



INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

W & M Edelbrock Centre, Dufferin Room, 30 Centre Street, Orangeville ON

The meeting will be live streamed on YouTube at the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/@DufferinOne>

Land Acknowledgement Statement

We would like to begin by respectfully acknowledging that Dufferin County resides within the traditional territory and ancestral lands of the Tionontati (Petun), Attawandaron (Neutral), Haudenosaunee (Six Nations), and Anishinaabe peoples.

We also acknowledge that various municipalities within the County of Dufferin reside within the treaty lands named under the Haldimand Deed of 1784 and two of the Williams Treaties of 1818: Treaty 18: the Nottawasaga Purchase, and Treaty 19: The Ajetance Treaty.

These traditional territories upon which we live and learn, are steeped in rich Indigenous history and traditions. It is with this statement that we declare to honour and respect the past and present connection of Indigenous peoples with this land, its waterways and resources.

Roll Call

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest by Members

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD

Members of the public in attendance are able to ask a question. If you unable to attend and would like to submit a question, please contact us at info@dufferincounty.ca or 519-941-2816 x2500 prior to 4:30 p.m. on January 24, 2024.

REPORTS

1. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – January 25, 2024 – ITEM #1
Dufferin County Forest – Annual Report

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated January 25, 2024, to provide the 2023 annual report and 2024 workplan for the County Forest.

Recommendation:

THAT the Report, Dufferin County Forest – Annual Report, dated January 25, 2024, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received.

2. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – January 25, 2024 – ITEM #2
Dufferin County - Oak Wilt Response Plan

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated January 25, 2024, to provide the Oak Wilt Response Plan.

Recommendation:

THAT the Report, Dufferin County Forest - Oak Wilt Response Plan, dated January 25, 2024, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – January 25, 2024 – ITEM #3
Tri-County Green Development Standard Update – January 2024

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated January 25, 2024, to provide an update on the development of Green Development Standards.

Recommendation:

THAT the report, Tri-County Green Development Standard Update – January 2024, dated January 25, 2024, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – January 25, 2024 – ITEM #4
Road & Bridge Capital Update – January 2024

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated January 25, 2024, to provide the status of each project along with anticipated start and completion dates.

Recommendation:

THAT the report of the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated January 25, 2024, Road and Bridge Capital Update – January 2024, be received.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – January 25, 2024 – ITEM #5
Corporate Fleet Management Update – January 2024

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated January 25, 2024, to provide an update on the corporate fleet management program.

Recommendation:

THAT the Report, Corporate Fleet Management Update – January 2024, dated January 25, 2024, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received.

6. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – January 25, 2024 – ITEM #6
New Operations Centre Project Update – January 2024

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated January 25, 2024, to provide an update on plans for an additional County Operations Centre.

Recommendation:

THAT the Report, New Operations Centre Project Update – January 2024, dated January 25, 2024, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received.

7. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – January 25, 2024 – ITEM #7
Road Network Rationalization Plan Implementation – January 2024

A report from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated January 25, 2024, to describe the general scope of next steps towards the project implementation.

Recommendation:

THAT the report of the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated January 25, 2024, Road Network Rationalization Plan Implementation – January 2024, be received;

AND THAT the mechanism for infrastructure transfers from the County to the affected member municipalities be 'Transfer Infrastructure with Concessions';

AND THAT staff be directed to proceed with the Roads Needs Study in 2024;

AND THAT the 2024 Roads Needs Study be funded through the Rate Stabilization Reserve with an estimated cost of \$60,000.

CORRESPONDENCE

8. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – January 25, 2024 – ITEM #8
Town of Mono

A resolution from the Town of Mono, dated December 20, 2023, to call on the Province and municipalities to recycling centres to accept recyclable materials including alcohol containers, household hazardous materials and other items that should be diverted from landfill or incineration.

9. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – January 25, 2024 – ITEM #9
Town of Mono

A resolution from the Town of Mono, dated January 15, 2024, to declare a road safety emergency and request action from the Province.

10. INFRASTRUCTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – January 25, 2024 – ITEM #10
Association of Ontario Road Supervisors

Correspondence from the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors, dated January 8, 2024, to request Council pass a resolution calling on the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund a Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 22, 2024

W & M Edelbrock Centre, Dufferin Room, 30 Centre Street, Orangeville ON



A community that grows together

Report To: Chair Taylor and Members of the Infrastructure and
Environmental Services Committee

Meeting Date: January 25, 2024

Subject: Dufferin County Forest – Annual Report

From: Scott Burns, Director of Public Work/County Engineer

Recommendation

THAT the Report, Dufferin County Forest – Annual Report, dated January 25, 2024, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received.

Executive Summary

The County Forest Annual Report (attached) is structured to correspond with the 2021-2026 Operating Plan as approved by Council in 2020. Details are provided in relation to the history of the County Forest lands, work completed in the outgoing year (2023), and a high-level workplan for the incoming year (2024).

Background & Discussion

From a high level, the Annual Report presents several past year highlights including work related to sustainable selection harvesting and timber sales, invasive species monitoring and control, signage, and enforcement, as well as upcoming efforts for 2024.

The annual report will be distributed to local municipalities, local libraries, through the County Forest MailChimp list, and will be posted on the County Forest section of the County website once it is received by County Council.

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

None as a direct result of the County Forest Annual Report.

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

Climate & Environment – establish the County as a leader in Climate Action/enhance and conserve Dufferin’s natural environment

Governance - identify opportunities to improve governance and service delivery/
improve the County’s internal and external communication

Respectfully Submitted By:

Scott Burns, P.Eng., C.E.T.
Director of Public Works and County Engineer

Prepared By:
Caroline Mach, R.P.F.
County Forest Manager

Attachments: Annual Report

Reviewed by: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer



Annual Report 2023 and Annual Work Schedule 2024



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dufferin County Forest consists of fourteen tracts that together form a 1,066 hectare (2,636 acre) forested area owned and managed by the County of Dufferin. The Forest serves important functions in terms of erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy through timber production and employment opportunities.

From the first purchase of land in 1930 until the mid-1990s, the Forest was managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) through agreements made under the Forestry Act. In 1995, the County completed a long-term, comprehensive management plan for the Forest properties, the first County in Ontario to do so. Following completion of the plan, a County Forest Manager was hired to implement it.

In 2013, work began on a new twenty-year forest management plan. *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Management Plan 2016-2036* was approved by County Council in March, 2016. In 2020, an operating plan for the period 2021-2026 was developed and approved.

In 2022, an outdoor recreation plan, for both the County Forest and the Dufferin Rail Trail, was developed and approved.

In 2022, a new full-time permanent position of Forest Assistant was approved and filled.

The following are some highlights from the past year:

Environmental Sustainability

- i. 26.4 hectares of conifer plantations were marked for selection harvesting; and
- ii. work began on the implementation of the comprehensive Invasive Species Management Plan.

Economic Sustainability

- i. timber sales of over \$115,000.

Social Sustainability

- i. work began on the implementation of the Outdoor Recreation Plan that was passed in 2022 with the posting of new pictographic prohibited and permitted uses signs; placement of portable toilets in two locations at the Main Tract and plowing of the main Main Tract parking lot in the winter of 2023-24;
- ii. seventeen larger-scale recreational events; and
- iii. the magnetic sign and the information kiosk at the Main Tract were updated throughout the year.

In 2024, implementation of the comprehensive Invasive Species Management Plan will continue. In addition, there will be signs posted, tendered timber sales, monitoring of harvesting

operations, and monitoring of recreational use. In person recreational events and the activities of the Friends of the Dufferin County Forest will continue in 2024.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION	6
2.0 DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL REPORT.....	8
2.1 Goal.....	8
2.2 Land Use.....	8
2.3 Environmental Sustainability.....	9
Sustainable Timber Harvesting	9
Evaluation of Insect and Disease Populations	9
Oak Wilt.....	10
Emerald Ash Borer	10
Alien Invasive Plants.....	10
2.4 Economic Sustainability	11
Financial Stability.....	11
2.5 Social Sustainability.....	12
Infrastructure	12
Friends of the Dufferin County Forest (FDCF).....	12
Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team (DORAT).....	12
Recreational Events	12
Forest Use Permits (Hunting).....	13
Mansfield Outdoor Centre.....	13
Human Health	13
Main Tract Information Kiosk	14
Signs	14
Information Products and Information Dissemination.....	14
Interpretive Trails	15
3.0 MONITORING	15
4.0 THE FUTURE OF THE PLANNING PROCESS	17
5.0 DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL WORK SCHEDULE.....	17
6.1 Environmental Sustainability.....	17
6.2 Economic Sustainability	18

6.3 Social Sustainability	18
6.4 Monitoring	18

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Land Use Classes for Dufferin County Forest Tracts	8
Table 2: Tendered Timber Sales 2023	9
Table 3: Larger-Scale Recreational Events 2023	12
Table 4: Areas Planned to be Marked 2024.....	17

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Tracts of the Dufferin County Forest	8
Figure 2: Forest Use Permits (Hunting) Issued for the Dufferin County Forest 2003 to 2022-2023	14
Figure 3: Number of Survey Respondents by Season and Activity.....	16

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Dufferin County Forest consists of fourteen tracts that together form a 1,066 hectare (2,636 acre) forested area owned and managed by the County of Dufferin. The Forest tracts are located in all of Dufferin's rural municipalities: Amaranth, East Garafraxa, Grand Valley, Melancthon, Mono, and Mulmur. The largest single area is the Main Tract (607 hectares, 1,501 acres) in Mulmur Township. Figure 1 shows the locations of the individual tracts within Dufferin County.

The Dufferin County Forest serves important functions in terms of erosion and water control, natural heritage protection, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and support of the rural economy through timber production and employment opportunities.

Although the Dufferin County Forest is, and always was, owned by the County of Dufferin, from the first purchase of property in 1930 until the mid-1990s, the Forest was managed on behalf of the County by what is now the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF).

In the mid-1990s, Dufferin was the first County in Ontario to take the lead in developing a management plan for its forest properties. The County decided to develop a comprehensive management plan due to increased demands on the forest properties, as well as changes to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF) Agreement Forest Program.

On June 8, 1995, Dufferin County Council approved *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Management Plan 1995-2015*. Throughout the process, there was participation from the MNRF, a Forest Advisory Team, and the general public, all of whom provided valuable input and comments.

In 2001, the County was recognized for its management of the County Forest, and for its partnership with the Dufferin Simcoe Land Stewardship Network, with a national award – the Forest Stewardship Recognition Program award.

In 2005, the Dufferin County Forest celebrated its 75th anniversary.

