



# Municipal Governance Structure

Special Meeting of Council

*November 23, 2016*

# Welcome and Introductions

- Welcome and Call to Order - Mayor Bloom
- Welcome - Clerk/Manager of Corporate Services
- Members of Council present
- Municipal Staff present



# Meeting Objectives

- To review legislation within the Municipal Act regarding how fair representation shall be acquired amongst the municipality.
- To discuss advantages and disadvantages of At-Large and Multi-Member Ward System.
- To have public engagement.
- To assist Council in making an informed decision.

# Agenda

- Housekeeping Items
- Amalgamation History and Structure
- Division of Ward System Geographic's
- Current Council Composition
- 2014 Election Voter Turnout
- Legislative Considerations

# Agenda con't

- **At-Large** –what does it mean, the Advantages and Disadvantages
- **Multi-Member Ward** –what does it mean/the Advantages and Disadvantages
- Proposals of Governance Structure
  - ***(Five (5) proposals)***
- Council Considerations/Questions to Ask
- Timeline for Process
- Comments Form/Public Engagement
- Confirmatory Bylaw and Adjournment- Mayor Bloom

# Housekeeping Items

- Washroom Locations
- Emergency Exit Locations
- Public Engagement Format
- Conduct and Behaviour
- Presentation Format
- Meeting Adjournment



# Amalgamation

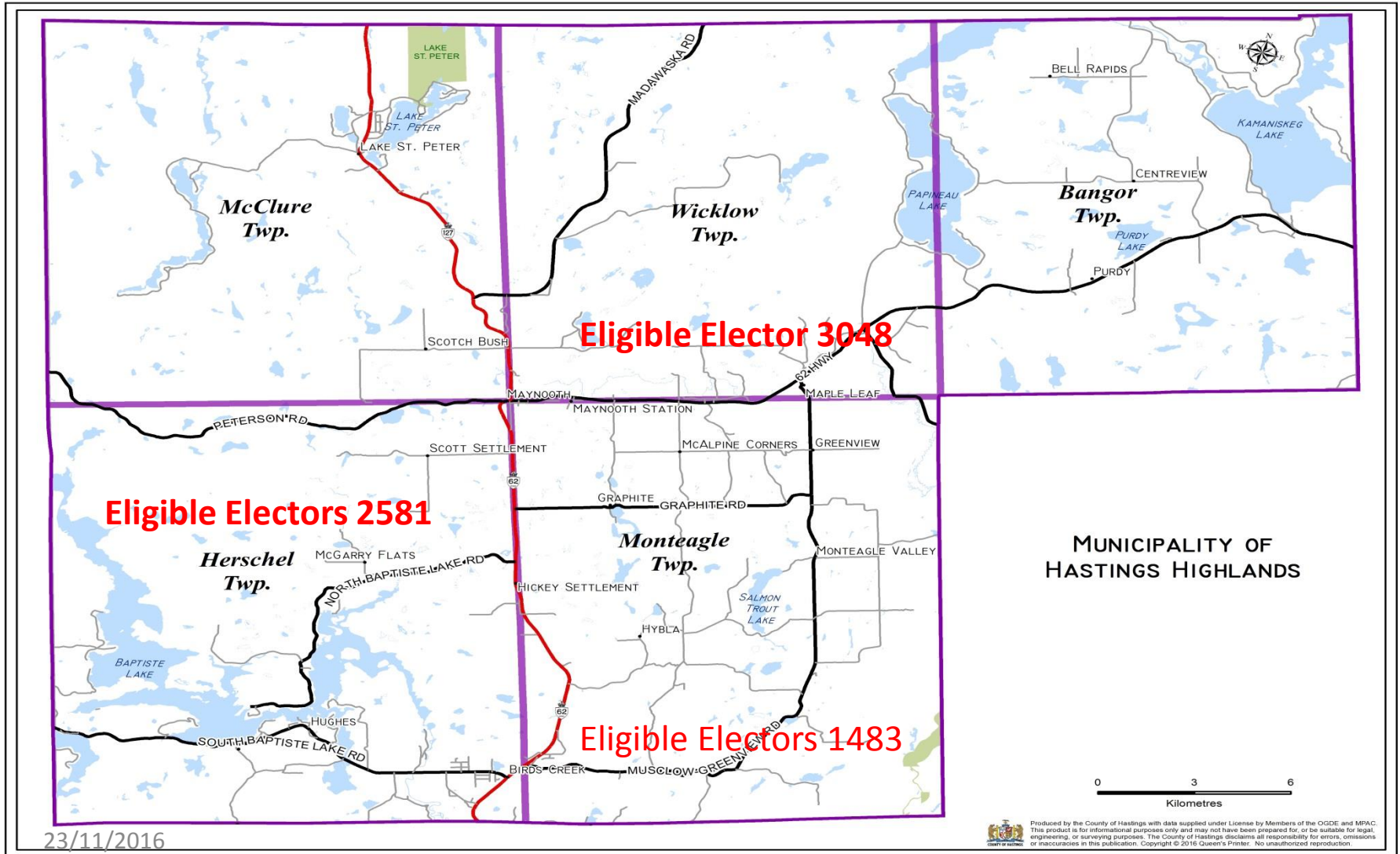
Municipality of Hastings Highlands formed on January 1, 2001 and comprised of the former:

