



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST LINCOLN
COUNCIL MINUTES

MEETING NO. FOUR

February 26, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Township Administration Building

318 Canborough Street, Smithville, Ontario

Council: Mayor Cheryl Ganann
Councillor Terry Bell
Councillor Shelley Bradaric
Councillor Joann Chechalk
Councillor Mike Rehner
Councillor William Reilly
Councillor Jason Trombetta

Staff: Donna DeFilippis, Interim Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer
Dennis Fisher, Fire Chief
Mike DiPaola, Director of Public Works and Recreation
Brian Treble, Director of Planning and Building
Katelyn Repovs, Acting Director of Finance
Nancy Fiorentino, Interim Director of Legislative Services and Clerk
Kevin Geoghegan, IT Help Desk Analyst
Justin Paylove, Deputy Clerk
Cindy Weir, Acting Library Chief Executive Officer

-
- 1. SINGING OF "O CANADA" - SMITHVILLE CHRISTIAN HIGHSCHOOL
 - 2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Township of West Lincoln, being part of Niagara Region is situated on treaty land. This land is steeped in the rich history of the First Nations such as the Hatiwendaronk, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. There are many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people from across Turtle Island that live and work in Niagara today. The Township of West Lincoln, as part of the Regional Municipality of Niagara, stands

with all Indigenous people, past and present, in promoting the wise stewardship of the lands on which we live.

3. OPENING PETITION - Councillor Joann Chechalk

Councillor Chechalk read the opening petition.

4. CHANGE IN ORDER OF ITEMS ON AGENDA

There were no changes in the order of items on the agenda.

5. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Mike Rehner declared a conflict with Item 9.3.4, as the property named in the temporary use by-law abuts his own property.

Councillor William Reilly declared a conflict on Item 13.2, as his wife sits on the West Lincoln Public Library Board, whose budget is a part of the Township budget.

Conflicts of Interest Declared at Meetings

Public Meeting Under the Planning Act – Monday, February 12, 2024

5.1 Councillor Mike Rehner - DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Rehner noted that he has a conflict of interest with Item 9.3.4, as the property named in the temporary use by-law abuts his own property.

Administration/Finance/Fire Committee Meeting – Tuesday February 20, 2024

5.2 Councillor William Reilly - DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND/OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Reilly noted that he has a conflict of interest with Item 13.2, as his wife sits on the West Lincoln Public Library Board, whose budget is a part of the Township budget.

6. REQUEST TO ADDRESS ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no requests to address items on the agenda by the public.

7. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Cathy Lasby, Ontario Plowmans Association

Re: 2025 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo

Cathy Lasby and Renate McGillivray, Ontario Plowmans Association, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2025 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo.

Councillor Reilly inquired to Ms. Lasby about whether the event's official location can be changed from "Grassie, Niagara" to "Township of West Lincoln".

In response to Councillor Reilly's inquiry, Ms. Lasby explained that they could change it to include Township of West Lincoln, Region of Niagara, and also Grassie, Ontario.

Councillor Reilly inquired to the Interim Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer, Donna DeFilippis, if supporting this event in principle would bind the Township to provide any financial or in-kind donations.

In response to Councillor Reilly's inquiry, Interim Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer, Donna DeFilippis, explained that a motion in support of hosting the event would be fine. However, the in-kind donations would require regional services, and so without investigating that further, we cannot bind ourselves to provide those donations at this meeting.

Councillor Chechalk commented that making a commitment to a financial or in-kind donation without the budget passed is not feasible at this Council meeting. However, she expressed her support for the event, and her willingness to support the event in its planning and execution, and also noted the need to work together with surrounding municipalities.

Councillor Trombetta expressed his support for the event, and suggested that Council look at providing financial support during next year's budget process.

Ms. Lasby explained that they will be in discussion with Niagara Region in the near future, but wanted to present to the Township Council first, as West Lincoln is the host community. Also, presenting to Niagara Region with Township Council's support for the event will go a long way in their efforts to secure regional funding and in-kind donations.

Councillor Bradaric inquired to Ms. Lasby about the timing of event in relation to the West Niagara Fair.