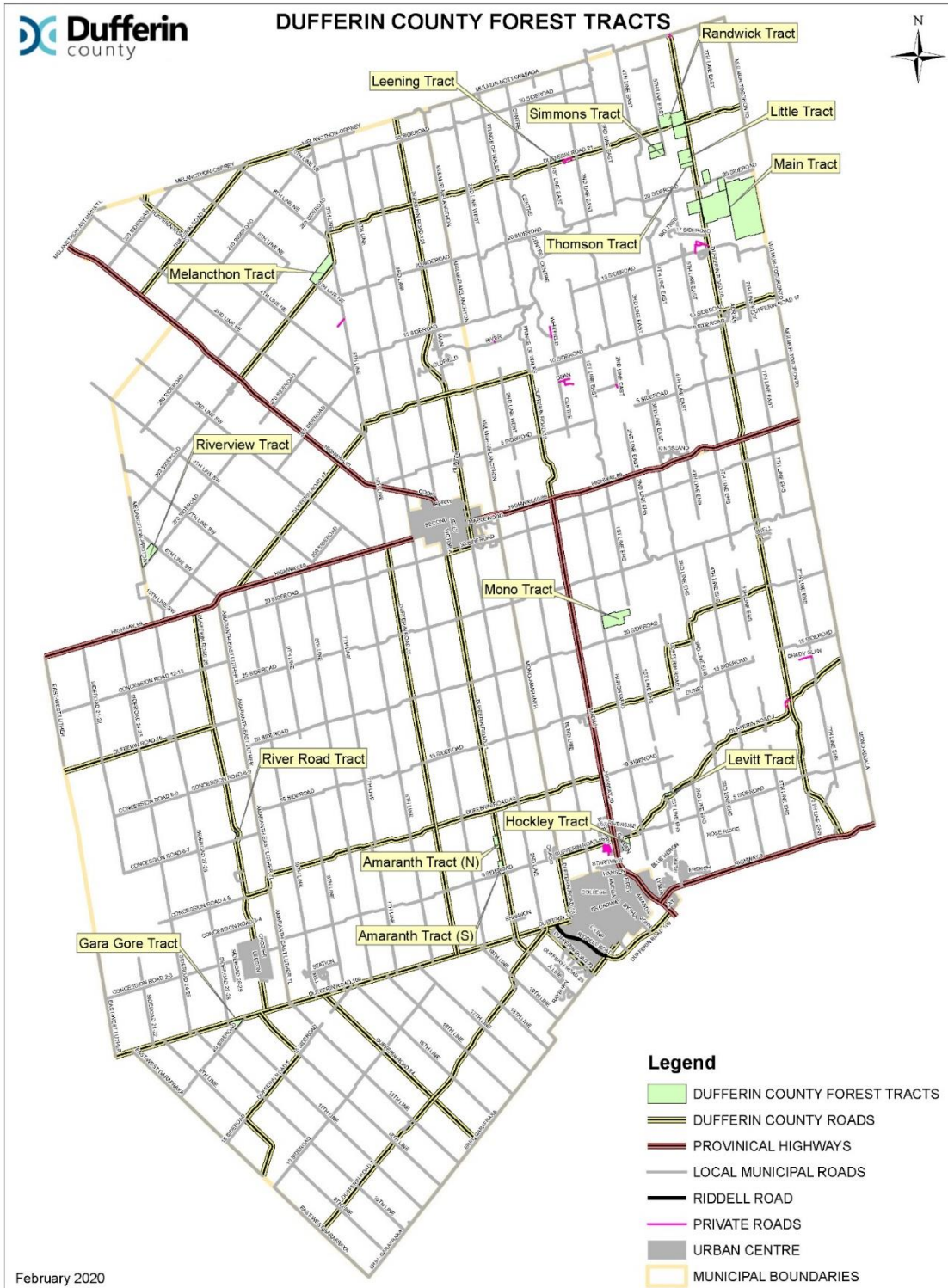
With the impending expiration of the management plan passed in 1995, in 2013 the County began work on a new long-term management plan for the County Forest. By this time, the recreational use of the forest properties had grown to such an extent that it was decided that a separate recreational use policy for the County Forest was necessary. The consultative process involved County Councillors, members of the County's Forest Plan Advisory Team and Forest Operations Review Committee, residents adjacent to the Forest properties, and the general public. *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Management Plan 2016-2036* was approved by County Council on March 10, 2016. The recreational use policy for the County Forest was approved on May 11, 2017.

In 2020, a five-year operating plan for the period 2021-2026 was developed and approved.

In 2022, an outdoor recreation plan, for both the County Forest and the Dufferin Rail Trail, was developed and approved.

In 2022, a new full-time permanent position of Forest Assistant was approved and filled.

Figure 1: Tracts of the Dufferin County Forest



2.0 DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL REPORT

2.1 Goal

To protect the quality and integrity of ecosystems in the Dufferin County Forest, including air, water, land and biota; and, where quality and integrity have been diminished, to encourage restoration or remediation to healthy conditions; while providing a variety of social and economic benefits to the public.

2.2 Land Use

Other than the addition of the Thomson Tract, the land use classes shown in Table 1 are unchanged from those outlined in *Our Forest, Our Future: Dufferin County Forest Management Plan 2016-2036*.

Table 1: Land Use Classes for Dufferin County Forest Tracts

Tract (Compartments)	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Conservation Value	Standard Forest Management¹
Amaranth (42a), Laurel Wetland Complex	natural	12	provincially significant wetland	no
Amaranth (43b, 43c), Farmington Swamp	natural	10	locally significant wetland	no
Amaranth (43a)	managed	2		yes
Gara-Gore (44a)	managed	15		yes
Hockley (49), Orangeville Wetland Complex	natural	20	provincially significant wetland	no
Leening (50)	natural	8	Niagara Escarpment Rural Area; donor restrictions	no
Levitt (51)	natural	4	Niagara Escarpment Natural Area; donor restrictions	no
Little (48)	natural	47	developing old growth	no
Main (7-10, 12-19, 21a, 22, 23a, 23b, 24b, 24c, 25b, 25c)	managed	316		yes
Main (11, 20a, 21b, 23c, 24a, 25a, 26-30, 31a, 31d), Oak Ridges South Slope Forest	natural	266	life science ANSI	no
Main (31b, 31c)	natural	24	locally significant wetland	no

Tract (Compartments)	Land Use Class	Area (ha)	Conservation Value	Standard Forest Management ¹
Melancthon (32a, 32b, 32c, 33a, 33b, 33d)	managed	12		yes
Melancthon (33a, 33c, 33d, 34a, 35a), Melancthon 1	natural	48	provincially significant wetland	no
Mono (39-40, 46)	managed	68		yes
Randwick (1-4c, 5-6)	managed	115		yes
Randwick (4d), Walker's Creek Wetland	natural	2	locally significant wetland	no
River Road (45)	managed	3		yes
Riverview (36, 37b, 37c, 37d, 37e, 38a, 38b)	managed	27		yes
Riverview (37a, 38c, 38d), Melancthon 2	natural	13	locally significant wetland	no
Simmons (47)	managed	42		yes
Thomson (52)	managed	12	creek	yes
Total		1066		

¹In areas designated as "no" removal of hazard trees and invasive species may occur, as well as forest management activities that maintain or enhance notable features.

2.3 Environmental Sustainability

Sustainable Timber Harvesting

Annually, wood is harvested on a sustainable basis from the Dufferin County Forest. The wood is sold by open public tender. Table 2 shows the stands tendered for sale in 2023.

Table 2: Tendered Timber Sales 2023

Tender Number	Tract and Compartments	Volume (m ³)	Number of Trees	Species	Area (ha)	Value
CF 23-02-A	Randwick (5b)	742.4	829	red pine	14.0	\$ 68,733.70
CF 23-02-B	Main (15b, 16b)	116	128	red pine	4.0	\$ 6,032.00
CF 23-02-C	Mono (39a-1)	505	582	red pine	8.4	\$ 41,915.00
TOTALS		1363.4	1539		26.4	\$116,680.70

The tenders were all awarded to Penguin Pole of Wallenstein, Ontario. Two stands of red oak/tolerant hardwoods (15c & 16c) were not tendered due to the three finds of oak wilt in Ontario in the summer of 2023.

Evaluation of Insect and Disease Populations

The County of Dufferin assesses insect and disease populations based on information provided

by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF) Forest Health Technicians, County Forest staff, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Oak wilt, emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle, spongy moth, beech bark disease, butternut canker, and red pine decline are of primary concern. With the exception of oak wilt and Asian long-horned beetle, these are all known to be present in the Dufferin County Forest. Monitoring of these key insects and diseases will continue and management strategies will be developed as necessary.

Oak Wilt

Oak wilt is an exotic invasive disease that kills all species of oak, preferring those in the red oak group (red oak and black oak). Infected red oak trees can die in as little as 30 days. Red oak is a significant component of a number of stands in the Dufferin County Forest, particularly in the Main Tract. Many of these stands are also part of the Oak Ridges South Slope Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, which is recognized in part for its oak component. In addition, in 2005 red oak was declared as the official tree of Dufferin County.

In the summer of 2023, oak wilt was found in three locations in Ontario: Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Springwater Township.

Now that oak wilt has been found in Ontario, a County oak wilt policy will be developed to address timing of pruning and harvesting of oak for all County staff and contractors and an expanded public education campaign targeting private landowners, local municipalities, and the general public.

Once oak wilt is found in the Dufferin County Forest, management strategies such as trenching to break root grafts will likely have to be implemented in order to eradicate or contain it.

Emerald Ash Borer

In 2013, the presence of emerald ash borer (EAB) was confirmed in Dufferin County, at the south end of Orangeville. Public education regarding this pest is ongoing through events, information at the County Forest office and on the website, and responses to inquiries. The number of ash succumbing to EAB attack has noticeably increased over the last five years. Dead or dying ash that are considered to be hazard trees due to their proximity to trails will be removed as soon as possible after they are identified. Stands with an ash component will be managed in accordance with the strategies outlined in *Managing Ash in Farm Woodlots; Some Suggested Prescriptions* (Williams & Schwan, 2011). At this time, it is not clear how the seedling ash present in large numbers in many stands in the County Forest will fare in the long-term as EAB populations fluctuate and biological controls continue to be implemented.

Alien Invasive Plants

Invasive species are non-native organisms which are harmful to the environment, the economy, or societal values like human health. Invasive plants are one of the most pressing and immediate threats to forest health in Dufferin County, as there are an increasing number of introduced plant species in Ontario which are able to rapidly outcompete native plants, prevent tree regeneration, and dramatically transform ecosystems. In the County Forest, invasive species

threaten biodiversity, habitat quality, resilience to stressors like disease and climate change, productivity of proximal agricultural land, recreational and aesthetic values, and timber production.

Prior to 2023, invasive plant management in the County Forest was limited to opportunistic monitoring for invasive species while conducting other work as well as manual control of some high-priority populations. Due to the increasing threat of invasive plants and the increase in staff resources in the Forest Division, the development and implementation of an invasive plant management strategy was a major priority in 2023. The Invasive Species Management Plan was updated and supporting documents were created to include evidence-based control procedures, prioritization guidelines, and strategic- and operational-level guidance. County Forest properties were surveyed for invasive plants, which were documented via newly developed County Forest mapping tools and procedures.

