AMENDMENTS**

n/a

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The hospital has identified two candidate sites in the Town of Collingwood for the consideration of the Province towards the re-development of a new hospital to serve the regional area. These sites are – 1, the existing expanded site and – 2, the Poplar Sideroad site.

There has been broadly based public discussion with regard to the Poplar Sideroad site, in particular.

With respect to due diligence issues, hospital representatives were of the opinion that a Comprehensive Municipal Review (CMR) was not required for the Poplar Sideroad site and believed this position on the part of the Town to be an avoidable obstacle. At Council's meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> the hospital's understanding was clarified by Mr. John Mascarin's (Arid & Berlis) report which stated that the Town's position was a necessary part of their due diligence process.



Also at this meeting, planning staff from both the Province and the County confirmed that a MCR was prerequisite to any further consideration of the hospital's preferred site.

## 2. INPUT FROM OTHER SOURCES

See Staff Report 2017-01 and the minutes of the March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Council meeting for an indication of the varied and extensive input staff has received from a number of sources.

## 3. APPLICABLE POLICY OR LEGISLATION

See Staff Report 2017-01

## 4. ANALYSIS

There was a meeting of hospital, County and Town planners on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The planners representing the three levels of government maintained their position that a Municipal Comprehensive Review is required prior to the approval of *Planning Act* applications to permit a hospital and other medical uses as may be necessary to support a hospital in an Industrial area.

In order to facilitate the prerequisite process required to enable the hospital to advance further consideration of the Polar Sideroad site consistent with Provincial, County and Town planning requirements a MCR is hospital required. Accordingly, staff are recommending that a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Municipal Comprehensive Review of the Town's employment lands be prepared and issued. The Town appreciates that the hospital is anxious to get on with their re-development process and that this is the first necessary step. At this time staff are recommending the issuance of an RFP. To be clear, the Growth Plan expressly provides that a municipal comprehensive review is to be undertaken by a municipality and not by a proponent for development.

According to Provincial policy, the MCR would include at a minimum the following components:

- that there is a need for the conversion – including consideration of the existing site and its suitability for the re-development;
- the land is not required for employment purposes over the long term;
- that the Town will be able to meet the employment forecasts allocated to the municipality by the Growth Plan (note - the County's Employment Lands Land Budget study will provide a good indication of the current land supply);
- the re-designation will not adversely affect the overall viability of the *employment area*, and achievement of the intensification target, density targets and other policies of the Growth Plan;
- there is existing or planned infrastructure to accommodate the proposed conversion;
- the re-designation respects natural features, buffers and open space corridors which may define land use categories; and
- cross-jurisdictional issues have been considered.

The work completed by Hemson Consulting in January is an excellent start to the MCR. Without circulating a RFP it is difficult to determine the exact cost and timing of this study, but it is anticipated that the work could be completed in a 4 to 6 month period at a cost in the range of \$50,000 - \$70,000.

Once the MCR is concluded, the necessary information will then be available for Council to consider this site consistent with its obligations under the *Municipal Act*.

### Conclusion

That staff recommend the preparation and issuance of a Request for Proposals for a Municipal Comprehensive Review for the Town's employment lands. This action will be a further indication that Council continues its unanimous support for a re-developed hospital to serve the regional community, while at the same time meeting its due diligence obligations under the *Municipal Act* with respect to the Poplar Sideroad site's consideration.

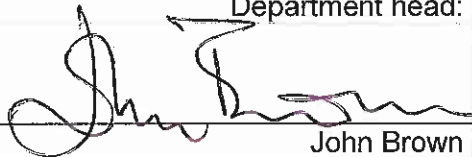
## 5. EFFECT ON TOWN FINANCES

The estimated cost of the study is between \$50,000 and \$70,000 and can be funded through the approved 2017 budget, however it should be noted that the expenditure of these funds will preclude further planning studies being undertaken in 2017.

## 6. APPENDICES & OTHER RESOURCES

Appendix "A"	
Appendix "B"	

## SIGNATURES

Prepared by:	Department head:
	
John Brown, CAO Nancy Farrer, Director, Planning Marjory Leonard, Treasurer	John Brown Chief Administrative Officer Town of Collingwood

BY-LAW No. 2017-033  
OF THE  
CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD



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BEING A BY-LAW TO APPOINT A MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT  
OFFICER FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD

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**WHEREAS** Section 15 of the Police Services Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.15, authorizes the Council of any municipality to appoint Municipal Law Enforcement Officers who shall be peace officers for the purposes of enforcing the by-laws of the municipality;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 227 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, authorizes Councils to pass by-laws for appointing such officers and employees as may be necessary for the purposes of the Corporation, for carrying into effect the provisions of any by-law of the Council;

**NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COLLINGWOOD HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. **THAT** Meckenzie D. Wright be hereby appointed as a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer for the Corporation of the Town of Collingwood.
2. **THAT** this By-law shall come into full force and effect on the date of final passage hereof at which time all By-laws and/or resolutions that are inconsistent with the provisions of this By-law and the same are hereby repealed or rescinded insofar as it is necessary to give effect to the provisions of this By-law.

**ENACTED AND PASSED** this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.

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MAYOR

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CLERK