United Townships of Bangor, Wicklow  
and McClure (Ward 1)

Township of Herschel (Ward 2)

Township of Monteagle (Ward 3)

# Division of Wards





# HH's Structure

## Adopted at Amalgamation

- Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Ward One Composition > Two (2) Councillors
- Ward Two Composition > Two (2) Councillors
- Ward Three Composition > Two (2) Councillors

# HH's Current Council Composition

- Mayor – Elected At Large by all electors.
- Deputy Mayor – Appointed by Members of Council from Council elect.
- Ward One – Two Councillors elected by Ward One electors.
- Ward Two – Two Councillors elected by Ward Two electors.
- Ward Three – Two Councillors elected by Ward Three electors.

# Council Members

- Mayor Vivian Bloom - Elected At Large
- Deputy Mayor Roberts - Elected Ward Two (2)
- Councillor Cannon - Elected Ward One (1)
- Councillor Hagar -Elected Ward One (1)
- Councillor Matheson -Elected Ward Two (2)
- Councillor Robinson -Elected Ward Three (3)
- Councillor Walder -Appointment to Ward Three (3)

# 2014 Election

Ward	Eligible Elector Count	Number Recorded as Voted	Percentage Voter Turnout
Ward One	3,048	1,421	46.62%
Ward Two	2,581	1,054	40.84%
Ward Three	1,483	795	53.61%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,112</b>	<b>3,270</b>	<b>45.98%</b>

# *Legislative Considerations*

## **Municipal Act 2001, Section 11**

- Gives a municipality the right to pass bylaws respecting the governance structure of the municipality and its local boards.

# *Legislative Considerations*

## **Municipal Act Section 217**

Authorizes a change to Council composition so long as:

- Minimum of five members including a head of Council continues.
- Elected in accordance with the Municipal Elections Act.
- Head of Council elected by general vote.
- Members other than the head elected by general vote or ward vote or any combination.
- Representation to the upper tier is not affected by the bylaw of a local municipality.

# *Legislative Considerations*

## **Municipal Act Section 217**

- Coming into force- A Bylaw described in this section does not come into force until the day the new council is organized, After the first regular election following the passing of the bylaw or
- If the bylaw is passed in the year of a regular election before voting day, after the second regular election following the passing of the bylaw.

# *Legislative Considerations*

## **Municipal Act Section 222** (Council initiative)

- A municipality may divide, re-divide or dissolve existing wards.
- Must pass a bylaw.
- Must give public notice within 15 days of passing the bylaw indicating the last day for appeals.



# *Legislative Considerations*

## **Municipal Act Section 222**

- Within 45 days after the bylaw is passed, the Minister or any other person or agency may appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board by filing a notice with the municipality.
- Appeals must set out the objection and reasons in support of the objection.

# *Legislative Considerations*

## **Municipal Act Section 222**

- Municipality would file any notices of appeal with the OMB within 15 days after the last day for filing appeals.
- The OMB will hear the appeal(s) and issue an order to the municipality on whether the bylaw stands or is overturned.

# *Legislative Considerations*

## **Municipal Act Section 223**

### (Elector initiative)

- Electors in a municipality may present a petition to the council asking the council to pass a bylaw dividing or re-dividing or dissolving the existing wards.
- The petition requires the signatures of 1 percent of the electors in the municipality or 500 of the electors in the municipality, whichever is less, but, in any event, a minimum of Fifty(50) signatures of the electors in the municipality is required.

# *Legislative Considerations*

## **Municipal Act Section 223**

- If the Council does not pass a bylaw in accordance with the petition within Ninety (90) days after receiving the petition, any of the electors who signed the petition may apply to the OMB.
- The OMB shall hear the application and may make an order for the municipality to comply.

# *At –Large System*

(all members of council are elected in a general vote of all electors in the municipality)

## **Advantages**

- Represents the whole municipality; promotes the concept of a municipal wide focus, rather than individual wards.
- Electors have greater choice and flexibility in elections; each voter has the opportunity to consider every candidate in the council election.
- Electors able to select the candidates they think will do the best job, rather than having to make choice among candidates who happen to run in their ward.

# *At-Large System*

## Advantages

- Residents will have a larger range of councillors to approach with their concerns.
- Removes the need to define ward boundaries.
- Reduces likelihood of acclamations.
- It does not limit the municipality if a vacancy occurs if referencing prior election results.

## At – Large System

### Disadvantages

- Candidates must campaign across the entire municipality, greater costs; which may make cost of campaign more costly for new candidates.
- No designated voices for the wards.
- Can lead to significant wards interest and points of view being unrepresented.

# At – Large System

## Disadvantages

- Can lead to councillors being relatively inaccessible for residents of parts of the municipality.
- Can lead to confusion of responsibilities and duplication of effort on the part of councillors.
- Large number of candidates can be confusing for voters.