The implementation of control measures resulted in the removal or chemical treatment of several thousand plants belonging to over twenty species. The populations treated were those which both pose the greatest threat to the County Forest and have the greatest chance of successful eradication or containment. Common buckthorn, autumn olive, and dog-strangling vine were the species which received the bulk of the control work in 2023, with most of this work taking place in the Main, Mono, Leening, and Levitt Tracts. Other priority species treated included Japanese knotweed, periwinkle, and invasive honeysuckles. Manual removal by digging, pulling, and cutting was used where possible, with herbicide applied where manual control would be ineffective or beyond the scope of available resources. Chemical control in 2023 was limited to the highly-targeted application of herbicides to the cut stumps of woody species.

2.4 Economic Sustainability

Financial Stability

One of the County's objectives for the Dufferin County Forest is that it generate revenue to support operations. At the same time, it is important to remember the non-monetary contributions of the Dufferin County Forest:

- i. the Forest provides significant ecosystem services;
- ii. the Main Tract is one of few, large, publicly-accessible natural areas in Dufferin County available for a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities; and
- iii. the Dufferin County Forest properties add to the value of the areas in which they are located both in aesthetic and monetary terms.

For revenues generated from timber sales in 2023, refer to Table 2. Timber sale revenues are supplemented by land use, forest use, and recreational event permits. For details of the budget, please refer to the County of Dufferin's Budget for 2023.

2.5 Social Sustainability

Infrastructure

With the approval of an updated Outdoor Recreation Plan and associated funding for 2023, portable toilets were placed at both parking lots at the Main Tract. The main parking lot will have a toilet year-round, the field parking in the non-winter seasons. Additionally, the main parking lot will be plowed during the winter. Once a suitable location is determined, a portable toilet will be placed at the Mono Tract.

During 2023, the event field at the Main Tract continued to be accessible for parking when there were no events taking place. This has been very successful, especially as the large area makes it easy for horse trailers to manoeuvre. In the absence of issues, the event field will be left accessible for parking other than when it is being used for events.

Friends of the Dufferin County Forest (FDCF)

The Friends of the Dufferin County Forest held two work party days for trail maintenance and garbage pick-up, on April 29, 2023 and July 22, 2023. As part of an expanded program to control invasive species, the Friends had a work day on October 14, 2023 to remove autumn olive and common buckthorn from around the main parking area at the Main Tract. More events will be planned in 2024. The Friends of the Dufferin County Forest is a volunteer group comprised of individuals who are committed to supporting approved activities within the properties collectively known as the Dufferin County Forest.

Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team (DORAT)

With the passage of the new outdoor recreation plan in 2022, the Dufferin County Forest Advisory Team (DCFAT) was disbanded. A new advisory group, the Dufferin Outdoor Recreation Advisory Team, was established. This team will have explicit representation from the main recreational user groups and will be able to advise the County on matters dealing with both the Dufferin County Forest and the Dufferin Rail Trail.

Recreational Events

Table 3 gives details of the seventeen larger-scale recreational events that took place in the County Forest in 2023. Unless otherwise noted, the events took place at the Main Tract. In total, the events generated revenue of about \$2,300 for the County.

Table 3: Larger-Scale Recreational Events 2023

Date of Event	Event Organizer	Number of People
April 28-30	1849 Army Cadets	16
May 5-7	Ontario Competitive Trail Riders Association	56
May 12-15	Ontario Trail Riders Association	30
May 26-29	Chesley Saddle Club	19
June 3	North of 89 Outdoors Inc.	101
June 9-11	Ontario Competitive Trail Riders Association	11

Date of Event	Event Organizer	Number of People
June 10	Substance Projects (Mono Tract)	195
June 16-19	Ontario Trail Riders Association	26
June 23-25	Ontario Competitive Trail Riders Association	58
July 4-10	Ontario Trail Riders Association	25
July 29	Dufferin Emergency Search and Rescue	
August 4-7	Ontario Trail Riders Association	15
August 26	Substance Projects	109
September 1-4	Ontario Trail Riders Association	20
September 15-18	Chesley Saddle Club	11
September 22-25	Chesley Saddle Club	12
September 29-October 1	Ontario Competitive Trail Riders Association	53

Forest Use Permits (Hunting)

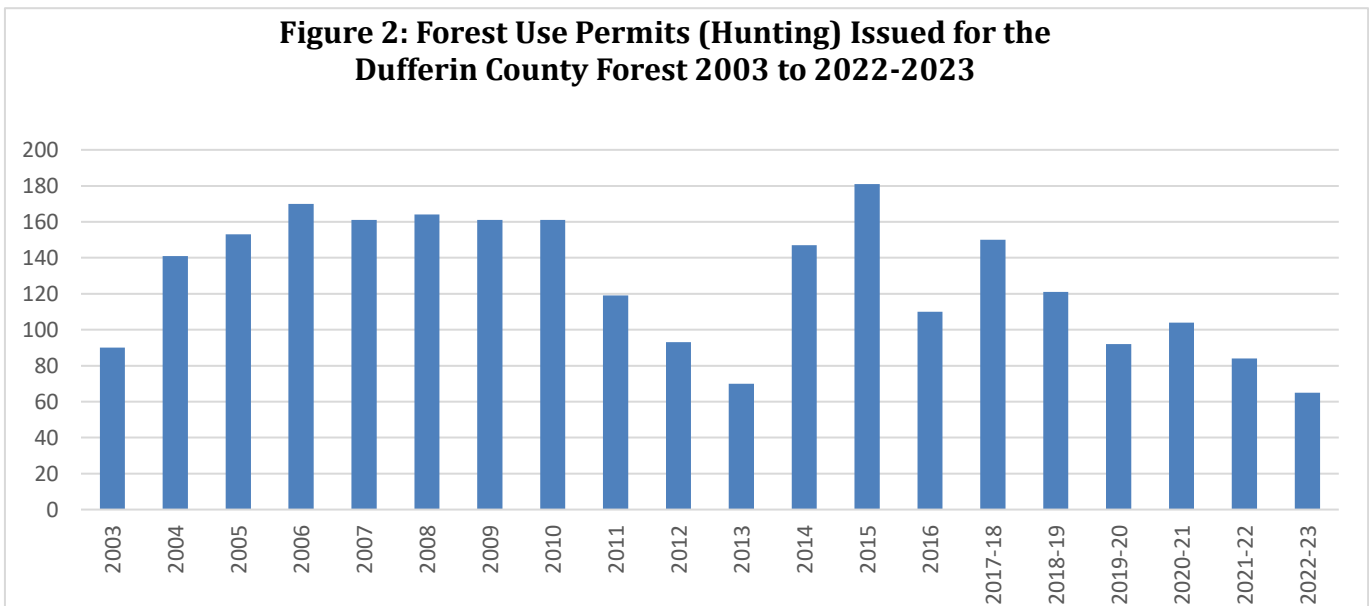


Figure 2 shows the number of Forest Use Permits (Hunting) issued in the last twenty years. In 2018, the permits transitioned from January 1-December 31 to October 1-May 31. For the transition year, the number of permits sold from January 1, 2018-May 31, 2018 was added to the number sold during 2017. In the last year, the permits generated revenue of about \$2,000 for the County.

Mansfield Outdoor Centre

The Mansfield Outdoor Centre leased cross-country ski trails in the south portion of the Main Tract for the 2023-2024 season.

Human Health

Information about west nile virus, lyme disease, and poison ivy continues to be available on the

County Forest website, at the information kiosk at the Main Tract parking lot, and by request.

Main Tract Information Kiosk

In the spring of 2018 an information kiosk was installed at the Main Tract parking lot at 937513 Airport Road. The kiosk includes information about upcoming events in the Main Tract, a large-scale trail map, and numerous information brochures about the County Forest. The information at the kiosk is updated and expanded on an ongoing basis.

Signs

In 2023, new pictographic signs showing main permitted and prohibited uses were posted at all of the County Forest tracts.

Temporary signs were posted at the tracts where hunting is permitted (Gara Gore, Melancthon, Randwick, Riverview, Simmons, and south portion of Amaranth) showing the dates of the spring wild turkey hunt, the fall wild turkey shotgun hunt, and the two five-day periods of the fall deer shotgun hunt. This was done to inform users that there would be a concentration of hunters in the Forest during those periods. Additional signs urging hunters to “Exercise Extreme Caution” are posted around the southern section of the Randwick Tract.

The local Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs (OFSC) member clubs (Dufferin, Orangeville, and Alliston & District) posted signs indicating the location of the OFSC trails through the Main, Randwick, Simmons, Riverview, and Mono Tracts of the Dufferin County Forest.

Information Products and Information Dissemination

To make non-hunting users of the Dufferin County Forest aware of the main hunting seasons, notices advising of increased hunting activity were placed in the Orangeville, Shelburne, Creemore, Dundalk and Alliston newspapers as follows:

- i. prior to the beginning of the spring wild turkey shotgun hunt;
- ii. prior to the beginning of the fall deer and fall wild turkey archery hunt;
- iii. prior to the beginning of the fall wild turkey shotgun hunt;
- iv. prior to the first five-day period of the deer shotgun hunt; and
- v. prior to the second five-day period of the deer shotgun hunt.

The Hunting in the Dufferin County Forest

brochure/information package was distributed to the hunters who purchased forest use permits, at the Main Tract information kiosk, as well as on a request basis. Email inquiries were first directed to the website for information.



New prohibited and permitted uses sign for the Main Tract.

Numerous phone and e-mail requests for information on the Dufferin County Forest and forests and forestry in general were answered. The information that was distributed consisted mostly of the Dufferin County Outdoor Recreation Plan, Dufferin County Forest pamphlets, maps of the Main Tract, and information on various insects and diseases that affect trees, oak wilt and emerald ash borer in particular.

The County Forest information on www.dufferincounty.ca/services/forest was updated throughout the year to provide forest users and other interested members of the public with timely information about events and activities.

Interpretive Trails

The interpretive trails at the Main Tract, Little Tract, and Hockley Tract were maintained.

3.0 MONITORING

In 2023, the primary monitoring activities were:

- i. inspections conducted during commercial harvesting operations;
- ii. monitoring of signs and gates at the forest properties and arranging for replacement when and where necessary;
- iii. monitoring of hunting activity (particularly during the two five-day deer shotgun hunt periods); and
- iv. monitoring of general recreational use.

Harvesting inspections were done to ensure that the contractors complied with the terms and conditions of the tenders. There were no significant violations of tender terms and conditions in 2023.

Forest inventories were conducted to determine which stands would be subject to forest management operations, as well as for stands that had recently undergone forest management operations.

Monitoring of invasive plant species was conducted as part of both forest inventories and other field work. As occurrences were found, monitoring was expanded in order to delimit populations.

In 2020, the County began a program to measure recreational use of the Forest, particularly at the Main Tract. This program was to include three main elements:

- i. in-person counting/surveying of users;
- ii. trail counters; and
- iii. traffic counters.