In response to Councillor Bradaric's inquiry, Ms. Lasby explained that the event will be taking place two weeks after the West Niagara Fair.

Councillor Reilly inquired to Ms. Lasby about the nature of the County Showcase Display and what the expectation is for that display.

In response to Councillor Reilly's inquiry, Ms. Lasby explained that it should be kept simple, and that a lot of money should not be spent on it. Simply having a tasteful horticultural display will suffice.

Moved By Councillor William Reilly

Seconded By Councillor Joann Chechalk

1. That the Township of West Lincoln endorses the hosting of the 2025 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo; and
2. That staff be directed to review the requests from the Ontario Plowmans Association and provide a further report to the Administration/Finance/Fire Committee respecting this matter.

Carried

7.2 Steven Soos

Re: Matters pertaining to mental health, addiction, and homelessness

Steven Soos was not in attendance for his scheduled appointment/presentation.

8. REGIONAL COUNCILLOR'S REMARKS

Regional Councillor Witteveen sent his regrets, as we he was unable to attend this meeting.

9. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

9.1 Council Minutes

Moved By Councillor Mike Rehner

Seconded By Councillor Terry Bell

1. That the minutes of the open session portion of the January 29, 2024 regular Council Meeting, and the recommendations contained therein, be accepted; and,
2. That the confidential minutes relating to the closed session portion of the January 29, 2024 regular Council Meeting be accepted; and that the minutes remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure in accordance with exemptions provided in Section 239 of the Municipal Act.

Carried

9.2 Special Council Minutes

Moved By Councillor Joann Chechalk

Seconded By Councillor Shelley Bradaric

1. That the minutes of the February 5, 2024 Special Council Meeting (Operating and Capital Budget), and the recommendations contained therein, be accepted; and,
2. That the confidential minutes relating to the closed session portion of the February 5, 2024 Special Council Meeting be accepted; and that the minutes remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure in accordance with exemptions provided in Section 239 of the Municipal Act.

Carried

9.3 Public Meeting Under the Planning Act

Moved By Councillor William Reilly

Seconded By Councillor Joann Chechalk

That the minutes of the public meeting held on February 12, 2024 under Section 34 of the Planning Act with respect to:

1. Backyard Chickens (Township of West Lincoln) - Public Consultation;
2. Update of Accessible Parking Regulations (Township of West Lincoln) - Zoning By-Law Amendment;
3. 1738 Caistor Gainsborough Townline Road (Brad Snippe) - Zoning By-Law Amendment; and,
4. 8399 Concession 2 Road (James Smith) - Zoning By-Law Amendment and Temporary Use By-Law, be accepted.

Carried

10. COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications.

11. MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Ganann read a prepared statement which was attached as Schedule "B" to the minutes.

12. REPORT OF COMMITTEE

12.1 Planning/Building/Environmental Committee

Moved By Councillor William Reilly

Seconded By Councillor Joann Chechalk

1. That the minutes of the February 12, 2024 Planning/Building/Environmental Committee meeting, and the recommendations contained therein, be accepted; and,
2. That the confidential minutes relating to the closed session portion of the February 12, 2024 Planning/Building/Environmental Committee meeting be accepted; and that the minutes remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act.

Carried

12.2 Administration/Finance/Fire Committee

Moved By Councillor Jason Trombetta

Seconded By Councillor Shelley Bradaric

That the minutes of the February 20, 2024 Administration/Finance/Fire Committee meeting, and the recommendations contained therein, be accepted.

Carried

12.3 Public Works & Recreation Committee

Moved By Councillor Mike Rehner

Seconded By Councillor Terry Bell

That the minutes of the February 20, 2024 Public Works & Recreation Committee meeting, and the recommendations contained therein, be accepted.

Carried

13. STAFF REPORTS

13.1 Fire Chief (Dennis Fisher)

Re: Information Report WLFD-04-2024 - West Lincoln Fire Station 2 Update

Moved By Councillor Jason Trombetta

Seconded By Councillor Shelley Bradaric

That Information Report WLF-04-2024, regarding “West Lincoln Fire Station # 2 Update”, dated February 26, 2024, be received for information.

