

**Town of Collingwood
2022 Municipal and School Board Election**

Candidates' Question and Answer Board

Campaign Questions

1. Can I accept paypal donations of \$25 or less?

The Ministry provided the below insight to campaign contributions and use of PayPal, e-transfers, etc.

The Municipal Elections Act does not specify a method of payment (e.g., cash, cheque) for contributions of less than \$25.

All contributions above \$25 must be made by cheque, money order or by a method that clearly shows where the funds came from (such as debit, credit or electronic transfer transactions). Candidates are required to deposit all monetary contributions into the campaign account. Electronic transfer services are allowed as long as the source of the contribution is clear. Candidates using electronic transfer services (e.g., email money transfer, PayPal, GoFundMe) should keep in mind that the Municipal Elections Act requires candidates to ensure that receipts are issued for every contribution regardless of whether the contribution is made through debit, cheque or an online service. Candidates are also required to keep records of the receipts that are issued. The Act does not specify a form the receipts must take.

If the online service charges a fee, that fee is considered to be a campaign expense. So, for example, if a candidate received a contribution of \$100 and the online service charged a fee of \$3, a receipt for \$100 should be issued. The candidate should record the contribution as \$100 and the \$3 fee as a campaign expense in their financial statement.

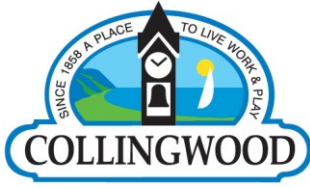
Candidates must issue a receipt for every contribution they receive. The only exception to this rule is a cash donation of \$25 or less received at a fundraising event as this is not considered to be a contribution. However, candidates have to report the total amount of money they received from these donations on their financial statement.

In short, if you are able to track the required information needed for your financial statement (contributors name and address, the date the contribution was received and the amount of the contribution) and issue receipts to the contributor using PayPal then there is no issue with what you are proposing.

2. Can people make e-transfer donations directly to a campaign account (which shows the name of the donor and amount)?

The candidate needs to be able to track who the contribution was from, their address and how much was provided and provide the contributor with a receipt. This is also noted on page 20 of the Candidates Guide:

Contribution receipts



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You must issue a receipt for every contribution you receive. The receipt should show who made the contribution, the date and the value. If the contribution was in goods or services, you must determine the value of the goods or services and issue a receipt for the full value.

If you receive a contribution from a joint account, the contribution can only come from one person. You must determine who is making the contribution and issue the receipt to that person.

You are required to list the names and addresses of every contributor who gives more than \$100 total to your campaign in your financial statement. You should keep a record of the names and addresses of every contributor, regardless of the value of their contribution, because the same contributor may make multiple contributions that end up totalling more than \$100.

3. The cheque for \$ 100.00 may that be drawn on the candidate's campaign bank account and is it payable to "The Town of Collingwood"? This required cheque has been labelled as a deposit, does that mean we would get that deposit money back at the end of the election?

The deposit for the signs can be paid by cash, cheque or debit and is payable to the Town of Collingwood. The purpose of the deposit is to recover the costs associated with collecting signs found to be in violation of the sign by-law. Should there be money remaining after the election is closed and all signs are removed by October 26, the candidate will receive whatever is left of the deposit.

Below is a list of the penalties and how the deposit will be drawn on. The candidate will be provided 12 hours to remove the sign causing the issue unless it is an immediate safety issue. In that case, the Town will remove the sign immediately and the deposit drawn upon for the removal of that sign.

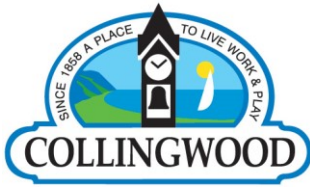
By-law 2018-024

4.3 Election signs removed by the Town are subject to the deposit being retained by the municipality as follows:

- a) 1st sign removed \$25 taken from deposit,
 - b) 2nd sign removed additional \$35 taken from deposit,
 - c) 3rd sign removed balance of deposit retained by municipality.
4. I would like to rent some municipal parks for my campaign. Can I do that?