Beginning in early 2023, in-person user surveys were conducted to gather data about visitors to the Main Tract of the County Forest. The survey was designed to find out more about who visits the County Forest, how they use the Forest, where they are visiting from, and how they are spending money in the County during their visit. The surveys took place during four separate weeks over the year, i.e. one week per season. Surveys were conducted during three two-hour survey periods on the Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday of these weeks, for a total of 18 survey

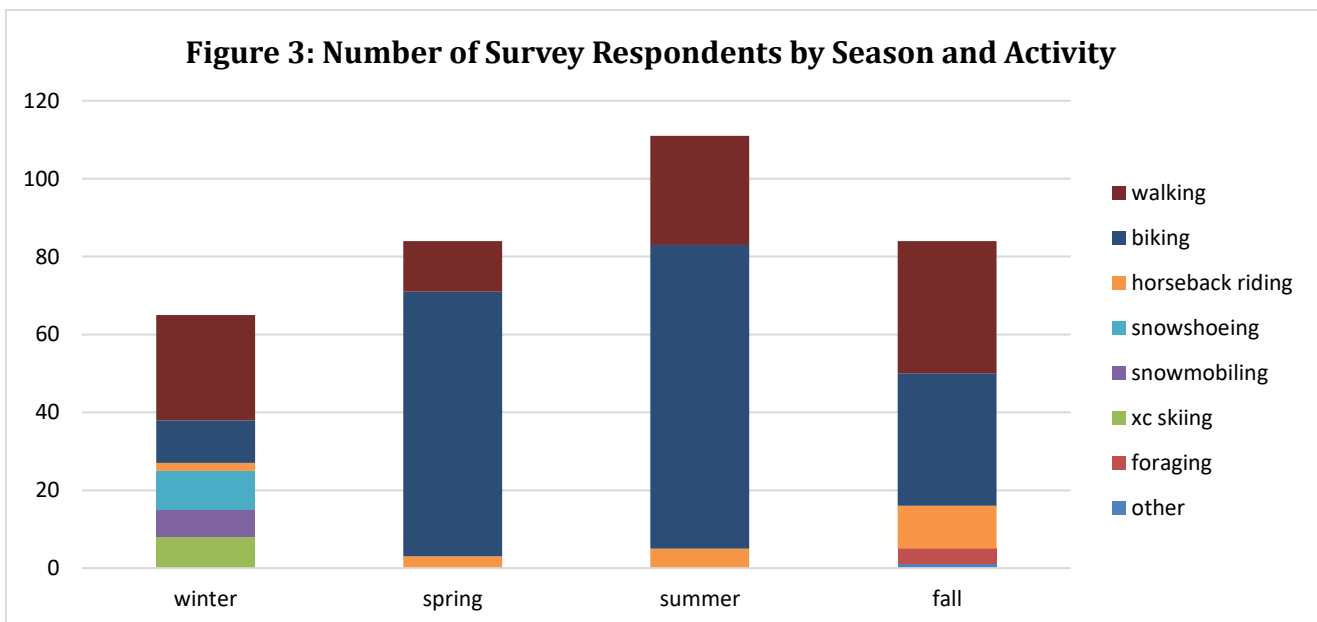
hours during each of the four weeks. Over these survey periods, Forestry Division staff counted 492 County Forest visitors, 344 of whom were surveyed. Figure 3 shows the number of users surveyed by season and activity.

Preliminary conclusions from the first year of the user surveys include the following:

- mountain bikers make up over half of survey responses, with the second most popular activity being walking;
- visit frequency is split nearly evenly between those visiting daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly;
- in almost half of the surveys, respondents reported having visited the forest for ten or more years;
- the majority of respondents had not spent money in the County on their trip to the County Forest; and
- 81% of responses were from visitors travelling less than 50 km to the County Forest.

Surveys will be repeated in 2024, with some minor changes to improve the quality of the information collected. The surveys are planned to continue in future years so that patterns in user behaviour can be detected over time.

Since 2020, trail counters have been collecting trail visitor data at two of the most frequented Dufferin County Forest tracts: the Main Tract and Mono Tract. Six counters are located at the Main Tract: one to capture hikers on the main trail from the main parking lot, two to capture horseback riders on trails from each of the two parking lots, and three to capture mountain bikers at different bike trail locations. At the Mono Tract two counters are positioned to capture



all user types at two separate entrances. The trail counters do not cover all of the many entrances to the two tracts, and so the resulting data can be used to analyze trends but not to represent total visitor numbers.

A few trends are visible in the data over the three and a half years the trail counters have been in use. Visit frequency is much higher on Saturdays and Sundays, with nearly half (46.8%) of visits occurring on weekends. At the Main Tract, the bicycle counters all detected more trail use than the counters for pedestrians and horseback riders. These numbers are supported by the 2023 in-person user surveys, in which mountain bikers make up the highest proportion of visits to the Main Tract compared to those engaging in other activities. At this point, it is likely too early to detect year-to-year changes in trail use, particularly because some trial and error have been required to ensure that the counters are collecting accurate and useful data. Some challenges which have impacted the data include vegetation interference and two stolen counters.

Three periods of traffic counts were collected at the Main Tract in 2023: May 15-23 (Victoria Day weekend), July 31-August 8 (Civic Holiday weekend), and October 2-10 (Thanksgiving weekend). Unfortunately, due to equipment malfunctions, complete counts for the main parking lot are not available for the May 15-23 and October 2-10 periods. Despite this, it appears that compared to prior years the field parking area is being used more relative to the main parking area. Not surprisingly, the traffic counters show that highest visitation is on weekends and holiday Mondays.

A self-reporting user survey was posted on Join in Dufferin at the end of October, 2021 and promoted with a sign at the Main Tract information kiosk. The survey includes questions about recreational activities and economic impact and is the same as will be used for the in person surveys. To date, eleven people have completed the self-reporting survey.

4.0 THE FUTURE OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

In 2020, an operating plan for the period 2021-2026 was developed and approved. Two additional five-year operating plans will be written to fulfill the management plan; for the periods 2026-2031 and 2031-2036. The operating plans will be supported by Annual Reports and Annual Work Schedules.

Toward the end of the twenty-year management plan, a new twenty-year plan will be written for the period 2036-2056. This plan will include a five-year operating plan for the period 2036-2041.

5.0 DUFFERIN COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL WORK SCHEDULE

The main activities for 2024 are described in the following sections.

6.1 Environmental Sustainability

It is anticipated that there will be 26.5 hectares of conifers marked in 2024. The breakdown of the areas is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Areas Planned to be Marked 2024

Tract (Compartment)	Species	Area (ha)
Randwick (2a, 2c)	red pine	14.0
Main (16b)	red pine/white pine	3.0

Mono (39a-2)	red pine	9.5
Total Area		26.5

As in the past, the number of trees and the volume to be harvested will be known once the tree marking is completed. Stands will be publicly tendered in the fall of 2024.

Information about oak wilt and emerald ash borer and how to manage trees and woodlots in their presence will continue to be distributed to the general public.

In 2024 Forest Division staff will continue to treat known priority invasive plant populations, monitor treated populations, apply follow-up control where needed, and conduct additional surveys to inventory invasive plants in unsurveyed areas. External funding opportunities will be investigated for controlling invasive plant populations too extensive to address with current resources. Plans to inventory and control invasive species on other County properties and promote a consistent approach across County departments will also be further developed.

6.2 Economic Sustainability

For details of the budget, refer to the County of Dufferin’s Budget 2024.

6.3 Social Sustainability

Animal-proof garbage receptacles will be placed at both parking lots at the Main Tract.

The Main Tract will host a number of recreational events and the Mansfield Outdoor Centre will lease cross-country ski trails in the Main Tract.

Development of signs describing the historical significance of specific locations in the County Forest, with a focus on Indigenous history, will begin in 2024.

The interpretive trails at the Main, Hockley, and Little Tracts will be maintained.

Working with the County’s Communications Manager, information about the Forest will be disseminated through the County’s various social media accounts and more extensively through traditional media avenues.

6.4 Monitoring

In 2024, the monitoring program will focus on five broad areas:

- i. inspections conducted during commercial harvesting operations;
- ii. monitoring of terrestrial invasive plant species as part of the implementation of the Invasive Species Management Plan;
- iii. monitoring of signs and gates at the forest properties and arranging for replacement when and where necessary;
- iv. monitoring of recreational events; and

- v. monitoring of general recreational use through self-reporting, in-person surveys, trail counters, and traffic counters.

For more information:

County Forest Division
c/o Museum of Dufferin
936029 Airport Road Mulmur, ON L9V 0L3
519-941-1114 or 877-941-7787
forest@dufferincounty.ca www.dufferincounty.ca



A community that grows together

Report To: Chair Taylor and Members of the Infrastructure and
Environmental Services Committee

Meeting Date: January 25, 2024

Subject: Dufferin County - Oak Wilt Response Plan

From: Scott Burns, Director of Public Work and County Engineer

Recommendation

THAT the Report, Dufferin County Forest - Oak Wilt Response Plan, dated January 25, 2024, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received.

Executive Summary

Oak Wilt is an exotic invasive disease that kills all species of oak, preferring those in the red oak group (red oak and black oak). In 2018, prior to Oak Wilt reaching Ontario, the County restricted the harvesting of oak in the County Forest. This restriction was a precautionary step taken by forest management to protect the forest from unnecessary exposure to the disease.

As of summer 2023, Oak Wilt is now known to be present in three locations within Ontario: Niagara Falls, Springwater Township, and Niagara-on-the-Lake. Due to this new proximity and the inevitable continued migration of Oak Wilt within Ontario, it is now prudent to expand restrictions on harvesting, pruning, and cutting of oak beyond solely the County Forest and into other County operations. Along with this internal plan, a public communications campaign will be developed to educate the public on best practice to combat spread.

Background & Discussion

Oak Wilt is an exotic invasive disease that kills all species of oak, preferring those in the red oak group (red oak and black oak). The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is the lead agency in dealing with exotic invasives and has confirmed three finds of Oak Wilt in Ontario. Prior to this, the closest known case of Oak Wilt was located on Belle Isle, between

Windsor and Detroit. Infected red oak trees can die in as little as 30 days. More details about the disease are provided through the attached fact sheet *Oak Wilt: An Invasive Pathogen Threatening Oak Trees in Canada*.

In 2005, as part of the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Dufferin County Forest, red oak was declared as the official tree of Dufferin County. This tree represents a significant component of several stands within the Dufferin County Forest portfolio, particularly in the Main Tract. Many of these stands are also part of the Oak Ridges South Slope Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, which is recognized in part for its oak component.

According to the most recent forest inventory information:

- Approximately 46% or 278 ha (686.95 acres) of the total area of the Main Tract is classified as red oak working group, which means that red oak is the dominant species;
- A further approximately 31% or 190 ha (469.5 acres) of the total area of the Main Tract is classified with red oak as a minor component;
- Red oak is present as a minor component in an additional 107 ha (264.4 acres) in the combined Randwick, Simmons, Mono, and Gara Gore Tracts.

These statistics result in red oak presence in approximately 55% or 575 ha (1,420.86 acres) of the total combined 1,054 ha (2,606 acre) area of the 14 Tracts of the Dufferin County Forest.

Based on the information above and the inevitable migration of the disease, staff will act in the form of an internal plan, continued prudent forest management activities, and a public education campaign.

The response plan is attached to this report.