Carried

13.2 Interim Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer (Donna DeFilippis) & Acting Director of Finance (Katelyn Repovs)

Re: Recommendation Report T-05-2024 - 2024 Operating and Capital Budget Final Report

Moved By Councillor Shelley Bradaric

Seconded By Councillor Jason Trombetta

1. That Recommendation Report T-05-2024, regarding the “2024 Operating and Capital Budget Final Report”, dated February 26, 2024, be received;
2. That a 2024 tax levy of \$9,709,110, which represents a 6.55% tax levy increase after factoring in assessment growth, be approved;
3. That the 2024 hospital levy of \$226,500 for the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital Rebuild be approved;
4. That the 2024 Urban Service Area Levy of \$186,320 be approved;
5. That the Detailed 2024 Capital Program, attached as Schedules C and D to this report, totalling \$10,282,100 be approved;
6. That Council approve debenture financing of \$1,000,000 in 2024 in order to finance Capital Project 941 – West St & Wade Rd Water Main Replacement which has a total budget of \$2,000,000;
7. That Council approve debenture financing of \$3,000,000 in 2024 in order to partially finance the Township’s Contribution towards the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital Rebuild;
8. That Council delegate authority to the CAO to approve in year 2024 budget amendments up to \$20,000 per item and that the Treasurer report to Council on a regular basis regarding such amendments;
9. That the balance of Capital and Special Projects for the years 2025 to 2033 as outlined on Schedules E and F to this report be approved in principle; and,
10. That tangible capital asset amortization estimated at \$3,545,692 and post-employment expenses estimated at \$22,800 be and are

hereby excluded from the 2024 Operating and Capital Budget as permitted through Ontario Regulation 248/09.

Carried

14. RECONSIDERATION

There were no items put forward for reconsideration.

15. NOTICE OF MOTION TO RESCIND

There were no notices served for a motion to rescind at the next meeting.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 Members of Council

Re: Council Remarks

Councillor Chechalk

Re: Coldest Night of the Year, Trivia & Youth Hockey

Councillor Chechalk expressed her appreciation for staff and Council's involvement in the Coldest Night of the Year, as they were able to raise over \$1,000 for the fundraiser. She also praised the event organizers for their hard work and for pulling off such a successful Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser event.

Further, she commented on the success of the Trivia Night, which raised approximately \$3,300.

Lastly, she commented on the Niagara Hockey Tournament that took place in Port Colbourne this weekend, wherein several groups from West Lincoln participated. The West Lincoln Wild Beasts won the U11 division

17. NEW ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no motions to introduce a new item of business.

18. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Moved By Councillor Joann Chechalk

Seconded By Councillor William Reilly

That the next portion of this meeting be closed to the public to consider the following pursuant to Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act 2001:

18.1 Director of Planning and Building (Brian Treble)

Re: Legal/Solicitor-Client Privilege -Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) - Legal

update for Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 63 received February 22, 2024
VERBAL UPDATE

Applicable closed session exemption(s):

- Advice that is subject to Solicitor-Client Privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board.

Carried

The meeting went into closed session at 7:58 p.m.

Moved By Councillor William Reilly

Seconded By Councillor Shelley Bradaric

That the confidential Verbal Update regarding Legal Update for Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 63 received February 22, 2024, be received for information.

Carried

19. READING OF BY-LAWS

Moved By Councillor Jason Trombetta

Seconded By Councillor Terry Bell

1. That leave be granted to introduce By-laws 2024-10, 2024-11, 2024-12, 2024-13, and 2024-14 and that the same shall be considered to have been read a first, second, and third time with one reading, and are hereby adopted; and,
2. That the Mayor and Clerk be and are hereby authorized to sign and affix the Corporate Seal thereto, any rule of this Council to the contrary notwithstanding.