Under the Use of Corporate Resources and Election Campaign Activities Policy, a Town Park qualifies as both a Corporate Resource and a Town Facility using the definitions in the policy provided below:

Corporate Resources means real property, goods and/or services owned, controlled, leased, acquired, or operated by the Town including but not limited to:



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facilities, parks, materials, equipment, monetary funds, technology, Town IT system and resources, databases, social media, intellectual property, and supplies.

Town Facility means any land, building or other structure owned, leased, operated or otherwise controlled by the Town, other than a Town road, and includes Town Hall, administrative offices, operations centres, libraries, museum, community and recreation centres, parks, trails, sports fields and open spaces.

Given that it is a corporate resource, section 4.9 of the policy would apply. This section states that members may not use corporate resources for campaign activities, to print or distribute campaign material, or for any election-related purpose with the exception being under section 5.

In order to apply section 5, there needs to be a rental fee and a rental policy in place to rent the park space to satisfy this exception of the policy. Darin has confirmed there is a rental fee and policy in place for the Amphitheatre and the Museum grounds.

5. Is there a letter from the Town that canvassers can show to building managers (etc.) to prove they have the right to access the building for election purposes? I know in previous elections and in other municipalities there is a document provided that explains the right to canvass in condos etc. I looked in the candidate portal but couldn't find anything.

The Town of Collingwood has not provided such a letter in the past, however, a candidate is permitted to canvas at an apartment building, non-profit housing cooperative or gated community under section 88.1 and 88.2 of the [Municipal Elections Act](#) as provided below.

Access to residential premises

88.1 No person who is in control of an apartment building, condominium building, non-profit housing cooperative or gated community may prevent a candidate or his or her representative from campaigning between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. at the doors to the apartments, units or houses, as the case may be. 2016, c. 15, s. 46.

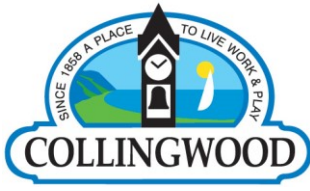
Display of signs at residential premises

88.2 (1) No landlord or person acting on a landlord's behalf may prohibit a tenant from displaying signs in relation to an election on the premises to which the lease relates. 2016, c. 15, s. 46.

Same, condominium corporations

(2) No condominium corporation or any of its agents may prohibit the owner or tenant of a condominium unit from displaying signs in relation to an election on the premises of his or her unit. 2016, c. 15, s. 46.

Exception



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(3) Despite subsections (1) and (2), a landlord, person, condominium corporation or agent may set reasonable conditions relating to the size or type of signs in relation to an election that may be displayed on the premises and may prohibit the display of signs in relation to an election in common areas of the building in which the premises are found. 2016, c. 15, s. 46.

Same

(4) Despite subsection (3), no landlord, person, condominium corporation or agent may prohibit the display of signs in relation to an election in common areas of the building if space in the building is being used as a voting place. 2016, c. 15, s. 46.

Voting List and Voting Stations

1. Serious concerns are starting to be raised about the state of our voting list.

I spoke to someone this morning who used to live on Third Street but moved about 5 years ago. The voting cards for her, her husband and her son (who no longer lives with them) went to the Third Street address. In fact, they live now in Wasaga Beach. They are wondering how this could be?

As you are aware the voters list is developed by MPAC, this is the excerpt from the MPAC website with respect to the voters list:

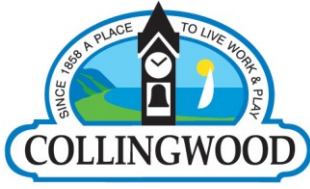
We all play a role in ensuring a fair electoral system, and it is the responsibility of every elector to make sure their information is up-to-date and accurately reflected for electoral purposes. By logging into voterlookup.ca, eligible electors can:

- *confirm or update their electoral information;*
- *add an elector name to an address; and,*
- *change school support for the purpose of voting in a school board election.*

This site is owned and managed by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), responsible for identifying all potential municipal, school board and District Social Services Administration Board electors. MPAC provides this information to election clerks in support of local election events.