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

Should Oak Wilt become established in the Dufferin County Forest, significant expense will be incurred in responding and attempting to minimize its impact.

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

Climate & Environment – establish the County as a leader in Climate Action/enhance and conserve Dufferin’s natural environment

Governance - identify opportunities to improve governance and service delivery/
improve the County’s internal and external communication

Respectfully Submitted By:

Scott Burns, P.Eng., C.E.T.
Director of Public Works and County Engineer

Prepared By:
Caroline Mach, R.P.F.
County Forest Manager

Attachments:

- Oak Wilt Response Plan
- Oak Wilt Fact Sheet

Reviewed by: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer

OAK WILT RESPONSE PLAN

PURPOSE:

To combat the arrival and spread of oak wilt, a deadly invasive disease of oaks.

STATEMENT:

This response plan will be applied to all applicable work performed by and for the County of Dufferin.

PROCEDURES:

Oak wilt is an exotic invasive disease that kills all species of oak, preferring those in the red oak group which includes red and black oak. In the summer of 2023, oak wilt was confirmed in three locations in Ontario: Niagara Falls, Springwater Township (near Barrie), and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In 2005, as part of the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Dufferin County Forest, red oak was declared as the official tree of Dufferin County. This species of deciduous tree represents a significant component of several stands within the Dufferin County Forest, particularly in the Main Tract. Many of these stands are also part of the Oak Ridges South Slope Area of Natural and Scientific Interest, which is recognized in part for its oak component.

Research into the establishment and spread of oak wilt in Ontario is ongoing. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency continues to survey for possible new infection sites. As new information becomes available, both because of research and new finds of oak wilt, this plan will be updated.

Oak wilt spreads mostly by three means: direct human activity (firewood/wood movement), sap beetles, and root grafts.

To combat these three means of spread, the County will follow these procedures:

Direct Human Activity

The most significant factor in the speed and distance at which oak wilt spreads is the human movement of infected firewood and other wood products. However, it is not within the County's ability to limit or control the movement of any wood products, including firewood. Therefore, a significant part of the communications plan will be to try to limit this type of activity by communicating the dangers of moving firewood/wood products that

spread many insects and diseases, including oak wilt, emerald ash borer, and Asian long-horned beetle.

Equipment (e.g., chainsaws, pruning saws, tree climbing spikes) that has been used on infected trees can spread oak wilt spores. All equipment used on infected oak trees should be treated with a solution of 10% bleach in water after being used on oak.

Communications, particularly in the late winter (prior to April 1) to encourage the following of these restrictions on private property.

Sap Beetles

Sap beetles are attracted to open wounds on oak trees. Therefore, during the high-risk period for sap beetles, **April 1-July 31**, there will be no cutting, pruning, or otherwise injuring of oak trees. This is especially important in situations where oaks are dominant as once oak wilt enters an individual tree it can spread to neighbouring trees through root grafts. This prohibition applies to all work by County staff and volunteers, as well as County contractors and consultants. If it is necessary (e.g., for safety reasons) to cut or prune an oak tree during this period the wound must be **immediately and completely** covered with latex paint or pruning paint to prevent the sap beetles from being attracted to it.

Communications to the public, particularly in the late winter (prior to April 1) to encourage the following of these restrictions on private property.

Root Grafts

If oak wilt becomes established in an area dominated by oaks growing in proximity (e.g., oak-dominated stands in the County Forest), it will be necessary to implement a program of trenching to cut root grafts around infected areas to prevent the disease from spreading.

Timber Harvesting in the Dufferin County Forest

In 2018, as a precautionary measure, the County introduced a restriction on harvesting stands in the County Forest that had a component of oak from April 1-July 31. With the implementation of this plan, the following will apply to timber harvesting in the Dufferin County Forest in an effort to reduce infection by oak wilt:

1. Stands that have more than 5 m²/ha of oak will not be harvested from April 1-July 31. Since there is currently a restriction on harvesting anywhere in the County Forest from May 1-July 31 to minimize impact on breeding birds and harvesting operations are often impacted by spring load restrictions, the practical impact of this should be minimal.
2. In hardwood, mixed wood, or conifer stands that have scattered oak (less than 5 m²/ha), the oak will not be marked for removal and every effort will be made to prevent damage or injury to the oak during the harvesting operation. These stands will still not be harvested from May 1-July 31 to minimize impact on breeding birds

and since harvesting operations are often impacted by spring load restrictions, it is unlikely that these stands will be harvested during the high-risk period of April 1-July 31.

Disposal of Oak Material

Removal and disposal of oak material infected with oak wilt will be conducted in accordance with Canadian Food Inspection Agency protocols in effect at the time.

Disposal of oak material not infected with oak wilt will be conducted so that the material is moved the shortest distance practical for disposal to reduce the possible spread of undetected oak wilt as well as other insects and diseases.

Yard waste and wood waste brought to the transfer station cannot be removed by individuals for any reason including personal use/firewood. This reduces the chances of that material being a vector for oak wilt.

Monitoring

Monitoring of oak wilt in the Dufferin County Forest will focus on the Main Tract where almost half of the area (278 ha) is classified as red oak working group, which means that red oak is the dominant species. Red oak is present as a minor component in an additional 190 ha. An overall survey of oak areas, combined with more detailed targeted surveying of selected individual trees, will be conducted annually. In addition, staff will look for signs of oak wilt whenever working in the County Forest, particularly in the Main Tract.

Report suspected oak wilt to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at:

OakWiltReportingOntario-Fletrissementduchene@inspection.gc.ca.

Communications

Timing: Late winter, lead up to April 1

Key Message: No cutting, pruning, or damaging of oak from April 1 – July 31. Report suspected oak wilt to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at: OakWiltReportingOntario-Fletrissementduchene@inspection.gc.ca

Target Audiences:

1. Local municipalities/local roads supervisors
2. Ontario Hydro (locally)
3. Road Construction Contractors (County contractors)
4. Landscaping & Arborist Contractors (County contractors and more generally)
5. Forest Harvesting Contractors (County contractors and more generally)
6. General Public/Landowners
7. Landowners Adjacent to Main Tract of the Dufferin County Forest
8. Friends of the Dufferin County Forest
9. Visitors to the Dufferin County Forest, especially the Main Tract

Information Products/Avenues:

1. Fact sheets and related materials produced by the Invasive Species Centre and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency
2. Press releases
3. County social media
4. County website (County Forest & News sections)
5. Signs and/or fact sheets at County Forest tracts
6. Presentations to interested/key local groups and organizations

Oak Wilt

An Invasive Pathogen Threatening Oak Trees in Canada



P. Kurzeja, Forest Health Division, Michigan D. N. R.

What is it?	Trees at risk:	Where is it?
<p>Oak wilt is a vascular disease of oak trees, caused by the fungus <i>Bretziella fagacearum</i>. The fungus grows on the outer sapwood of oak trees, restricting the flow of water and nutrients through the tree.</p>	<p>All oak species are susceptible and at risk. The red oak group (red, black, pin) is the most susceptible, with mortality frequently occurring within one growing season. Oaks in the white oak group (white, bur) are also affected but are more resistant.</p>	<p>Oak wilt has spread throughout the Eastern United States. In 2023, oak wilt was confirmed for the first time in Canada in Niagara Falls, Ontario.</p>

Signs and Symptoms:



Invasive Species Centre

- Leaves turn dull green, brown or yellow
- Discoloration of leaves progressing from the edge of the leaf to the middle
- Wilting and bronzing of foliage starting at top of the tree and moving downwards
- Premature leaf fall (including green leaves)
- White, grey or black fungal mats just under the bark that emit a fruity smell
- Vertical bark cracks in the trunk and large branches as a result of the fungal spore mats (also referred to as pressure pads) exerting outward pressure on the bark


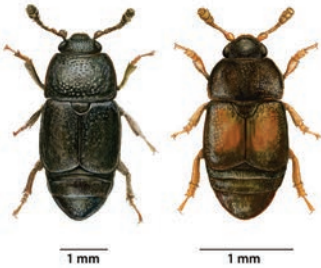

Impacts:



D.W. French, University of Minnesota, Bugwood.org

- Impacts property values and neighbourhood aesthetics
- Increased costs with tree maintenance, removal and replacement
- Loss of a valued shade tree
- Negative impacts to the forestry industry and production of high value oak products
- Reduction in food source for forest animals provided by oak trees
- Loss of habitat for some species
- Reduction of ecological services (air and water filtering)
- Safety and liability issues

How is oak wilt spread?

Roots	Insects	Humans
<p>The disease spreads from infected trees to uninfected trees of the same species through root-to-root contact.</p>  <p>James Solomon, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org</p>	<p>Insects such as sap-feeding nitidulid beetles can move spores from infected trees to healthy trees.</p>  <p>USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry</p>	<p>Movement of wood products, (particularly those with bark), such as firewood can spread the pathogen over long distances as they can harbor fungal mats.</p>  <p>Joseph OBrien, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org</p>

What can you do?

There is no cure for oak wilt infected trees. The best approach is to avoid or reduce infection in areas where disease occurs by:

- Identifying and removing diseased trees
 - Preventing or severing root connections between diseased and healthy trees
 - Minimizing wounds on healthy trees during the flight period of potential insect carriers
- **DO NOT** prune oak trees from **April to October**. If pruning must occur, or if a tree is injured, apply a thin layer of wound paint immediately.
 - **DO NOT** move firewood. Oak wilt is spread by the movement of infected wood.

If you see signs and symptoms of oak wilt, report the sightings to:

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
OakWiltReportingOntario-Fletrissementduchene@inspection.gc.ca
- EDDMapS
www.eddmaps.org
- Invading Species Hotline
1-800-563-7711

For more information on oak wilt visit:

- Oak wilt species profile on the Invasive Species Centre website
www.invasivespeciescentre.ca/oakwilt

2023

Produced in collaboration with:





A community that grows together

Report To: Chair Taylor and Members of the Infrastructure and
Environmental Services Committee

Meeting Date: January 25, 2024

Subject: Tri-County Green Development Standard Update – January 2024

From: Scott Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Recommendation

THAT the report, Tri-County Green Development Standard Update – January 2024, dated January 25, 2024, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received.

Executive Summary

Creating Green Development Standards is one of the five key priority areas identified in the Dufferin Climate Action Plan (2021) and in the Dufferin Climate Adaptation Strategy (2023). Dufferin, Grey, and Wellington Counties have partnered to collaboratively create Green Development Standards for three upper-tier and twenty-four member municipalities, customized for the small rural communities in our region. Each County committed \$75,000 towards this initiative. In the fourth quarter of 2023, a Request for Proposal was developed, and the contract awarded to Urban Equation and the Planning Partnership.

To secure further financial support for the project, staff from Dufferin, Grey and Wellington jointly applied for external funding from Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) Codes Acceleration Fund, with Grey County serving as the lead applicant. In November 2023, staff received conditional approval from NRCan, contingent upon the successful negotiation of a contribution agreement. The potential contribution from NRCan totals \$445,600, bringing the total project value to \$670,600 and extending the project duration to March 31, 2027. Federally funded activities include additional training support, development of a talent attraction plan, and allocation of a staff member to facilitate implementation across the three participating counties.