Carried

BY-LAWS

19.1 BY-LAW 2024-10

A By-law to amend Zoning By-law No. 2017-70, as amended, of the Township of West Lincoln.(Larry Pomerantz (Agent) and Giovanni Diflavio (Owner))

19.2 BY-LAW 2024-11

A By-law to amend Zoning By-law No. 2017-70, as amended, of the Township of West Lincoln. (Brad Snippe)

19.3 BY-LAW 2024-12

A By-law to amend Zoning By-law No. 2017-70, as amended, of the Township of West Lincoln. (Accessible Parking Update)

19.4 BY-LAW 2024-13

A By-law to permanently close part of the Municipal Road Allowance between Lots 33 & 34, Concession 6, being Parts 5, 6 and 7 or 30R-6275 former Township of Gainsborough, now in the Township of West Lincoln, extending from Sixteen Road Northerly toward Townline Road (PIN 46076-0134(LT))

19.5 BY-LAW 2024-14

A By-law to adopt, confirm and ratify matters dealt with by Council Resolution.

Moved By Councillor Terry Bell

Seconded By Councillor Joann Chechalk

1. That leave be granted to introduce By-law 2024-09, and that the same shall be considered to have been read a first, second, and third time with one reading, and are hereby adopted; and,
2. That the Mayor and Clerk be and are hereby authorized to sign and affix the Corporate Seal thereto, any rule of this Council to the contrary notwithstanding.

Carried

Note: Councillor Mike Rehner declared a conflict of interest with this by-law and did not vote.

19.6 By-law 2024-09

A By-law to amend Zoning By-law No. 2017-70, as amended, of the Township of West Lincoln. (James Smith)

20. ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at the hour of 8:20 p.m.

NANCY FIORENTINO, CLERK

CHERYL GANANN, MAYOR

Schedule "A"

Ontario Plowmen's Association & The 2025 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo

Welcoming the World
Supporting our Communities



Ontario Plowmen's Association

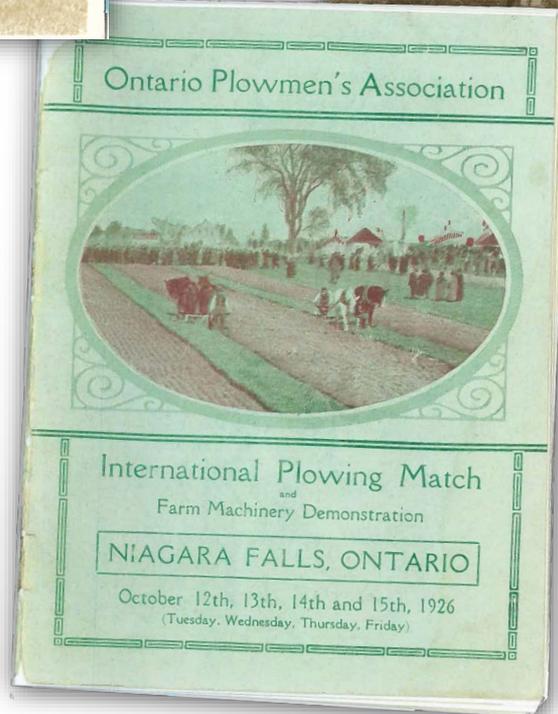
- * The Ontario Plowmen's Association was formed in 1911 and the first International Plowing Match & Rural Expo (IPM) was held in 1913 at Sunnybrook Farms, Toronto
- * Since then, the IPM has travelled to host communities throughout Ontario
- * IPM 2025 will be the 106th IPM.



IPM 2025 is coming to Grassie, Niagara September 16 to 20, 2025



West Niagara Fairgrounds and surrounding farmers fields



The IPM has taken place in Niagara only once before – in 1926, in Niagara Falls.

The International Plowing Match and Rural Expo

- * The International Plowing Match and Rural Expo is the largest show of its kind in North America



IPM's Tented City

- * The Tented City full of enthusiastic visitors
- * In 2025, Tented City will be on the fairgrounds



IPM RV Park

- * In addition to Tented City, the IPM includes a full serviced RV Park with a minimum of 500 sites
- * A special tent provides evening entertainment for RV Park guests
- * Negotiations for land adjacent to Tented City are underway



Sights and Sounds of the IPM



Sights and Sounds of the IPM

- * approximately 500 vendors and exhibitors
- * musical and non-musical entertainment
- * rural living displays
- * lifestyles exhibits (including quilting demonstrations)
- * local artisan exhibitors
- * antique & historical displays
- * educational program focusing on agriculture and food