VoterLookup.ca is also used to collect the names of all occupants in a household. This information is collected by MPAC and provided to municipalities and school boards to assist with planning purposes.

Municipal Clerks also have access to modify the Voters List prior to the finalization of the data from 2022 as MPAC is responsible for adding all the property changes that occur prior to 2022. We use various sources on our end once we receive the list in mid 2022 (i.e. vital statistics (if the death occurred in Collingwood) and property tax notice changes from the finance department). It is frustrating because inaccuracies also skew voter turn out numbers.



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In order for someone to vote on-line they are required to enter in the Voter ID and PIN contained within their Voter Information Letter as well as their full date of birth and are required to complete an oath that affirms they have not already voted, are eligible to vote in Collingwood and that outlines the penalties if someone is found to be in violation of the voting requirements. As you are aware – we can see who has voted, and if there is a concern that an ineligible person has voted (or voter has voted twice) and we are able to confirm, the individual will be prosecuted accordingly.

Notice will also be provided on the local radio stations advising people how and where to vote, in the local newspaper and on our website. Voter registration can be confirmed on-line, at the Town Hall and at the Voter Help Centre provided on Advance Vote dates at the Collingwood Public Library, with anyone not on the list added and provided with a Voter Information Letter to vote.

As a result of MPAC's poor management of the Voters Lists (which has been a long-standing issue), starting in 2023, the province will be taking over the responsibilities of populating the voters list for municipalities. The details on how this will be accomplished have not been provided to the municipalities as of yet.

The date of the Final Voters list is August 2022.

2. A gentleman who lives in The Galleries just called me asking if residents will be able to vote in the lobby of their building on the 24th. He said that this has happened previously and is helpful for those residents who are not able to get out much. Will there be any voting stations other than at the Library?

We did last election as a trial, as we had resources to accommodate. However, we received criticism that we didn't offer at all apartment complexes which we could not do. The Galleries is not considered a retirement or nursing home, which we do attend. We are offering free transit on Election Day to the Library as an alternate opportunity.

3. How many eligible voters are there in total?

The eligible voter count for the Town of Collingwood is currently at 21,938. This count will fluctuate as eligible voters who are currently not on the voters visit register to vote and returned mail is marked in the system.



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4. When you say as of today at 10:30 am that 15.3% has voted is that indeed 15.3% of the eligible voters that are on the roll?

Yes, that is correct. Below is an excerpt of the report from yesterday that shows the number of eligible votes on the voters list at the time the report was run and the voter turnout at that time.

Created from VoterView

Created Oct 18, 2022 10:18 AM

Recorded Electors by Ward Poll

Ward	Poll	Count	Voted	Turnout
00	Ward 00 Poll 000	21,921	3,370	15.37%
Total		21,921	3,370	15.37%

Election Night Results

1. On election night I assume the results will be posted on the Town's site by around 8:15ish?

The ballots from the Long-term Care Facilities will need to be counted, with an updated procedure to be provided today on how this will happen. Depending on how long it takes to process these ballots, I estimate the results to be posted at around 9:30pm at the latest. This could vary however depending on the number of ballots from the LTC homes that require to be remarked. We also will need to calculate the school board results for the English Public Trustee and will need to collect the numbers from Wasaga Beach as well which could potentially delay the results.

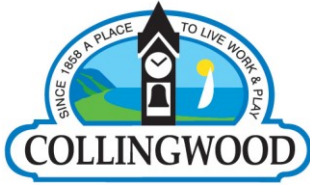
In-Camera Meetings

1. The specific section of the Municipal Act that outlines the parameters for in-camera meetings.

Section 239(2), Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended.