Background & Discussion

The creation of Green Development Standards emerged as a key priority in both the Dufferin Climate Action Plan (2021) and in the Dufferin Climate Adaptation Strategy (2023). In 2022, Dufferin, Grey, and Wellington Counties collaborated to develop a unified approach to Green Development Standards. These standards represent guidelines and criteria designed to shape environmentally sustainable and climate resilient development practices.

The project's primary objective is to develop and accelerate the adoption, compliance, and enforcement of these Green Development Standards across the entire region. Employing a change management framework, the project emphasizes stakeholder engagement through various activities like presentations, workshops, and webinars to establish a consistent framework. The innovative project aims to tailor standards for small rural communities, offering benefits such as emissions reduction, energy poverty mitigation, capacity building, and innovation in housing and development, service efficiencies, regional economic investments, and climate-resilient communities.

The goal is to establish a uniform development framework, providing resources and tools to expedite the adoption of higher standards in energy and building codes, and sustainable development practices in the region.

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

Each county involved in the project committed \$75,000, with Dufferin's share allocated in the 2023 budget and financed through the rate stabilization reserve.

In April 2023, project staff jointly sought external funding from Natural Resource Canada's (NRCan) Codes Acceleration Fund to partially finance essential activities and value-added aspects of the project. Due to a significant delay in obtaining NRCan funding, staff proceeded with a Request for Proposal (RFP) presenting a streamlined project version solely funded by the counties with a \$225,000 budget. The RFP process resulted in Urban Equation and the Planning Partnership being awarded the contract, and project activities commenced in the fourth quarter of 2023.

In November 2023, NRCan conditionally approved the funding application, contingent on successful negotiation of a contribution agreement. The potential NRCan contribution of \$445,600 brings the total project value to \$670,600 and extends the project to March 31, 2027. This increased funding enables an expanded scope for the Green Development Standards project, including:

- Additional consultations with the public, municipal staff, and the development industry.

- Training and certification opportunities for targeted capacity building
- Work with consultants and internal teams to create a talent attraction plan.
- Compilation and availability of resources developed for other municipalities.
- Project presentations through established networks and organizations.
- Hiring a full-time staff person for two years to facilitate implementation.
- Annual recognition events for outstanding achievements in local green development.

All three counties’ original contribution will remain at \$75,000 to cover unexpected or ineligible costs. Any surplus at the project’s end will be evenly distributed and returned to each County.

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

Climate & Environment – establish the County as a leader in Climate Action and enhance and conserve Dufferin’s natural environment

Community - increase affordable and attainable housing options

Economy - advance County-wide economic development workforce development

Governance - identify opportunities to improve governance and service delivery

Equity – align programs, services, and infrastructure with changing community needs.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Scott Burns, P.Eng, C.E.T.
Director of Public Works and County Engineer

Prepared by:
Sara MacRae
Manager of Climate & Energy

Reviewed by: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer



A community that grows together

Report To: Chair Taylor and Members of the Infrastructure and Environmental Services Committee

Meeting Date: January 25, 2024

Subject: Road and Bridge Capital Update – January 2024
From: Scott Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Recommendation

THAT the report of the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated January 25, 2024, Road and Bridge Capital Update – January 2024, be received.

Executive Summary

Each year with the passing of the County’s budget, a report is prepared to summarize road and bridge work for the upcoming construction season. The report indicates the status of each project along with anticipated start and completion dates. All projects are currently in the design/tender phase, are planned for tender release in late winter/early spring and are anticipated to be completed by fall of 2024. The report speaks solely to 2024 approved projects and does not include elements of 2023 project carryover work.

Background & Discussion

As part of the County’s 2024 Capital program, the following roadwork is included (see attached location map on page 4).

Item No.	Location	Description	Length (km)	From/To	Status	Construction Start	Anticipated Completion
R1	DR124	Resurfacing & Select Culvert Replacements	6.4	200m south of Dufferin County Road 17 to 200m south of 20 Sideroad, Melancthon	Design/ Document Preparation	Spring/ Summer 2024	Fall 2024

Item No.	Location	Description	Length (km)	From/To	Status	Construction Start	Anticipated Completion
R2	DR109	Asphalt Patch Repair	3.9	Dufferin County Road 23 to Hwy 10, Region of Peel	Design/ Document Preparation	Summer 2024	Fall 2024
R3	DR109	Temporary Traffic Signal	0.15	2 nd Line Intersection, Township of Amaranth	Awarded	Spring 2024	Spring 2024
Total Road Length (km)			10.75				

As part of the County’s 2024 Capital program, the following bridge /large culvert work is included, (see attached location map on page 4).

Item No.	Location	Structure	Action	Status	Construction Start	Anticipated Completion
S1	Amaranth/East Luther Townline, 1.8 km north of DR 109, Town of Grand Valley	Bridge No. 1 004-0142	Rehabilitate	Document Preparation	Spring/ Summer 2024	Fall 2024
S2	DR 5, 30m east of the East/West Garafraxa Townline, Township of East Garafraxa	Culvert No. 501 004-0901	Rehabilitate	Document Preparation	Spring/ Summer 2024	Fall 2024
S3	Mono-Adjala Townline, 0.2 km north of DR7, Town of Mono	Nottawasaga Bridge 030-0318	Rehabilitate	Document Preparation	Spring/ Summer 2024	Fall 2024
S4	Mulmur-Tosoronto Townline; 300m south of Mulmur-Nottawasaga Townline, Township of	Walkers Creek Bridge 004-0007	Replacement	Document Preparation	Spring/ Summer 2024	August 2023
S5	DR 18, 1.7 km south of DR8, Township of Mono	Culvert 934386XC	Replace	Design/ Document Preparation	Spring/ Summer 2024	August 2024

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

Funds for the work described in this report are provided through the 2024 budget.

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

Good Governance - identify opportunities to improve governance and service delivery

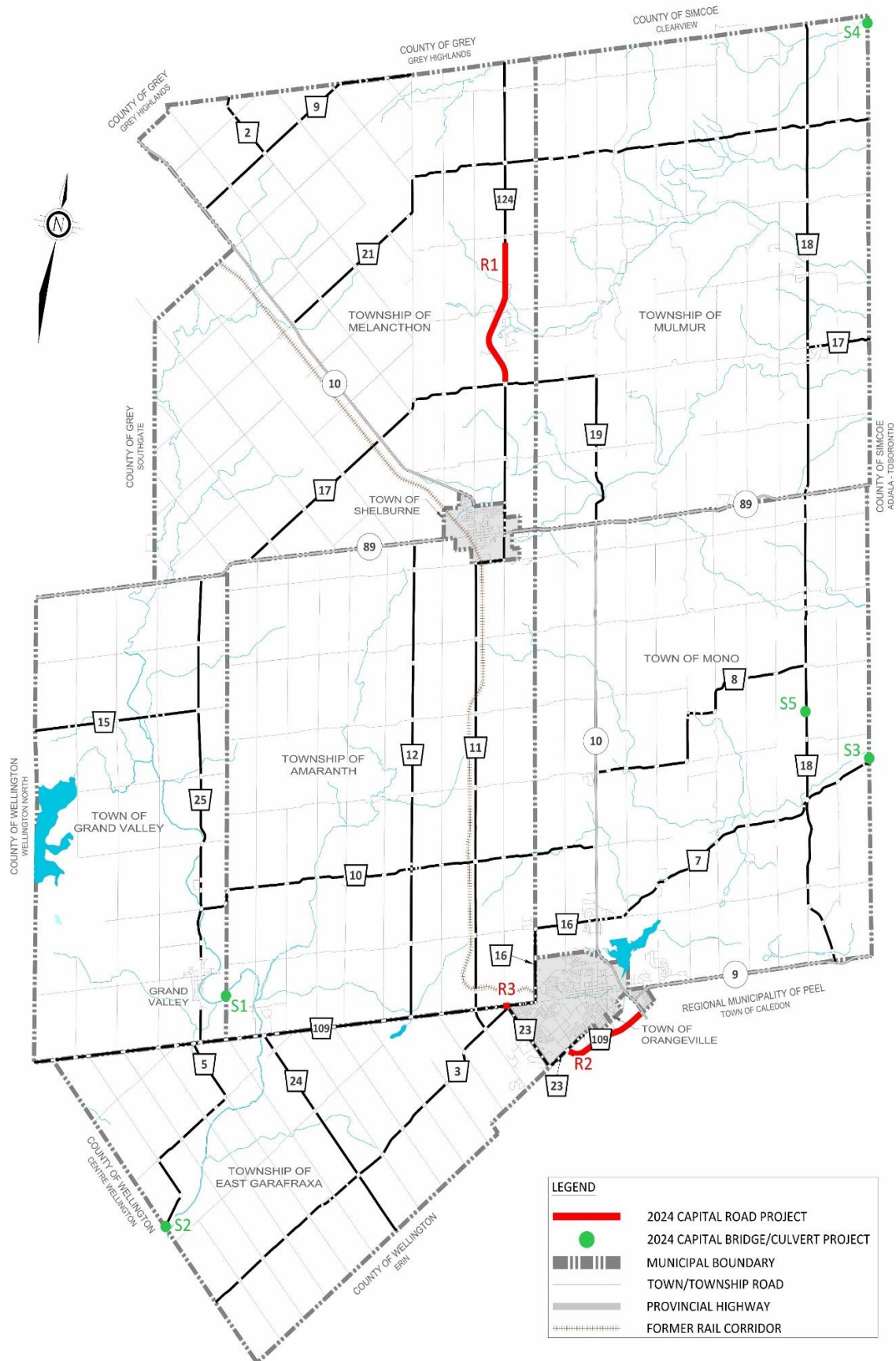
Equity – align programs, services and infrastructure with changing community needs

Respectfully Submitted By:

Scott C. Burns, P.Eng., C.E.T.
Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Attachment: Road and Bridge Capital Update

Reviewed by: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer





(R1) Dufferin County Road 124 – Pre-Construction Photo



(R2) Dufferin County Road 109 South Arterial Road – Pre-Construction Photo



(R3) Dufferin County Road 109 at 2nd Line Intersection – Pre-Construction Photo



(S1) Structure 004-0142 Bridge No. 1 – West Elevation



(S2) Structure 004-0901 Culvert 501 – West Elevation



(S3) Structure 030-0318 Nottawasaga Bridge – Pre-Construction North Elevation



(S4) Structure 004-0007 Walkers Creek Bridge – Looking North at Bridge



A community that grows together

Report To: Chair Taylor and Members of the Infrastructure and
Environmental Services Committee

Meeting Date: January 25, 2024

Subject: Corporate Fleet Management Update – January 2024

From: Scott Burns, Director of Public Work/County Engineer

Recommendation

THAT the Report, Corporate Fleet Management Update – January 2024, dated January 25, 2024, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received.

Executive Summary

In line with Dufferin's centralized fleet management initiative, Public Works' Operations Division, with support from SLBC Consulting Services, executed a Fleet Management Review project. The project positions the County to enhance asset lifecycle management and overall operational efficiency of the County fleet. Project deliverables included a fleet maturity assessment, utilization analysis, staff resource review, green fleet adoption analysis, and implementation recommendations.