IPM Education Programme

- * The IPM Education Programme follows the Ontario Curriculum
- * Traditionally, we welcome 8,000-10,000 students over the first four days



Ceremony & Tradition

- * The IPM is built on tradition
- * The Parade and Opening Ceremonies are a yearly must see for many visitors
- * The IPM is the only event in the Province of Ontario whereby the legislature adjourns for the day in order that the Premier, Leaders of the Opposition Parties and all MPPs can attend Opening Day



Ceremony & Tradition

- * The Queen of the Furrow program has been a cornerstone of the IPM since 1960
- * Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Ontario Queen of the Furrow – Mel Karpenko of Peel-Dufferin



Plowing Competition



A main feature of the IPM is the plowing competitions. Plowmen come from across Canada and even the United States & Europe to showcase their plowing skills and vie for prizes in a number of different classes.

2023 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo

IPM 2023 – Highlights

- *68,366 total attendance over 5 days
(included over 6,000 students in organized school groups)
- *Many visiting dignitaries, including Premier Doug Ford, Leaders of the Provincial Opposition Parties, MPPs, MPs and Senators
- *Performance by the Mudmen, tribute bands and local talent
- *Performances by the Canadian Cowgirls
- *RAM RODEO with Amber Marshall, star of CBC’s “Heartland”
- *Auctioneers’ Challenge and Speed Plowing



IPM – Positive Economic Impact

- * Each year an independent survey is conducted to determine the economic impact of the IPM to the host community. Also, data is calculated using the Government of Ontario's TREIM model.
- * Not only does the IPM thrill visitors, the studies' results clearly demonstrate it has a positive economic impact for the host community.



IPM – Economic Impact Study Results

- * Significant economic activity generated
 - * Studies show up to \$25 million in positive economic impact by tourists and event operations
 - * The IPM generates regional tourism

IPM 2023 - Total Visits	68,366
Percentage local (up to 40km within Ontario)	28%
Percentage non-local (beyond 40km or outside Ontario)	72%





**NO
VACANCY!**



* When the IPM comes to town,
accommodations are quickly sold out
*We always promote accommodations
within the host community first



IPM – Economic Impact Study Results

- * The buying power of IPM 2023 visitors was significant
- * Farm & Rural visitors intended to spend in the following 12 months:
 - * \$291 million on farm supplies and inputs
 - * \$252 million on tractors and farm equipment
 - * \$243 million on building and renovation supplies
 - * \$89 million on animal-related supplies
 - * \$38 million on lawn tractors, ATVs, UTVs, snowblowers



IPM - Partners in Success

We are very pleased to introduce our Presenting Sponsors:



IPM – Partners in Success

- * Community Leaders
- * Local Volunteers
- * Local Businesses and Organizations
- * Local Sponsors
- * **The Region and Municipalities**
- * Provincial Volunteers (members of Ontario Plowmen's Association)
- * Provincial Businesses and Organizations
- * Additional Provincial Sponsors
- * Plowing Competitors



