



CLEARVIEW

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**REPORT NUMBER:** LS-004-2021  
**DEPARTMENT:** LEGISLATIVE SERVICES – Clerk’s Office  
**MEETING DATE:** March 22, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** COUNCIL COMPOSITION REVIEW

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby:

- 1) Receive LS-004-2021 (Council Composition Review) report for information; and,
- 2) Proceed forward to a public meeting on option #\_\_\_\_\_.

### BACKGROUND:

On December 14, 2020, Council directed staff to proceed forward with public engagement on four (4) options to review its composition. The options included:

- a. 5 ward option (7 member council)  
5 Councillors, Deputy Mayor, Mayor
- b. 5 members elected at large (5 member council)  
3 Councillors, Deputy Mayor, Mayor
- c. 7 members elected at large (7 member council)  
5 councillors, Deputy Mayor, Mayor
- d. Maintaining the current ward system (9 member council)  
7 Councillors, Deputy Mayor, Mayor

The public has been very engaged in this process to date. The Ward Boundary Review video has been watched 468 times on YouTube and 342 members of the public participated in completing a survey both electronically and as published in the local newspapers.

The information was also shared freely on social media sites. In several instances, the Township had members of the public reposting the link to the survey encouraging other members of the public to complete it as well.

**COMMENTS AND ANALYSIS:**

The public input on all four (4) options has now been tallied in the form of survey results. Although the results of the survey do not tie council to a decision, they do share public insight into this process and preferred electoral system.

The results of the survey are attached for review and consideration.

Number of Responses and General Comments received:

Number of Responses	Comments
45 responses	N/A or not enough information/background to the comment or a general comment like "protect farming"
97 responses	Concern over too many Councillors from one area of the Township/lack of representation due to at-large
29 responses	Elected for ability/act for entire township/ at large
28 responses	Not happy with the current system/want change that was not a dedicated option
95 responses	Maintain
70 responses	Less Councillors

**Survey Highlights:**

- 342 people participated in this survey
- Ward 5 had the most respondents
- 50% of respondents stated they were satisfied with the current council composition.
- Over 76% of respondents prefer the ward system
- 3 vote difference between keeping current composition or reducing the size of council to 7.

Next Steps

The next step of this project is to hold a public meeting based on the preferred council option. This only needs to take place if it is different from the current council composition.

The public meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Township of Clearview Notice by-law.

**CLEARVIEW STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Governance – Enhance council engagement through a review of engagement practices and techniques.

**COMMUNICATION PLAN:**

The Notice By-law requires a public meeting on preferred option if changes are proposed to the current system. It also requires the municipality to provide notice before passing a by-law and within 15 days after the by-law is passed.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There will be minimal costs for advertising any public meeting and notice of the by-law passage.

**REPORT SCHEDULES:**

Schedule A – Results of Public Survey on Council Composition.