A meeting or part of a meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered is,

- a. the security of the property of the municipality or local board;
- b. personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;
- c. a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;
- d. labour relations or employee negotiations;
- e. litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;



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- f. advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- g. a matter in respect of which a council, board, committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another Act;
- h. information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them;
- i. a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;
- j. a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, or financial information that belongs to the municipality or local board and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or
- k. a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board.

A meeting that is closed to the public and considered confidential is referred to as "in-camera".

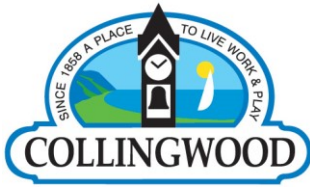
2. The vetting process including who decides if it goes on an agenda (council, staff) if any council member can put something on an agenda for it to go "in-camera".

Staff compile the agenda and bring matters before Council that require Council direction, a matter in which Council should be informed, or as requested by notice of motion. Council can request a matter be added to the agenda, however, that rarely occurs. The Clerk reviews all matters on the agenda and determine in consultation with the CAO if any matter requires review and consider in closed session "in-camera". All exceptions that permit an item to be discussed in-camera are discretionary and must strictly fall within one of the specified areas. The agenda is then reviewed and vetted by the Clerk and CAO with the Mayor prior to the final distribution.

3. What steps can a member of council take "prior" to going in-camera, if they do not believe the item should be out of the public domain (is the vote to go in-camera the only method)

In accordance with Section 2.8 of the Procedural By-law, if a member of Council has any questions or concerns that require clarification on an agenda they are encouraged to contact the appropriate Director or Supervisor to receive clarification prior to the meeting.

This is particularly important for in-camera meetings, as the agenda generally provides a brief statement of the item being discussed and the Municipal Act exception that permits it to be reviewed by Council and closed to the public. As such,



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a member of Council that has a concern or wishing clarity or the rationale for having the in-camera session will contact the Clerk's or CAO's Office for an explanation. If after reviewing with staff a Council member still has concerns about going in-camera, it is there decision to participate or not.

Also, if at any time during an in-camera session, a member questions the ongoing nature of the discussion as being a matter that should be discussed publically or has shifted off the specific discussion that was specifically identified as being in-camera the Clerk will bring that concern to the Chairs attention or any member can call a point of order and the matter be decided by the Chair and/or Council.

Financial / Taxes / Debt

1. What was the final cost of the Judicial Inquiry?

The latest cost breakdown posted was on December 31, 2022, on our [CJI page](#) and was \$8.266M. Scroll down to the "Detailed Cost Breakdown" links to see detailed information. As any additional billings are received, they will be posted

2. Will the cost of the water treatment plant expansion will show up on our residents' property tax bills?

The costs related to the water treatment plant are not included in the tax levy. The current estimated cost of the expansion is \$121 Million and will be paid as follows:

New Tecumseth Contributions - \$71.5M

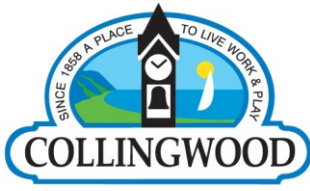
Development Charges Reserve Funds - \$44M and Water Reserve - \$6 M

These amounts are estimates at this time until the design work is completed.

Going forward the Asset Management contribution to maintain and eventually replace the water treatment plant is included in water rates.

3. There is concern Town's costs in the 2023 budget are increasing between 3% and 7%, and that this increase will result in service cuts, staff cuts or tax increases.

In my Staff Report [T2022-11](#) I speak to the CPI being at 7.6% and that without any changes to services or staffing that the Town's costs will be increasing between 3.5% and 7% if inflation continues at the current rate and cost pressures as a result of the pandemic continue for the Capital Budget. I also list other pressures such as AMP, the ICBL continuing, enhanced service levels in Affordable Housing and etc. At no time have I said an increase would result in service cuts, staff cuts or tax increases, however as noted in my report I provided options to offset the pressures the Town will have with the 2023 Budget (or any year for that matter):



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"As described there are many pressures to the 2023 Budget, however as Members of Council are aware there are some options to reducing these pressures as detailed below:

1) Defer the timing of capital projects by prioritizing critical projects and delaying low level items. Where funding has been constrained, this process has been used in the past however it is important to recognize that the projects are still required to be completed at some point and identifying critical items is key.