Event Partners

2024 International Plowing Match & Rural Expo

=

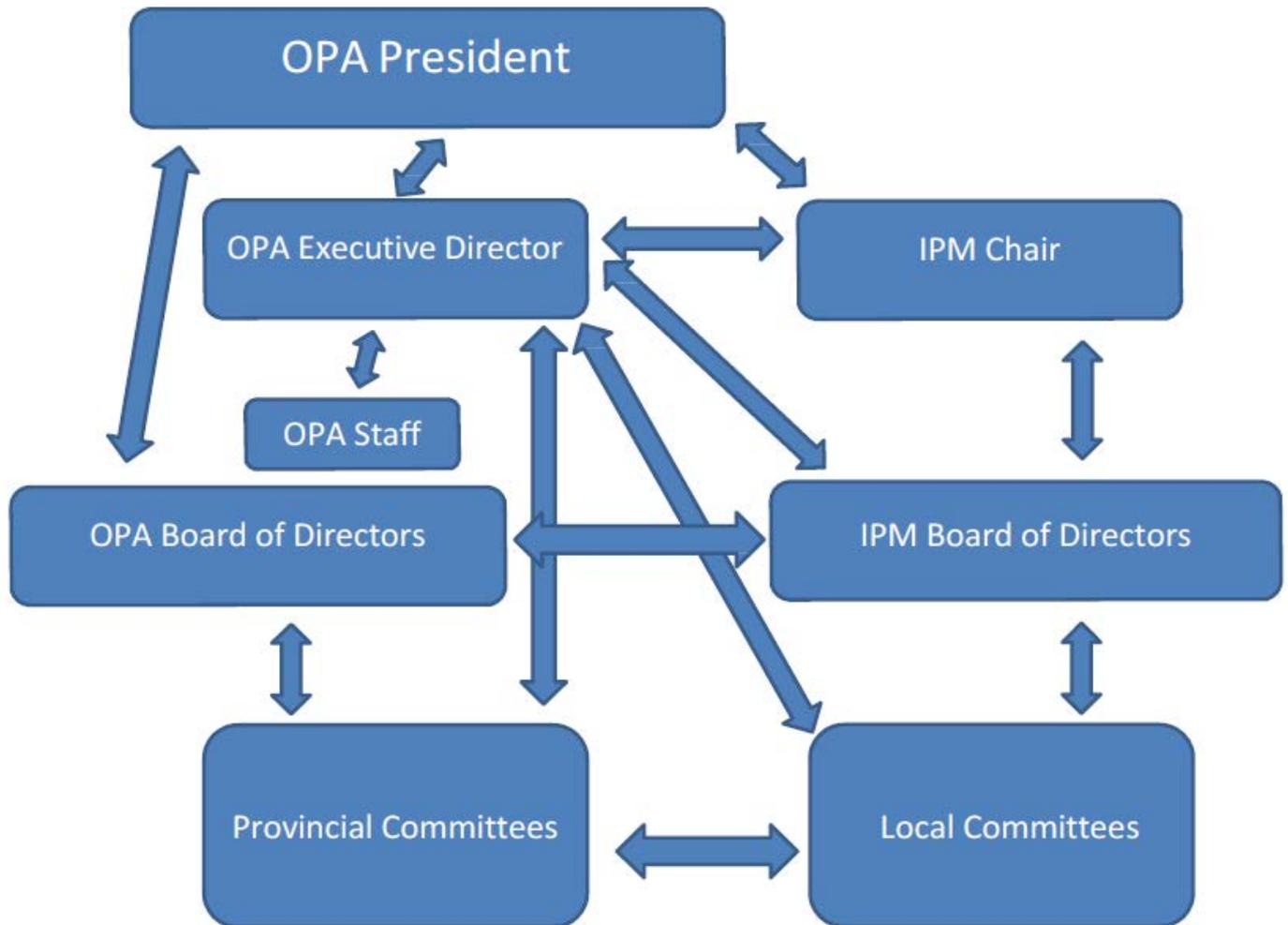
Local Committee (Volunteers & Staff)

+

Provincial Committee (Volunteers & Staff)



Structure



The Hosting Agreement

- * A legal document called “The Hosting Agreement” fully defines the responsibilities of both the Local Organizing Committee and the Ontario Plowmen’s Association (Provincial Committee).
- * It also states the terms for the division of the event profits. The Local Organizing Committee will receive a minimum of 50% of the profits which will be donated to charities and not-for-profit organizations within their community.



The Local Committee

- * One of the first steps will be to incorporate the “2025 International Plowing Match and Rural Expo Local Committee”
- * The 2025 Local Committee Board of Directors will consist of Co-Chairs, nine (9) Directors and a non-voting Secretary and Treasurer
- * Niagara Region agricultural leaders and members of local Plowmen’s Associations will be recruited.