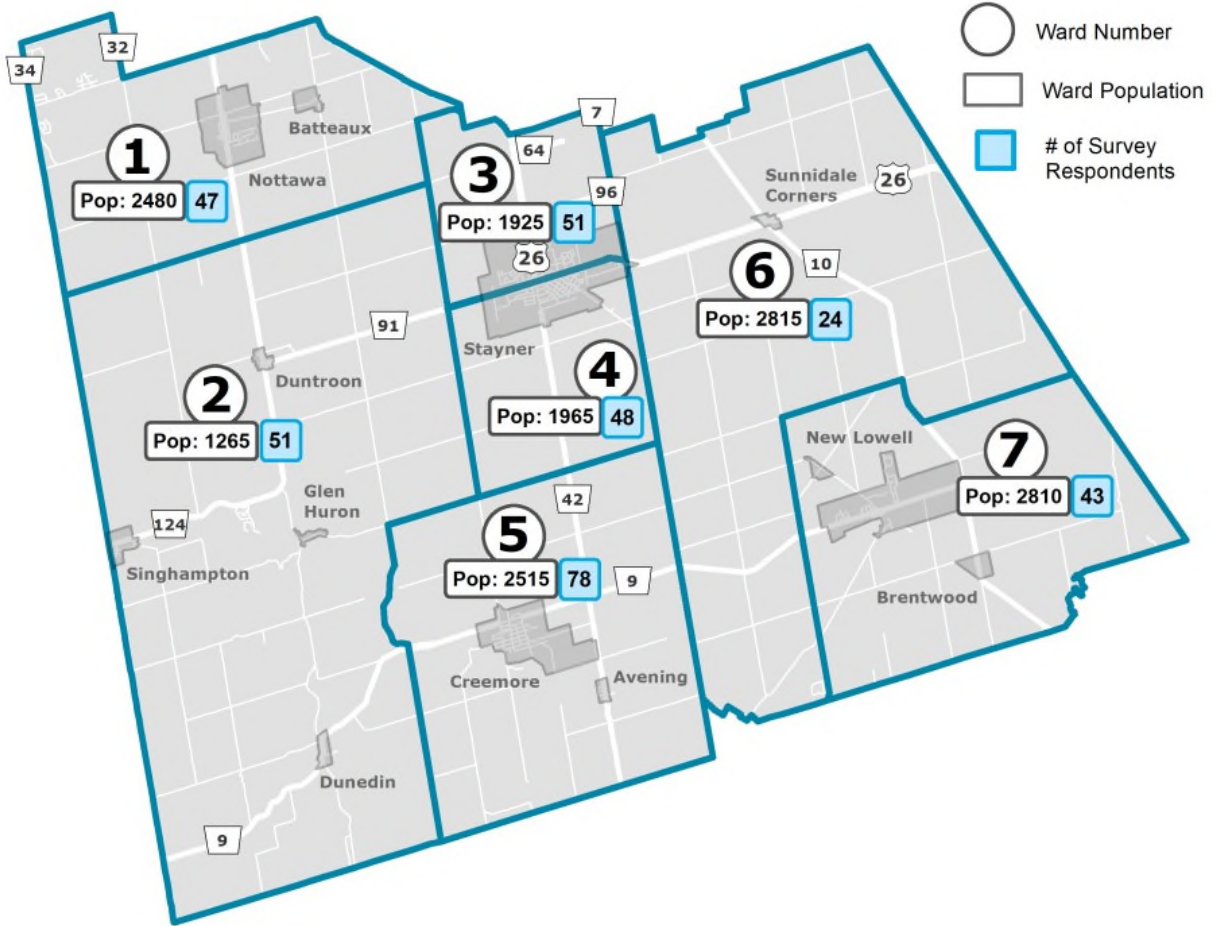
Schedule B – Current Ward Map

Schedule C – Proposed 5 Ward option

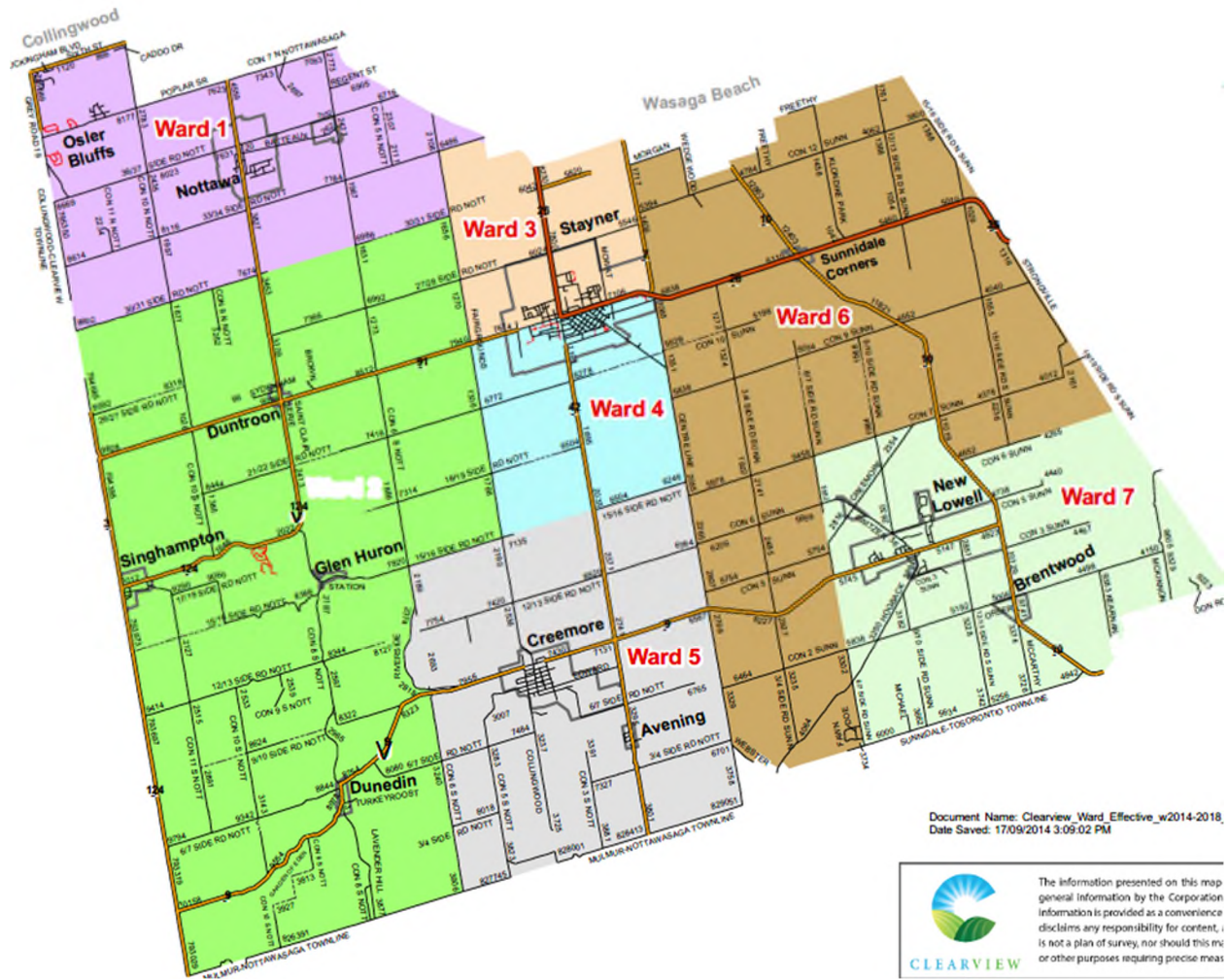
**PREPARED BY:**

Pamela Fettes, Director, Legislative Services/Clerk


# SCHEDULE A – RESULTS OF PUBLIC SURVEY ON COUNCIL COMPOSITION



# SCHEDULE B – CURRENT WARD BOUNDARY MAP



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# SCHEDULE C – 5 WARD OPTION