2) Increase the borrowing by the Municipality. As discussed previously although there is still room in the municipalities Annual Repayment Limit (ARL) it is still important to recognize that future projects may also require funding through debentures and where emergencies arise it is beneficial to have capacity. As staff continue to work through a formal Strategic Financial Plan the total debt capacity will be developed.

3) Make certain projects and/or programs solely grant dependent. This too has been used as a financing tool in the past for non-critical projects.

4) Increase the amount of funding through reserves. Again, this has also been used as a financing tool in the past however it is important to recognize that as the AMP (Asset Management Plan) is fully completed (i.e. includes non-core assets as well) additional pressures will be raised to protect the future.

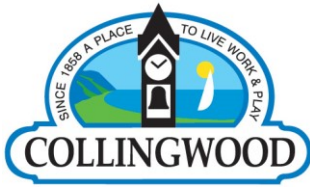
5) Adjust Service levels to reduce expenditures, through increased efficiencies and/or delivering service in new ways."

I also share in the report the following: "It is important to note that this report is the first step in the process that leads to the final budget. It includes preliminary information known at this time. The report is intended to stimulate discussion and provide members of Council with a context in which to have the discussion, mindful of the challenges the Town faces for the 2023 Budget. As we proceed through the budget process and new information is received, staff will advise Council and make adjustments as required." (M. Quinlan, Treasurer)

Potential for Rebates for Condo Owners where their Roads do not Allow Garbage Collection and/or Snow Clearing

1. Condominium owners are asking that their tax bills should be adjusted to reflect that they have no garbage or snow removal service from the Town.

With respect to the costs borne by condo unit owners, this is a balance that plays out over the life of the units, with many factors affecting what to-date has been developed as a reasonable and fair bottom line, through mechanisms including the Condo Act with the province, MPAC and condo organizations. In general, land taxes



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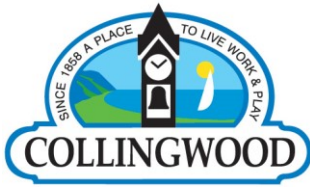
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are based on an MPAC assessment, and for condos, their MPAC assessments are lower, reflecting the value of the units and thus requiring less investment overall by owners into the Town's services for residents and businesses. Condo builders who choose to provide smaller roads that do not meet Town standards (and thus are not eligible for assumption by the Town for maintenance and cannot fit County garbage trucks) can also reflect those lower costs in the sale prices of the units (though the residents may be left in the longer run with the asset renewal costs, as road upgrades and renewal then become the responsibility of the condo corporation).

With respect to snow removal, the Town does not provide snow removal on private roads, however the costs for snow removal overall in the town are shared by all residents and proportioned to their land taxes based on their MPAC assessment. An attempt to apportion out costs for the overall use of the Town roads vs a credit for condo roads, and then to decide how much any given individual or household should pay would be very difficult, and the assumptions would make all the difference in how much is paid. Ultimately if the result was that condo owners pay marginally less, then other households would pay marginally more, and of course vice versa. Given that Ontario already has the MPAC system for this and that all condo and freehold buyers should be aware of their obligations and benefits at the time of purchase of their units, it remains the staff position that the current Ontario-wide approach is reasonable. Should Council instruct differently, then a study and public engagement would be triggered.

The Town does not provide garbage service, as of course this is a service provided by the County of Simcoe. The County does provide a subsidy program that a Condo Corp can apply for that is intended to offset a portion of their waste management costs (the application from the County is attached) and essentially it equates to \$52/year per serviced unit. You may recall that in the past (before 2013) the County had the Waste Management costs split from their overall tax rate and municipalities were then responsible to attach it to each individual tax account that was receiving waste services, as you may imagine there was quite a bit of administrative activity that this involved – The amount of this levy at the time was about \$190/unit per year. In February 2021, County Staff brought back a report (attached) to explore the option of reverting back to this method, however what was found is that in fact it would create many new operational requirements and increase costs overall. It is difficult to put an exact number to what the cost is that the non-serviced units are paying however per unit because of course assessment plays a role, however from the report that County Staff prepared it appears that non-serviced units (which would include Condos and Commercial businesses) cover an estimated \$5 Million of the waste costs and based on the number of properties that would mean approximately \$225/property/year (based on Residential only). Not a perfect number however the Treasure believes that it is a pretty good estimate.

Recreation



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1. There has been a request from the Georgian Triangle Pickleball Club for new pickleball courts. Will they be dedicated for pickleball or shared for tennis use?

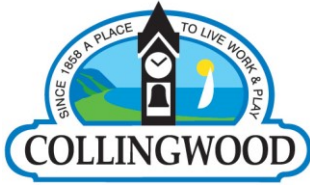
Council approved budget to proceed with the design of the Wilson Sheffield Park in 2022 – we are still looking to complete this by year end (or make significant headway) and have been building all of the base information required to present for public consultation and dialogue. Staff also provided notice to Council that a 'Community Park' approach would be undertaken vs a 'Neighborhood Park' approach based on the opportunities presented by the site and some ongoing needs indicated by the community over the longer period.

Prior to the rapid emergence of Pickleball, Tennis had been growing locally over the years preceding Covid. Primarily, their interest has been in being able to develop tournaments in order for the sport and participants to reach a next level of sport engagement and to access funding from the Provincial level of the sport.

At the same time, through the PRC Master Plan and other methods, it has been apparent that the Basketball community in Collingwood has been underserved for a long time and continues to struggle as school gymnasiums become less available as a result of School Board policy and service structures. The half-courts that were constructed at Heritage Park using Healthy Kids Community Challenge funding have been intensely popular, even if they are somewhat of partial solution.

While Pickleball has been around North America since about 1967 (the Town had Pickleball courts at the Legion Park space between 2012 and 2015, however the repurposed asphalt service was quite poor and there was much less interest in the game at that time), it has grown substantially in the past three years. We have been offering courts on the Outdoor Rink Surface for about the past five years. I also note that a local business has opened two indoor courts, with a plan to add at least four more in the near term.

It is the understanding of all of these demands, as well as the limited opportunity to create new space in Collingwood that led to staff's recommendation at Council that a 'Community Park' approach be taken to the development of Wilson-Sheffield. We have heard of concerns, predominantly from Pickleball players, about sharing courts with Basketball and Tennis. Our response has been to try and help them to understand all of the broader community needs, and that multi-use facilities represent an efficiency to the taxpayer both in terms of capital and operating expenses. We have concerns about the arguments of 'user volume by sport' as all sports are cyclical in nature (including hockey, baseball, soccer, and others), and at any given point in time Basketball and Tennis could have, or will make, similar arguments.



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It's important to note that we are also only in the preliminary phase of design and preparing for public consultation, where these concerns can be expressed, and we can seek methods of compromise and mitigation. While we are presenting a project with th

e intention of three sports being better served as a result, the details of the design as well as preliminary operating proposals may help a middle ground to be achieved. We are also anticipating some push-back from area residents as all three sports have a noise component that may be felt to be detrimental to quiet enjoyment of homes (we are currently researching acoustical buffers to help with this potential problem). All of this is to say that we have not yet entered into the part of the project where a decision will be finally made on the apportioning and componentry of the site, the possibilities of how facilities can be shared, or truthfully, whether the public will even fully accept this concept in this location. All is subject to the public consultation process, resulting learning and design development, the application of staff expertise and best practices, and finally Council approval of the finished design and a budget to complete.