The Local Committee

- * Directors will be responsible for a series of organizational committees (40 to 50)
- * Volunteer recruitment events will be held throughout the Region and will welcome residents of all ages and interests. Approximately 100 people attended our 1st Volunteer Recruitment Day in January.
- * Committees will work from well-defined guidelines, have an opportunity to attend IPM 2024 in Lindsay and be able to participate in workshops led by past local & provincial committee members



Local Plowmen's Association

- * The Niagara North Lincoln and Niagara North Caistor Plowmen's Associations are part of a provincial network of six zones with 44 Branches
- * Plowmen's Association members will be leaders in the fundamental planning of the Plowing Competition, as well as volunteering for other committees



Volunteers – the Life of the IPM



Volunteers – the Life of the IPM

- * Volunteers are the key to the success of each IPM
 - * Co-Chairs, Ron Murre and Renate McGillivray, have been planning and building a strong foundation for the 2024 IPM
 - * The Board of Directors has started meeting and is developing a group of committees that will work closely with OPA
 - * OPA Past President Melvin Switzer has provided important information and guidance and has agreed to continue this mentoring role



Legacy

In addition to the financial legacy outlined hosting agreement:

- * Volunteers who take the opportunity to be involved in the IPM will be rewarded with lasting friendships, community pride and perhaps most of all, a leadership legacy.
- * IPM volunteers have opportunities to further develop leadership skills which after the IPM enhance their roles in community volunteerism, their chosen careers and government.



IPM and Host Municipalities and the Region

- * There are two distinct components to this partnership
 - * 1) In-kind sponsorships and perhaps cash sponsorship (or start up loan)
 - * 2) Showcase Display



1) In-kind Sponsorship

Public Works - Region and/or Municipalities

- * Possible access into fields --- culverts
- * Assistance in installing & removing event-owned snow fence
- * Disposal of grey water and black water
- * Assistance in securing disposal services for garbage & recycling

Health Unit

- * Confirm requirements & provide necessary forms
- * Inspections prior to opening and periodic inspections during event



1) In-kind Sponsorship

Building Department

- * Confirm requirements and provide necessary forms
- * Permits
- * Inspections prior to opening and periodic inspections during event

Fire Department

- * Inspections
- * Emergency Calls

Paramedics

- * To be determined based on based on availability of services



1) In-kind Sponsorship

Site Protection

- * Paid duty officers on the event sites (private security companies are traditionally hired as well)

Signage

- * Permission to erect site signs on the farm properties
- * Permission to erect directional signs immediately prior to the event
- * Invitation to the Region and Municipalities to erect IPM welcome signs throughout the area



1) Cash Sponsorship

- * Traditionally, the Host Municipality offers a loan to the Local Committee of an IPM
- * These funds are used as start-up funds, and in particular for items like the printing of the souvenir cookbook and establishing inventory of IPM promotional items
- * It is always recommended that any loan be paid to the Local Committee in installments



2) Showcase Display

- * As large or small as you choose
- * IPM encourages you to keep it simple and reasonably priced (some previous IPMs have spent too much in dollars and staff manpower)
- * This host community has much to showcase and will experience a significant return on investment for years to come
- * You need not repeat what other Regions/Counties have done --- in fact, we urge you to ‘right size’ the County Showcase



Remember, it is “Five Days in a Farmer’s Field”

The IPM Does Not Need

- * Road re-construction
- * Extra grass cutting on roads surrounding the IPM Site
- * Engineering services for water lines, etc.
- * Excessive Staff time



What we're asking for today

- * A motion in support of hosting the 2025 IPM
- * Commitment to in-kind sponsorship
- * If desired, participation through a County Showcase display



Hosting The IPM: An Opportunity To Showcase Your Community



Mayor's Remarks - Feb.26/24 Council Meeting

I am pleased to present this up-date on activities and events since our last Council meeting on January 29. I will begin by stating that our Hiring Committee, struck to begin the process of finding a permanent CAO, has already met twice with another meeting planned for this upcoming Wednesday afternoon. We are very hopeful that we will soon be able to post this position.

Just as for our ROMA delegations in January, when a package of information about each delegation was required to be submitted at least one full week prior to the meeting, so too was the same requirement in place a week in advance of our virtual delegation with the Ministry of Infrastructure held on February 20th. Interim CAO DeFilippis and I, supported by Executive Assistant Jacquie Thrower, managed to submit the pre-delegation package on time.