Following the above review, staff implemented several significant changes to fleet services. These include the creation of a functional requirements form for vehicle procurement, the procurement of five battery electric SUVs for the County's Building Department, and the adoption of car-sharing/booking software for efficient vehicle management. These changes aim to ensure transparent and thoughtful vehicle assignments, reduce the County's carbon footprint, and achieve substantial cost savings.

Upcoming initiatives involve database setup and implementation of car-sharing/booking software, documentation of policies and procedures, establishment of service level agreements, inventory management, and the adoption of vehicle inspection software.

Background & Discussion

With support from the Ontario Municipal Modernization Program and SLBC Consulting Services, the Operations division completed a Fleet Management Review project in 2023. The project aimed to improve upon asset lifecycle management, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance operational efficiency and effectiveness through service delivery improvements.

Dufferin's centralized fleet management systems and protocols are in the early stages and performing this review proved valuable. The project not only expedited program development through drawing on knowledge and experience from industry experts and neighbouring municipalities, but also enabled resources to focus on initiatives to achieve greater impact.

Project deliverables included:

- Fleet maturity assessment
- Fleet utilization analysis
- Review of Mechanic staffing levels
- Green fleet adoption analysis
- Implementation recommendations for Fleet Services

Project implementation is ongoing and to date several initiatives are now operational, including:

- Functional Requirements Form – a formal document administered by Fleet Management and used by Dufferin County program areas to objectively determine vehicle needs. This document is used prior to vehicle procurement to identify opportunities for carsharing, confirm appropriate vehicle type, size, etc. related to job and task specifications. The form ensures a structured, repeatable, and transparent process for staff when addressing fleet vehicle needs.
- Battery Electric SUVs – Procurement of five battery electric SUVs (pending delivery, Q2 2024) for the County's Building department. Through review of in-vehicle telematics data it was determined that full-size pickup trucks are not necessary to perform daily job tasks of the County Building Department. Shifting this program area to battery electric SUVs will effectively prevent the release of 250 tonnes of CO₂ and provide savings of \$225,000 in maintenance/procurement costs over the lifetime of the vehicles.
- Car Sharing/Booking Software – Car sharing is an effective method of optimizing fleet utilization that provides vehicle access where a dedicated vehicle is deemed

unnecessary. To support management of this initiative a software application has been procured.

Next steps for Fleet Management include the following:

- Car Sharing/Booking Software database setup and implementation
- Policy and Procedure Documentation
- Service level agreements between Fleet Management and end users
- Inventory management
- Vehicle inspection software implementation

Dufferin County is poised to lead in sustainable fleet management, contributing to both environmental responsibility and operational excellence.

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

Nearly \$35,000 was received through the review stream of the Municipal Modernization Program (MMP) for this program. This 65% (MMP) 35% (County) cost share program resulted in annual savings of nearly \$70,000. This is a combination of staff time, reduction in fuel and maintenance costs through shift to electric vehicles, as well as capital reduction of vehicle replacements as the shift is made to car sharing in appropriate areas.

The realization of savings within the practice of fleet management extends into the long-term. Practices will evolve alongside advances in technology in the continued pursuit of savings, cost reduction, and environmental benefit. Modern telematics systems, for instance, provide real-time vehicle performance data enabling proactive maintenance strategies that extend vehicle service life, reduce unexpected repair, and down time, and maximize resale values. Furthermore, investment in eco-friendly and fuel-efficient vehicles contributes to sustained savings by lowering fuel expenses while aligning with environmental goals, targets, and regulation. With Dufferin’s commitment to a progressive and evolving corporate fleet management system, long-term efficiencies and savings will be secured.

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

Climate & Environment – establish the County as a leader in Climate Action/enhance and conserve Dufferin’s natural environment

Governance - identify opportunities to improve governance and service delivery

Respectfully Submitted By:

Scott C. Burns, P.Eng., C.E.T.
Director of Public Works and County Engineer

Prepared by:
Bruce Hilborn, C.E.T., CRS
Assistant Manager of Operations, Public Works

Reviewed by: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer



A community that grows together

Report To: Chair Taylor and Members of the Infrastructure and
Environmental Services Committee

Meeting Date: January 25, 2024

Subject: New Operations Centre Project Update – January 2024
From: Scott Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Recommendation

THAT the Report, New Operations Centre Project Update – January 2024, dated January 25, 2024, from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, be received.

Executive Summary

The establishment of a second Operations Centre has been a long-standing initiative for several years with investment in preliminary planning, budgeting, and preparation for next steps. The project is centred on the provision of appropriate, efficient, and successful countywide service delivery related to maintenance of the County Road Network.

Several challenges underscore the urgency of this project. Challenges include rising service requirements and expectations in areas of the County (most notably in the south), provincially mandated response times related to the Minimum Maintenance Standards (O.Reg.239/02), route inefficiencies and deadheading, increasing frequency of severe weather events, capacity limitations, and exposure of costly equipment resulting from limited existing indoor storage space.

The new Operations Centre project addresses critical challenges, ensuring efficient service delivery while accommodating future growth. The project phases outlined below provide a systematic approach to site selection, design/development, construction, and occupancy with the objective of supporting a well-coordinated and timely project execution. This initiative aligns with the County's commitment to proactive infrastructure planning and service optimization.

Background & Discussion

A new Operations Centre has been an item of discussion for the past 16 years with formal budget allocation commencing in 2023. The project responds to several areas of need that are primarily driven by growth and therefore Development Charge collection began in 2012. Further to this, several County processes speak to and support the project including the 2020 Service Delivery Review.

The project aims to remedy several existing and future challenges impacting road maintenance. Through thoughtful analysis the project will confirm and scope a solution that not only addresses maintenance response and growth but will also increase efficiency related to staff and equipment utilization and existing facility needs. Several challenges are listed below:

- Level of Service - increasing requirements and expectations in south Dufferin.
- Response Times – the Minimum Maintenance Standards (O.Reg.239/02) dictate road maintenance response times in line with road classification.
 - Dufferin’s highest volume roads are in south Dufferin, have the shortest dictated response times, and are farthest from the existing facility.
- Route/Fleet Inefficiencies - significant deadheading (unproductive time) occurs in response to critical roadways in south Dufferin.
- Climate Change - more frequent and extreme events (freezing rain, ice storms, heavy snow) in more frequent, urgent, and timely response.
- Space Constraints – temporary portables and trailers are currently in use at the existing facility to accommodate staff, meeting space, etc.
- Equipment Storage – due to limited existing indoor storage space, several pieces of costly equipment and vehicles are stored outdoors.

Below is a high-level summary and schedule that illustrates the general project path the project will follow including deliverables/milestones to ensure the project stays on track. The current stage of the project is Phase 1 – Site Selection. As work progresses, the scope, process, timing, etc. may be modified as needed to ensure project success.

Phase 1 -Site Selection (Current Stage of Project)

Deliverable	Details	Status	Delivery
A. Feasibility Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of analysis and recommendations • Figure of prioritized site location area 	Starting Q1 2024	Q1 2024
B. Land Acquisition Priority Matrix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long list property analysis • Short list property analysis 	Starting Q2 2024	Q2 2024

Deliverable	Details	Status	Delivery
C. Preliminary Conceptual Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify proposed site layout (used for costing) 	Starting Q2 2024	Q3 2024
D. Critical Pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task sequencing for project execution/next steps Identify task dependencies 	Starting Q3 2024	Q3 2024
E. Preliminary Cost Estimate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short listed property costs Costs to develop properties Construction costs 	Starting Q3 2024	Q4 2024

Phase 2 – Site Development & Detailed Design

Deliverable	Details	Status	Delivery
TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD based on Phase 1 	N/A	2025

Phase 3 - Construction

Deliverable	Details	Status	Delivery
TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD based on Phase 1 & 2 	N/A	2026

Phase 4 - Occupancy

Deliverable	Details	Status	Delivery
TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD 	N/A	2027

Staff will provide updates as the project progresses.

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

Funds for Phase 1 of the project are allocated through the approved 2024 Budget.

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

Climate & Environment – establish the County as a leader in Climate Action

Governance - identify opportunities to improve governance and service delivery

Equity – align programs, services and infrastructure with changing community needs

Respectfully Submitted By:

Scott C. Burns, P.Eng., C.E.T.
 Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Prepared by:
 Bruce Hilborn, C.E.T., CRS
 Assistant Manager of Operations, Public Works

Reviewed by: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer



A community that grows together

Report To: Chair Taylor and Members of the Infrastructure and
Environmental Services

Meeting Date: January 25, 2024

Subject: Road Network Rationalization Plan Implementation - January 2024

From: Scott Burns, Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Recommendation

THAT the report of the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, dated January 25, 2024, Road Network Rationalization Plan Implementation – January 2024, be received;

AND THAT the mechanism for infrastructure transfers from the County to the affected member municipalities be ‘Transfer Infrastructure with Concessions’;

AND THAT staff be directed to proceed with the Roads Needs Study in 2024;

AND THAT the 2024 Roads Needs Study be funded through the Rate Stabilization Reserve with an estimated cost of \$60,000.

Executive Summary

The County’s Road Network Rationalization Plan aims to optimize the County Road network (roads and bridges/culverts) such that it holistically functions for the purpose it serves and aligns infrastructure with the appropriate standards and jurisdictional agency. Council adopted the Plan in September 2023 with further instruction to proceed with implementation.

At this stage, Council needs to adopt a mechanism by which infrastructure transfers from the County to affected member municipalities will occur. This will enable staff to collect the appropriate information related to financial and time of need for related infrastructure. The recommended mechanism is transfer with concessions (funds).

This report describes the general scope of next steps towards project implementation.

Background & Discussion

Road Network Rationalization Plans optimize a road network (roads and bridges/culverts) such that it holistically functions for the purpose it serves and aligns infrastructure with the appropriate standards and agency. Through optimizing a road network, associated expenses will align to these standards and costs will be borne accordingly by the appropriate level of government. This offers more efficient allocation of funds overall. A misaligned road network results in transportation gaps, varied service or maintenance response, inconsistent application of standards and best practice, etc., all of which result in inefficiencies, unnecessary costs, and exposure to risk. County roads and bridges are intended to function for higher levels of transportation than that of a local system and therefore traditionally incur additional costs for construction, maintenance, and winter control. As road networks evolve over time, it is good practice to perform a rationalization approximately every 15 years. Dufferin's last Plan was implemented in 2000 primarily in response to transfers of Provincial Highways to the County.

With the current Plan adopted by Council, remaining steps for implementation include:

1. Determining the mechanism for transfer:
 - a) Transfer infrastructure in current state,
 - b) Transfer infrastructure in improved state,
 - c) Transfer infrastructure with concessions.
2. Depending on the mechanism for transfer, review infrastructure needs and costs in detail on a case-by-case basis.
3. Determine a transfer schedule.
4. Proceed with transfers.