# *Multi-Member Ward System*

*(the municipality is divided into wards, each of which elects two or more members of council)*

## **Advantages**

- Councillors are more likely to be local representatives, easily accessible to residents and aware of ward issues.
- It is less likely that one particular point of view or sectional interest will dominate the council.

# *Multi-Member Ward System*

## **Advantages**

- Significant communities of interest are likely to be represented.
- Simplifies the election process with electing one (1) preferred candidate

# *Multi-Member Ward System*

## **Disadvantages**

- Councillors may be elected on minor or short sighted issues and lack a perspective of what is to the benefit of the municipality as a whole.
- Ward boundaries may divide communities of interest which may be difficult to define.
- Voters may have a restricted choice of candidates in the election for individual wards.

# *Multi-Member Ward System*

## **Disadvantages**

- There may be problems if an elector does not want to approach the councillor(s) in their ward; being restrictive.
- There is a greater possibility of acclamations.
- Ward boundaries may be susceptible to frequent change caused by demographics shifts.

# *Multi-Member Ward System*

## **Disadvantages**

- It may be necessary to hold a by-election to select a replacement when a vacancy occurs.
- Discourages candidates if an incumbent is generally popular, or if an incumbent popular with a dominant community of interest is running.
- Population changes can lead to unequal workloads for councillors until ward boundaries are reviewed.

# *Proposal One (1)*

## **Council Elected At Large**

- Dissolve the Ward system to elect At Large all Councillors.
- Mayor elected At Large
- Deputy Mayor by appointment

Total of Seven **(7)** members of Council

# *Proposal Two (2)*

## **Council Elected At Large and Composition Change**

- Dissolve the Ward system to elect At Large.
- 3 Council Members elected At Large.
- Mayor elected At Large.
- Deputy Mayor elected At Large.

Total of Five **(5)** Members of Council.

## *Proposal Three (3)*

### **Council Composition Change**

- Remain with the Ward System.
- Remove a seat from Ward Three(3)-Monteagle. (population less than 1,500)
- Mayor elected At Large.
- Deputy Mayor elected At Large.
  
- Total of Seven **(7)** Members of Council.



## *Proposal Four (4)*

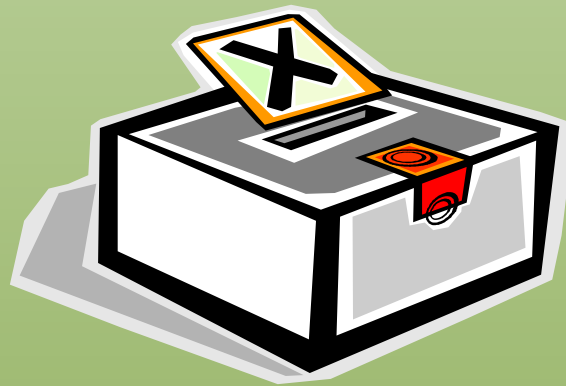
# Realign Ward Boundary Lines

- Remain with Three(3) Wards.
- Composition to be either a Single-Member Ward System or to remain a Multi-Member Ward System.
- The boundary lines of the three (3) wards be re-divided for equal representation of eligible electors per ward (equal amount of population of electors per ward).

# Proposal Five (5)

## *No Change to Municipal Council Structure*

- Make no changes
- Proceed to the 2018 election in the same manner as has been practiced in the prior election.



# Council Considerations

- Eligible Electors between Ward One(1) & Two (2) difference less than 500 voters.
- Eligible Electors within Ward 3 is 1000 + less than that of Ward One (1) and Two (2).

# *Council Considerations*

## *Questions to ask yourselves*

- How does the electoral arrangement in your municipality measure up?
- Does it deliver fair representation conducive to good government?
- Is the electoral system aligned with the size, diversity and complexity of your municipality?

# *Council Considerations*

## *Questions to ask yourselves*

- With the present ward boundaries set as part of the amalgamation are they still relevant today?
- If a petition is submitted to Council under Section 223 of the Municipal Act for to change the electoral arrangements, how will council proceed in making a decision?

# **Council Considerations**

## **Council Composition**

Council is the decision makers of composition.  
Not appealable to the Ontario Municipal Board.

## **Re-diving or Diminishing of Ward Boundaries**

- Is appealable to the Ontario Municipal Board
- A consultant would be hired by the Municipality to do a ward boundary study.

# Timeline of Process

- January 4, 2017 - Public Comment Form Deadline
- January 18, 2017-Report to Council with results from Public Comment Form, Council direction of composition or ward boundaries draft bylaw to bring forward-February 8, 2017.
- February 22, 2017-Report with drafted bylaw for approval.**(at the discretion of Council)**  
Provide 15 days Notice if approved.



# *Comment Forms Criteria*

- Must be an eligible elector
- 18 years old, Canadian Citizen, property owner or resident in municipality, not a corporation, not incarcerated in a correctional facility.
- Indicate the Ward you are presently in.
- Choose a proposed structure.
- Make comments as necessary.
- Attach extra paper to the form if more comment room is required.



# *Comment Forms*

Available at Municipal Office or on the  
Municipal Website.

Due Date; January 4, 2017 to the Municipal  
Office



**THANK YOU**