On Friday February 9, I was pleased to attend the Mayor's Cup hockey game in Port Colborne as a team made up of male and female players from many different Township departments represented us well. I was unable to attend their Saturday games as I had already committed to judging speeches at the Legion in Smithville on Saturday afternoon between 2 and 4, exactly when our team was playing! I was very happy to receive a text message from Brad Keunen informing me that they had won both of those Saturday games and were playing in the finals the next morning. This team ended by winning the B Division Championship in an exciting game. The team represented our municipality extremely well exhibiting great hockey skills and good sportsmanship! Thanks to all who participated in this tournament and additionally the many staff members and residents who came out to cheer them on. West Lincoln was well-represented in all areas.

The evening of February 10th, Councillor Chechalk, John and I were in attendance to support the McNally House fundraising event, "Rockin' the Hospice". It was a sold out event at the West Niagara Agricultural Hall. It was great to see this facility being so well-used by the entire community.

On Monday, February 12, I was pleased to do a radio interview with Matt Walker from 88.5 The Lake regarding our upcoming Family Day activities. It was

wonderful that Matt provided us with that opportunity to help get the word out to our residents about all of the activities planned for families.

The Niagara Region has a new Commissioner of Public Works, Terry Ricketts. On February 14th, I was honoured to have a meeting here in West Lincoln with Terry, who was making the rounds visiting with Mayors in each of the 12 lower tier municipalities to learn about each municipality and their particular needs. I was pleased to speak with her about West Lincoln in general using maps of our entire municipality, specific maps regarding our current urban boundary of Smithville and also our urban boundary expansion area. As well we discussed the various housing opportunities currently available and those proposed for the future. Terry then followed up that meeting with me, with a meeting with Director DiPaola, where specific water/wastewater issues were appropriately on the agenda.

The morning of February 15th gave me an opportunity to revisit my former teacher role, when I was invited to visit Smithville Public School and read orally to the 3 Grade 2 classes. I chose to read two of my favourites, *The Balloon Tree* by Phoebe Gilman, a Canadian author and illustrator and *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. A small plug here for Amazon Prime - which allowed me to purchase and have delivered almost right away, 3 copies of each of those books, thus enabling me to gift each of the three classroom libraries with a copy of each book.

Later on that same day, I was asked to do a radio interview regarding our Backyard Chicken meeting. I was not available to do the interview at the time requested and so I would like to thank Councillor Reilly, as Chair of Planning and also currently Deputy-Mayor, for agreeing to take on that interview as spokesperson for the Township on that particular issue..

Although I already mentioned in Committee last week the huge success of the varied Family Day activities, I want to once again thank all staff who were involved in organizing and running the event of the day. Many hundreds of residents enjoyed the day beginning with the Firefighters' Pancake breakfast early in the morning and ending with the Sledge hockey game in the late afternoon. It was a day filled with something for everyone!

On Tuesday, February 20th, Interim CAO DeFilippis and I used our delegation time with PA Sandhu, Ministry of Infrastructure to try to impress upon Ministry staff, our needs, as a small rural municipality, for support for ongoing asset management requirements, the need for support with water and waste-water infrastructure to kick-start the growth process for our municipality and as well, we reminded this Ministry of our ROMA delegation to the Ministry of Transportation regarding the interconnectivity of these two ministries whenever there is discussion regarding a potential new Escarpment Crossing.

We were pleased when on the day of the actual delegation with PA Sandhu, we were joined by MPP Oosterhoff who added his support to our efforts.

On Thursday, February 22, I represented West Lincoln at the joint 3 Chamber of Commerce's Business After 5 at the new West Niagara Secondary School where the main topic was an introduction to the wide and varied opportunities for businesses and the school to work together using Co-op students. The school is a bright and beautiful learning environment for just over 1600 students. There are programmes being run that are suitable options for all interests and ability levels of students.

Finally, Saturday actually was one of the coldest days this winter for the "Coldest Night of the Year" walk. I would like to thank Councillors Bradaric and Chechalk for their involvement. Our team this year was terrific and was made up of the Councillors, staff members, Jacquie Thrower and Beth Audet, and residents, John Ganann, Stephen LaSalle and Chris Frere. Together we helped to raise approximately \$1000. for this great cause.