With respect to the mechanism for transfer, the Plan recommends proceeding with *1.c) Transfer infrastructure with concessions*. This mechanism requires accurate financial data such that funds provided alongside infrastructure transfers to member municipalities are accurate and up to date. To ensure consistency, this data should represent work that would be performed by the County within a typical 10-year Capital Work Plan.

In line with this, staff propose the following:

1. Perform the bi-annual Ontario Structure Inspection Manual (OSIM) inspections as planned for 2024 to refine financial and time of need for all applicable County owned bridges and large culverts.
2. Perform the bi-annual Roads Needs Study inspections one year early in 2024 to refine financial and time of need for all County Roads.
3. Update the County's 10-year Capital Road and Bridge Work Plan.

Following the above, staff will return to Committee to discuss updated costs and correlated time of need, and to determine a transfer schedule. A transfer schedule could range from transferring infrastructure and funds in line with the time of need as provided through the updated 10-year Capital Work Plan or transfer all infrastructure immediately with funds provided by the County to the affected member municipalities in line with the 10-year Capital Work Plan. The understanding to date is that any transfers from a member municipality to the County will be solely infrastructure with no concessions.

The overall objective of this work is to enable Council to proceed with implementation in a consistent manner with a clear and workable schedule that ensures project success.

Staff will provide updates as work progresses.

Financial, Staffing, Legal, or IT Considerations

Concessions related to infrastructure transfers will be refined through an updated 10-year Capital Work Plan and presented at a future meeting.

The approved Budget includes \$50,000 for the 2024 OSIM inspections.

Funds to complete the Road Needs Study in 2024 are available through the Rate Stabilization Reserve. Project costs are estimated at \$60,000.

In Support of Strategic Plan Priorities and Objectives

Climate & Environment – establish the County as a leader in Climate Action/enhance and conserve Dufferin’s natural environment

Governance - identify opportunities to improve governance and service delivery

Equity – align programs, services and infrastructure with changing community needs

Respectfully Submitted By:

Scott Burns
Director of Public Works and County Engineer

Reviewed by: Sonya Pritchard, Chief Administrative Officer



Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca
minister.mecp@ontario.ca

December 20, 2023

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Hon. Andrea Khanjin
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Khanjin:

On December 12th, 2023, Council for the Town of Mono passed the following resolution calling on the province to partner with social enterprise organizations, municipalities and others to create recycling centres to accept recyclable materials including alcohol containers, household hazardous materials and other items that should be diverted from landfill or incineration.

Resolution #7-24-2023

Moved by John Creelman, Seconded by Elaine Capes

WHEREAS, the Government of Ontario is looking to change the way beer, wine and spirits are sold in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS, a possible outcome of this may be the end of the contract with Beer Stores to recycle wine, spirit and beer containers;

AND WHEREAS, Ontario municipalities wish to see a robust recycling system and network for all products potentially recyclable or reusable.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Mono calls on the Ontario Government to partner with social enterprise organizations, municipalities and others to create recycling centres to accept recyclable materials including alcohol containers, household hazardous materials and other items that should be diverted from landfill or incineration.

"Carried"

Regards,

Fred Simpson, Clerk

Copy: Honourable Sylvia Jones, Dufferin-Caledon MPP
All Dufferin municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario



January 15, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Hon. Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Sarkaria:

On January 9th, 2024, Council for the Town of Mono passed the following resolution declaring a **Road Safety Emergency**, calling on the province to take action to address traffic safety through measures including public education, increased Highway Traffic Act fines and expanded use of Automated Speed Enforcement.

Resolution #4-1-2024

Moved by Elaine Capes, Seconded by Melinda Davie

WHEREAS road safety is of continuing and increasing concern to Ontarians;

AND WHEREAS, the number of traffic collisions, injuries and fatalities are at unacceptable levels[i];

AND WHEREAS, recent statistics and media reports show increasing fatalities and police roadway activities[iii];

AND WHEREAS, speeding is a leading contributing factor in many accidents including fatalities[iii];

AND WHEREAS, fines for basic speeding have not increased for three decades or more thus losing at least 50% of their deterrent value through inflation;

AND WHEREAS, over 60% of all other Highway Traffic Act (HTA) Set Fines remain at \$85, an amount also suggesting no increase in decades[iv];

AND WHEREAS, municipalities are frustrated in their attempt to roll out Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) with current rules that restrict it to less than 80 km/h speed zones and make it contingent upon declaring Community Safety Zones where not warrant except to use ASE;

AND WHEREAS, Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) are the logical and efficient means of dealing with offences including parking violations, red light camera infractions and ASE charges, the Regulations involving its use are mired in red tape leading to unnecessary complexity and cost.

BE IT RESOLVED that we call on other municipalities and the Province of Ontario to recognize a Road Safety Emergency and take the following actions;

1. Launch a province wide road safety educational program to be funded from a portion of monies currently spent by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG) to advertise games of chance and lotteries in Ontario.
2. Review and increase all HTA fines and penalties to reflect a deterrent amount and consequence that sends a message that driving is a privilege subject to conditions.
3. Permit municipalities to deploy ASE in 80 km/h zones or less without having to declare Community Safety Zones and without onerous conditions.
4. Establish a Working Group with municipalities to identify and recommend elimination of regulatory red tape associated with the use of ASE and AMPs.
5. Develop mechanisms that ensure POA fines and penalties do not lose their deterrent effect over time.
6. Work with municipalities to create better means of collecting outstanding POA fines and Victim Surcharge monies estimated to exceed \$1 billion as far back as 2011 ^[v].

"Carried"

^[i] The Preliminary 2022 Ontario Road Safety Annual Report indicates a total of 25,165 fatal and personal injury collisions and of that, some 530 fatal collisions (3.9 persons per 100,000 in Ontario).

^[ii] https://www.caledonenterprise.com/news/map-fatal-collisions-nearly-doubled-in-caledon-in-2023/article_3131acaf-acae-5b21-bee4-a67a33600c33.html. Since publication of this article, the number of Caledon fatalities has increased to nearly 20 last year. The Town of Mono has experienced an explosion of traffic stop occurrences, up over 300% since 2019.

^[iii] Speeding convictions account for over 50% of all HTA convictions - see <https://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/statistics/>.

^[iv] <https://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/provincial-offences/set-fines/set-fines-i/schedule-43/>.

^[v] <http://oapssb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/OAPSSB-POA-WHITE-PAPER-FINAL-1-Nov-2011.pdf>. This report, prepared by the Ontario Association of Police Services Boards,

suggests a number of effective mechanisms to collect unpaid fines including garnishment of Federal income tax refunds and other payments as is currently done in other provinces.

Respectfully,

Fred Simpson, Clerk

Copy: Minister of Finance
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Dufferin-Caledon MPP
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario municipalities



AORS
PROMOTING **KNOWLEDGE**. PURSUING **EXCELLENCE**

January 8, 2024

Dear Head of Council, Deputy Head of Council and Councillors,

Your local Public Works department provides invaluable services within your community. Without the dedicated public works employees that you are fortunate to have, many basic functions in your community would not be able to happen. Without maintained roads, your emergency services (police, fire, and ambulance) would not be able to respond to calls, school buses could not run to get children to school, and your residents would not be able to leave to work, school, appointments, children's extra-curriculars and any other activity important to them. Additionally, as you work with the provincial government to tackle the housing crisis, your communities require more core infrastructure to handle the growth. For the health and safety of our communities it is important we keep our Public Works department staff complement full, and well trained.

Public Works departments across the province have already begun to feel the impacts of labour shortages, and as we will begin to see many retirements across the province, the shortage will become even more exasperated. From a recent survey that AORS completed with public works departments from across Ontario, we know that 91.5% of respondents will be hiring entry level positions in the next three to five years. However, we are already seeing the start of the labour shortage. From our survey, we found that 70% of respondents already reported getting less than five applications for entry level positions when posted, and the top three challenges municipalities are currently facing is a lack of applicants, applicants that do apply not meeting the required qualifications and municipalities having to compete with private sector positions.

Over the last year, AORS has been dedicating much of our advocacy to encouraging youth to consider careers in public works through career fairs, local government presentations to students, developing printed resources for guidance counsellors and much more. AORS has also been working closely with Fanshawe College Corporate Training Solutions to develop a Municipal Operator Course that would train potential municipal equipment operators to come to your municipality with the basic knowledge they need to begin maintaining your core infrastructure. This would be the first course of its kind that would attract potential students from across the Province of Ontario. To fund this endeavor, AORS has applied for a Skills Development Fund through the Province's Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades. We are reaching out to you for your support in our application and your advocacy to the province on why having more – and qualified – applicants to our public works departments are so imperative.

We would ask that you consider passing the following motion:

WHEREAS, municipal public works departments from across the Province of Ontario provide invaluable services to our communities ensuring the health and safety of all residents;

AND WHEREAS, if it was not for our municipal public works employees from across the Province of Ontario maintaining our public roads systems, our communities would not be able to function as

emergency personnel could not respond to calls, school buses could not get our children to school, residents would not be able to get to work, school or appointments and many more basic functions would not be able to happen;

AND WHEREAS, municipal public works departments are already feeling the impacts of a labour shortage, which will only be exasperated over the next three to five years, which will cause levels of service municipalities are able to provide to ensure the health and safety of our residents to decrease;

AND WHEREAS, there is currently no provincial-wide course that properly trains potential municipal public works employees, specifically relating to municipal heavy equipment.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that (INSERT MUNICIPALITY NAME) supports the work of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course to address this issue;

AND THAT, (INSERT MUNICIPALITY NAME) calls on the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund;

AND THAT, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades David Piccini, (INSERT MUNICIPALITY'S NAME)'s Member of Provincial Parliament (INSERT LOCAL MPP NAME) and the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors.

We appreciate your on-going support and should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact AORS for all things municipal public works!

Best regards,



John Maheu
AORS Executive Director



Dennis O'Neil
AORS Member Services Coordinator



Christie Little
AORS Training and Programming Coordinator



Kelly Elliott
AORS Marketing and Communications Specialist

Notice of Motion – Municipal Equipment Operator Course

WHEREAS, municipal public works departments from across the Province of Ontario provide invaluable services to our communities ensuring the health and safety of all residents;

AND WHEREAS, if it was not for our municipal public works employees from across the Province of Ontario maintaining our public roads systems, our communities would not be able to function as emergency personnel could not respond to calls, school buses could not get our children to school, residents would not be able to get to work, school or appointments and many more basic functions would not be able to happen;

AND WHEREAS, municipal public works departments are already feeling the impacts of a labour shortage, which will only be exasperated over the next three to five years, which will cause levels of service municipalities are able to provide to ensure the health and safety of our residents to decrease;

AND WHEREAS, there is currently no provincial-wide course that properly trains potential municipal public works employees, specifically relating to municipal heavy equipment.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that (INSERT MUNICIPALITY NAME) supports the work of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course to address this issue;

AND THAT, (INSERT MUNICIPALITY NAME) calls on the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund;

AND THAT, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades David Piccinni, (INSERT MUNICIPALITY'S NAME)'s Member of Provincial Parliament (INSERT LOCAL MPP NAME) and the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors.